

Please see the response below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 505-844-9214 or swstaff@sandia.gov.
Thank you. SWS.

Background:

In the Federal Register published on December 23, 2010, (Reference: Vol. 75, No. 246 / Thursday, December 23, 2010 / Proposed Rules; Docket #: HS-RM-10-CBDPP; RIN 1992-AA39) the Department of Energy requests information and comments on issues related to its current chronic beryllium disease prevention program. More specific to the medical surveillance aspects of the program, question #11 states the following:

Currently, after the site occupational medicine director has determined that a beryllium worker should be medically removed from exposure to beryllium, the worker must consent to the removal. Should the Department continue to require the worker's consent for medical removal, or require mandatory medical removal?

SNL Response - Occupational Medicine:

SNL supports the current requirements within the CBDPP which mandates the worker's consent for medical removal.

Currently, the CBDPP hinges on, or is prefaced upon, voluntary participation from the Be worker in surveillance. It seems inconsistent and somewhat of a double jeopardy situation for the worker, if they do have Be sensitization, then to be unilaterally removed from that work by the SOMD, without their consent. Especially since Be exposure/sensitization is so non-linear with regards to defining what exactly is an acceptable exposure environment for a sensitized worker. That does not prevent the Occupational Medicine physicians and SOMDs from recommending non Be type of work.