



Uploaded to VFC Website

▶▶ **November 2012** ◀◀

This Document has been provided to you courtesy of Veterans-For-Change!

Feel free to pass to any veteran who might be able to use this information!

For thousands more files like this and hundreds of links to useful information, and hundreds of "Frequently Asked Questions, please go to:

[Veterans-For-Change](#)

*Veterans-For-Change is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation
Tax ID #27-3820181*

If Veteran's don't help Veteran's, who will?

We appreciate all donations to continue to provide information and services to Veterans and their families.

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=WGT2M5UTB9A78

Note:

VFC is not liable for source information in this document, it is merely provided as a courtesy to our members.



Item ID Number 05570

Not Scanned

Author

Corporate Author

Report/Article Title Charter: Advisory Committee on Special Studies
Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of
Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants

Journal/Book Title

Year 0000

Month/Day

Color

Number of Images 0

Description Notes

CHARTER

Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to The Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants

Purpose

By memorandum of December 11, 1979, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy directed the establishment of an Interagency Work Group to Study the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants (Work Group) under the leadership of the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The Work Group was specifically directed to assure that the protocols and methodology of proposed Federal research studies will produce reliable data, as well as to provide technical support to individual agencies in the implementation of research.

On August 1, 1980, the Work Group recommended that the United States Air Force conduct its proposed Epidemiologic Study of Ranch Hand Personnel (Ranch Hand Study) and that the conduct of the study be overseen by an independent monitoring committee. By memorandum of September 16, 1980, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy directed the Air Force to conduct the Ranch Hand Study. In addition, the memorandum directed the Scientific Panel of the Work Group, augmented by scientists from outside the government and including those suggested by veterans organizations, to oversee the study and to provide technical assistance, as needed, to the Air Force.

Authority

42 U.S.C. 217(a); Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The Committee is established in accordance with and is governed by the provisions of P.L. 92-463 which sets forth standards for the formation and use of Advisory Committees.

Function

The Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants shall advise the Secretary and the Chair of the Work Group concerning its oversight of the conduct of the Ranch Hand Study by the Air Force and shall provide technical assistance to the Air Force in its conduct of the study. The Advisory Committee shall perform the same functions with respect to its oversight of any other studies in which the Work Group believes involvement by the Advisory Committee is desirable.

Structure

The Committee shall consist of the Secretary, or designee, as Chair, and six members selected by the Secretary from authorities knowledgeable in clinical medicine, medical epidemiology, toxicology, biostatistics and related fields.

Members shall be invited to serve for the duration of the Committee.

Management and staff services shall be provided by the Public Health Service. The Office of the General Counsel shall provide an Executive Secretary.

Meetings

Meetings shall usually be held quarterly at the call of the Chair, who shall also approve the agenda. A government official shall be present at all meetings.

Meetings shall be open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Secretary; notice of all meetings shall be given to the public.

Meetings shall be conducted, and records of the proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and Departmental regulations.

Compensation

Members who are not full-time Federal employees shall be paid at the rate of \$100 per day, plus per diem and travel expenses in accordance with Standard Governmental Travel Regulations.

Annual Cost Estimate

Estimated annual cost for operating the committee, including compensation and travel expenses for members but excluding staff support, is \$11,600. Estimate of annual manyears of staff support required is one-half, at an estimated annual cost of \$15,000.

Reports

An annual report shall be submitted to the Secretary through the General Counsel not later than November 1 of each year, which shall contain as a minimum a list of members and their business addresses, the committee's functions, dates and places of meetings, and a summary of committee activities and recommendations made during the fiscal year. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Department Committee Management Office.

Termination Date

Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants will terminate five years from the date this charter is approved.

This Committee will be renewed every two years in compliance with P.L. 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Approved:

DATE

SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The Air Force has sought guidance from the Interagency Work Group on the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants on whether it should proceed with the Epidemiological Study of Ranch Hand Personnel because the National Academy of Sciences review of the Air Force protocol had expressed concern about the credibility of the Air Force to conduct the study.

Ranch Hand personnel, who applied Agent Orange between 1962 and 1971 in Vietnam, are the only population whose frequency and duration of exposure to Agent Orange are known with any accuracy. The Interagency Work Group agrees with the Air Force that the results of the Ranch Hand study should provide valuable information about the long-term health effects of exposure by veterans to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

Over the past 20 months, the Air Force has made a conscientious effort to design a scientifically valid study responsive to the recommendations of five separate peer reviews, including that of the National Academy of Sciences. After a thorough review of the proposed final study protocol, which includes certain changes based on the separate peer reviews, and after consultation with the Air Force scientists responsible for the study, the Work Group recommended to me that the Air Force be instructed to carry out the Ranch Hand study. In light of the progress already made by the Air Force and the need to proceed expeditiously with this important study, Frank Press and I concur with the Work Group's recommendation.

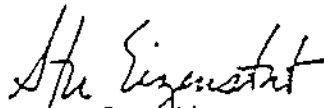
There remains deeply felt concern among some Vietnam veterans and others about the objectivity of the Air Force to study the possible health effects of Agent Orange. While affirming the capability of the Air Force to assure the proper conduct of the study, the Interagency Work Group has suggested that this concern can be reasonably addressed by independent review and monitoring of the study. I believe that the Scientific Panel of the Interagency Work Group, which is already familiar

with the Ranch Hand protocol, is the appropriate body to oversee the study and to provide technical assistance, as needed, to the Air Force scientists responsible for the study. For the purpose of assuring the public that the study results are reliable and valid, the Work Group plans to augment the Scientific Panel with reputable scientists from outside the government, including those suggested by veterans organizations.

The Interagency Work Group noted that the evaluation of Ranch Hand personnel may have to continue for a lengthy period of time in order to have a better chance of detecting latent or subtle health effects, particularly related to cancer. The Air Force, in consultation with the Scientific Panel, has already designed the protocol to reflect this recommendation.

I am advised that the Ranch Hand study presents a number of difficult technical problems. While recognizing the need to obtain study results promptly, the Air Force's primary responsibility must be to assure that the results will be reliable and valid. I urge the Air Force to utilize fully the expertise of the Scientific Panel of the Interagency Work Group to advise them on the difficult decisions that will surely arise during the course of the study.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the importance of the Ranch Hand study to Vietnam veterans and their families. The Interagency Work Group and the White House are prepared to offer any assistance that the Air Force may require in discharging its responsibility to conduct a high quality scientific investigation.



Stuart E. Eizenstat
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Affairs and Policy.

PLAN FOR APPROPRIATE BALANCE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Advisory Committee on Special Studies Relating to the Possible Long-Term Health Effects of Phenoxy Herbicides and Contaminants shall be selected from authorities knowledgeable in toxicology, medical epidemiology, bio-statistics, clinical medicine and related fields.

The Department will give close attention to equitable geographic distribution and to minority, female and youth representation.

The Secretary will make the appointments without discrimination on the basis of age, race, sex, cultural, religious or socio-economic status.