

From: judy.bob.r@comcast.net
To: [DOL Energy Advisory Board Information](#)
Cc: tim.lerew@coldwarpatriots.com
Subject: My Complaints against DOL's treatment of injured nuclear workers under the EEOICPA of 2000.
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 9:10:08 PM
Attachments: [Follow up to my May 2 2019 letter to Congressman Joe Neguse.msg](#)

May 14, 2019
Dr. Markowitz,

Mr. Tim Lerew, affiliated with Professional Case Management, (PCM) has suggested that I communicate with you about DOL's unacceptable denial of my claim under the EEOICPA for hearing loss. The lengthy attachment (sorry about its length) describes why I feel their denial is dead wrong.

My hope for this email is to request you and your **Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health to the EEOICPA** to probe – and possibly expand – the list of chemicals used at Rocky Flats (RFP) that have been shown to possibly contribute to hearing loss. My Boulder area doctor of audiology (Dr. Whitney Swander) and another Boulder area ENT doctor (Dr. Andrew Goldman Goldberg) have both identified at least two other chemicals as being significant contributors to hearing loss. The two chemicals to which I refer are **cadmium oxide** and **lead oxide**. These are only two of the many hazardous chemicals to which I had been exposed for 30 years' work at RFP. My job as a Research Scientist also necessitated the frequent cleansing of 93%-enriched uranium metal (and even plutonium metal) with trichloroethylene. For other experimental programs at RFP, I was required to use methyl ethyl ketone (MEK) in constructing neutron reflector/moderation enclosures for some 125 cans of compacted enriched uranium oxide. Both MEK and "trichlor" are already on DOL's list of chemicals that could contribute to hearing loss.

I do not wonder why cadmium oxide and lead and lead oxide are not already on the Advisory Board's list of hazardous chemicals because I suspect your list was composed by finding out what materials confronted the common worker at RFP. I, on the other hand, as an experimental nuclear physicist conducted experiments that required me (and only me) to use cadmium oxide. A number of other workers at RFP used lead and , therefore, lead oxide. My experimental programs required my intimate contact with and exposure to a number of chemicals in various forms simply because these compounds contained elements known to have a high thermal neutron absorption cross section – thus called, "nuclear poisons". A few of these materials which may or may not fall into the category of contributing to hearing loss include borosilicate, boron oxide, boron carbide, sodium pentahydrate decaborate, gadolinium oxide, the oxides of both uranium and plutonium as well as plutonium hydrate. I used these because I worked as laboratory technician and a chemist/chemical operator from 1964 to 1994. I (and only I) at RFP used these chemicals; so, it is not surprising that your list of chemicals excludes the above; but the Critical Mass Laboratory (CML) at RFP was not asked to supply their list of chemicals used. As my attachment reveals, you can easily confirm my exposure to these materials because I supplied the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Archives with 30-years-worth of experimental data after my retirement in 1994.

I urge you to look into the above list of chemicals/compounds/materials to which I was exposed and add those tending to impact hearing loss to your growing list.

Thank you, Dr. Markowitz,

Dr. Robert E. Rothe
303-494-0714