

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
Subcommittee for Procedure Reviews (SPR)
Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2026

Summary Proceedings

The Subcommittee for Procedures Review meeting convened via teleconference at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Ms. Josie Beach, Chair, presiding.

Attendees

Members

Josie Beach, Chair
Arthur Frank, Member
Loretta Vallario, Member
Paul Ziemer, Member

Non-Members

Rashaun Roberts, Designated Federal Official (DFO)
Bob Barton, SC&A
Kathy Behling, SC&A
Ron Buchanan, SC&A
John Cardarelli, NIOSH
Madeline Cook, NIOSH
Rose Gogliotti, SC&A
Malia Holzberger, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Lara Hughes, NIOSH
Alek Kranbuhl, NIOSH
Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH
Steve Ostrow, SC&A
Scott Siebert, Oak Ridge Associated Universities Team (ORAUT)
Brant Ullsh, NIOSH

Roll Call/Welcome - Dr. Rashaun Roberts, DFO

Dr. Rashaun Roberts called to order the Subcommittee for Procedures Review at 11:00 a.m. EDT on June 5, 2026, via teleconference. A roll call of Subcommittee members confirmed that a quorum was present. The quorum was maintained throughout the meeting. Subcommittee members, federal staff, and contractors announced conflicts of interest during roll call. Dr. Roberts turned the meeting over to Ms. Beach, Subcommittee chair.

Administrative Items

SPR-Approved Documents for August Board meeting

Kathy Behling, SC&A, presented the list of technical documents that the Subcommittee has reviewed along with the dates the Subcommittee reported their reviews to the full Board, where applicable. She recommended to the Subcommittee that their report of completed reviews to the full Board in August should include OCAS-TIB-11, rev. 1, ORAUT-RPRT-0097, rev. 00, ORAUT-OTIB-0093, rev. 00, ORAUT-RPRT-0084, rev. 00, and DCAS-PER-093. She added that ORAUT-OTIB-0092 and ORAUT-RPRT-0071 could potentially be added, depending on the outcome of today's discussions. The Subcommittee agreed with Ms. Behling's recommendation that these five documents be presented at the August full Board meeting and would consider adding the two additional later in the meeting.

SC&A Revised Program Evaluation Report (PER) Protocol Presentation

Kathy Behling, SC&A, presented SC&A's proposed revision to the protocol they use to review Program Evaluation Reports. She presented the history of the PER review protocol and noted that the Subcommittee had approved SC&A's request to revise the protocol at its November 8, 2024, meeting. The revision largely changes some wording to reflect the actual process that SC&A is using. Following her presentation there was discussion among the Subcommittee, SC&A, and NIOSH about the specific meaning of some of the language. Once things were clarified to everyone's satisfaction the Subcommittee approved the revised protocol.

Updated List of Documents Awaiting NIOSH Responses

Kathy Behling, SC&A, reported that there are 66 documents for which NIOSH is preparing some type of response. There are 147 findings and 134 observations associated with SC&A's reviews of technical documents. Of those, 23 had a status of "open," 171 had a status of "in progress," 82 had a status of "in abeyance," and 5 had a status of "transferred." Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH, reported that NIOSH is in the process of identifying Subtask 4 cases for the General Electric (GE) Vallecitos PER, taking time to ensure that all claim documents are available in the new claim database environment.

Carry Over Items from January 28, 2026, SPR Meeting

ORAUT-RPRT-0071, rev. 00, “External Dose Coworker Methodology”

Kathy Behling, SC&A, reviewed with the Subcommittee a memo that SC&A had previously sent to them about NIOSH’s response to SC&A’s review of ORAUT-RPRT-0071. RPRT-0071 introduces the use of multiple imputation, rather than a value of one-half the Limit of Detection to generate values for data points that are reported as “less than limit of detection.” SC&A’s review of RPRT-0071 generated 10 observations, and NIOSH had responded to those observations at the Subcommittee’s last meeting. Ms. Behling summarized the observations and responses, and recommended that the observations be closed, but also recommended that the Subcommittee and the Board monitor how RPRT-0071 is used as work proceeds. The Subcommittee accepted SC&A’s recommendations.

Ms. Behling then reported that the new Board Review System was now populated with all the findings, etc., from the previous system as well as all the items from the temporary system that was used between closing the old system and developing the new system. While the old system only allowed comments from technical document reviews to be identified as findings, the new system allows findings, observations, and comments. Consequently, Ms. Behling still needs to go through the old information where everything was considered a finding and identify observations and comments as such. She is also working with Lori Marion-Moss to ensure that SC&A and NIOSH are notified when the other enters information in the Board Review System (BRS).

During the closeout discussion, Chairperson Beach commented that she found searching the BRS cumbersome and slow, and wondered if items could be archived to improve the search process. Rose Gogliotti, SC&A, offered that a search guide that allows a user to optimize searches might be useful. She said some ways to search are indeed slow and cumbersome, but there are searches that allow you to find just what you want.

DCAS-PER-079 rev. 0, “Pinellas TBD Revision” presentation

Dr. Steve Ostrow, SC&A, briefly described the Pinellas Plant operations, radiation sources and monitoring techniques, and the Subcommittee’s previous work concerning Pinellas. He also described the technical document changes that had led to PER-079 and presented the results of SC&A’s review of the PER up to this point. SC&A’s review of PER-079 resulted in zero findings and zero observations. He recommended that two cases be selected for Subtask 4 of the PER review, and that those cases should be production workers covering the operational periods at Pinellas.

DCAS-PER-036, rev. 0, “Blockson TBD Revision” presentation

Kathy Behling, SC&A, briefly described the Blockson facility covered operations, materials used, available monitoring information, and the Subcommittee’s previous work concerning Blockson. She also described the technical document changes that led to PER-036 and presented the results of SC&A’s review of the PER up to this point.

SC&A's review of PER-036 resulted in zero findings and zero observations. She recommended that one case be selected for Subtask 4 of the PER review, and that that case should involve an increase in radon exposure due to the technical document change that led to the PER.

DCAS-PER-039, rev. 0, "Baker Perkins TBD Revision" presentation

Amy Mangel, SC&A, briefly described the Baker Perkins covered operations, materials used, available monitoring information, and the Subcommittee's previous work concerning Baker Perkins. She also described the technical document changes that led to PER-039 and presented the results of SC&A's review of the PER up to this point. SC&A's review of PER-039 resulted in zero findings and zero observations. She recommended that one case be selected for Subtask 4 of the PER review. Since all Baker-Perkins claims were re-evaluated by NIOSH during completion of PER-039, any of the claims would suffice.

NIOSH responses to SC&A Reviews

Battelle TBD-5000, rev. 00, "Default Assumptions and Methods for Atomic Worker Employer Dose Reconstructions"

Dr. Brant Ulsh, NIOSH, discussed NIOSH's response to observations 5 and 6 from SC&A's review of this document. Dr. Ulsh spoke from the Board Review System, which NIOSH shared with meeting attendees. Both observations concerned the size of the geometric standard deviation (GSD) that NIOSH uses in internal and environmental dose reconstruction. For observation 6 NIOSH and SC&A agree that the GSD of 10 that the document suggests is too high, and NIOSH does not use that value in dose reconstruction. Observation 5 questioned whether a GSD of 3 was appropriate for internal dose reconstruction. NIOSH has prepared RPRT-0109, "Uncertainty in Fitted Dose and Internal Dose Assignment," which supports the use of a GSD of 3. SC&A has not reviewed that report, so the Subcommittee, before closing these observations, tasked SC&A to perform a focused review with the intent of closing these recommendations, and then to recommend if they thought RPRT-0109 warranted a full review.

ORAUT-RPRT-0087, rev. 00, "Application of Regression in External Dose Reconstruction"

Alek Kranbuhl, NIOSH, discussed NIOSH's responses to the 8 observations from SC&A's review of this document. Mr. Kranbuhl spoke from the Board Review System, which NIOSH shared with meeting attendees. For most of the observations, NIOSH's response was that the observation was beyond the intended scope of this document. RPRT-0087 is intended as a sort of toolbox for statisticians, and those statisticians would be expected to consider the points raised by SC&A's observations. SC&A wanted assurance that their report would be made available to project statisticians, and Nancy Chalmers, ORAUT statistician assured attendees that this information would be considered as the project adopted regression in external dose reconstruction.

Observation 5 contained editorial suggestions, which NIOSH accepted in their response. Rev. 01 to RPRT-0087 has been issued so SC&A suggested they review it to ensure the editorial changes were made. The Subcommittee agreed and will wait to close observations until that review is complete.

SC&A Issued Reviews

ORAUT-OTIB-0092, rev. 00, “Correction Factors for Neutron Dose Measured with Nuclear Track Emulsion, Type A Film” presentation

Dr. Ron Buchanan, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of ORAUT-OTIB-0092. SC&A found that OTIB-0092 used technically sound methods and presented a very complex subject in a concise but illustrative manner. SC&A did make one observation, though. Even though the energy of a neutron source may be known, the actual neutron spectrum to which a worker is exposed can be influenced by a number of factors. Consequently SC&A urged caution when using the correction factors in OTIB-0092 in dose reconstruction and recommended that only a correction factor (CF) greater than one be used.

NIOSH once again shared the Board Review System with meeting attendees, and Dr. Brant Ulsh pointed out that NIOSH’s response was that they agreed with the observation and would not use a correction factor less than 1. The Subcommittee then agreed to close the observation.

DCAS-PER-069, rev. 0, “Jessop Steel Company” presentation

Amy Mangel, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of PER-069. PER-069 was prepared to determine the effect on claims of changes made to the Jessop Steel Technical Basis Document (TBD), which is Appendix BL of TBD-5000. SC&A had not previously reviewed Appendix BL, so they reviewed the dose reconstruction guidance in that document as part of this PER review. That review resulted in 4 observations, which requested clarification of the reasoning for selecting exposure times and certain exposure rate values. As part of PER-069 NIOSH had re-evaluated all Jessop Steel claims with probability of causation value less than 50%, so SC&A had no comments about the cases selected for re-evaluation. For Task 4 of this review, SC&A did not specify a recommended number of cases for their review but stated that the cases should allow them to examine internal dose, external dose, and the residual internal and external doses between uranium operations.

ORAUT-OTIB-0034, rev. 04, “Internal Dosimetry Co-Exposure Data for Oak Ridge National Laboratory” presentation

Rose Gogliotti, SC&A, presented the results of SC&A’s review of OTIB-0034, rev. 04 and briefly discussed the Subcommittee’s reviews of earlier revisions of this document. One finding from those earlier reviews, typically designated as OTIB-0034-07, was considered “in abeyance” at the time of SC&A’s review of rev. 04. SC&A found that the guidance that the Subcommittee determined would close this finding was included in IG-006 “Criteria for the Evaluation and Use of Co-Exposure Datasets.” Consequently, as

part of the review of rev. 04, SC&A recommended closing finding OTIB-0034-07. SC&A's review of OTIB-0034 rev. 04 resulted in one finding, questioning the use of OTIB-0054 radionuclide mixtures for internal dose assessment at the tank farm. OTIB-0054 describes radionuclide mixtures for reactors, but SC&A questions whether it's applicable to use those mixtures for the tank farm. The Subcommittee agreed with closing finding OTIB-0034-07.

DCAS-PER-078, rev. 0, "Extrusion Plant" presentation

Dr. Steve Ostrow, SC&A, discussed the facility and operations at the Extrusion Plant and presented the results of SC&A's review of PER-078. SC&A's review resulted in zero findings or observations. SC&A recommends that the two cases with the highest probabilities of causation be selected for their Task 4 review. During discussion a Subcommittee member questioned whether work done for the military would be included in dose reconstructions. The answer was that, if the exposure cannot be distinguished from Department of Energy exposure it would be included. The Subcommittee also tasked SC&A to review the Extrusion Plant site profile since it has not been reviewed previously.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The Subcommittee chair expressed interest in meeting again relatively soon, in September for instance. Lori Marion-Moss, NIOSH, commented that, given their available resources and other project demands, NIOSH would be unlikely to be able to produce anything for the Subcommittee for the remainder of the year. Kathy Behling, SC&A, noted that NIOSH has already entered a number of responses in the BRS that the Subcommittee has not yet considered, and suggested a meeting to address only that material. The Subcommittee agreed with that suggestion and tentatively selected October 27, 28, or 29, 2026, as the preferred date for the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.