

# **Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)**

## **Agency Roles/Programs for Assisting DOE Nuclear Weapons Workers**

### **DOL EEOICPA – Part B and Part E**

The Department of Labor (DOL) is tasked with administering the EEOICPA, both Part B and Part E programs, and providing compensation and benefits to eligible atomic weapons workers or their eligible family members. Part B covers current and former workers who have been diagnosed with cancers, beryllium disease or silicosis, and whose illness was caused by exposure to radiation, beryllium or silica while working directly for the Department of Energy (DOE), that department's contractors or subcontractors, a designated Atomic Weapons Employer (AWE) or a beryllium vendor. Individuals or their survivors found eligible under Part B may receive a lump sum compensation payment of \$150,000 and medical expenses for their covered condition.

Part E provides coverage to Department of Energy contractor or subcontractor employees who developed any illness, including cancer, beryllium disease and silicosis, as a result of occupational exposure to a toxic substance at a covered Department of Energy facility. Workers found eligible under Part E of the EEOICPA receive payment of their medical expenses for their covered illness and may also be eligible for impairment and/or wage loss compensation. Survivors found eligible under Part E receive a lump sum compensation payment of \$125,000 and may also be eligible to receive additional compensation if the worker experienced wage loss due to the accepted condition.

The Labor Department maintains 11 Resource Centers nationwide that provide in-person and telephone-based assistance to service individuals regardless of where they live. Anyone who thinks they may be eligible under Part B or Part E should not hesitate to contact the Resource Center nearest them.

Please call 866-888-3322 or visit <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy> for more information.

### **NIOSH's Role in EEOICPA - Part B**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts activities to assist claimants and support the role of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA).

Under EEOICPA, Part B, NIOSH:

- Developed scientific guidelines for determining whether a worker's cancer is related to the worker's occupational exposure to radiation (probability of causation).
- Developed methods to estimate worker exposure to radiation (dose reconstruction).
- Uses the dose reconstruction regulation to develop estimates of radiation dose for workers who have applied for compensation.
- Oversees a process by which classes of workers can be considered for inclusion in the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC).
- Provides staff support for the independent Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health that advises HHS and NIOSH on dose reconstructions and SEC petitions under EEOICPA.

For more information on NIOSH's activities under EEOICPA, please call toll free 1-877-222-7570 or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas>.

### **Ombudsman to NIOSH for EEOICPA - Part B**

The NIOSH Ombudsman, Ms. Denise Brock, directly assists petitioners in compiling materials, information, and documentation needed to file an SEC petition. She assists petitioners in preparing and presenting their comments to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health at public meetings. Ms. Brock is available to help petitioners who may be having difficulties with the petition process. NIOSH may refer selected Part B dose reconstruction claims to Ms. Brock to assist claimants who may be having similar difficulties. Ms. Brock may review a claimants' entire case file (DOL initial case file, dose reconstruction report and medical records) to assist claimants. In addition, Ms. Brock facilitates and conducts outreach and workshops for claimants, advocates, consultants and the public to promote a better understanding of the EEOICP and the claim process.

Ms. Brock may be contacted by phone at toll free 1-888-272-7430 or by email at [db\\_dcch@hotmail.com](mailto:db_dcch@hotmail.com).

### **Office of the Ombudsman – Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program**

The Office of the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation program is a separate office that resides within the Department of Labor. The office is independent from the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation, which administers and makes decisions regarding EEOICPA claims. The Office provides assistance and information to claimants, potential claimants and other interested parties on the benefits, requirements and procedures applicable under EEOICPA. In addition, the Office is required to issue an annual report to Congress setting forth the number and types of complaints, grievances and requests for assistance received by the Office each year.

For information or assistance, please call toll free 1-877-662-8363 or email the office at [ombudsman@dol.gov](mailto:ombudsman@dol.gov).

### **Department of Energy's Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP)**

DOE has made great strides in addressing the occupational health legacy of its 50 years of nuclear weapons design and production. DOE has successfully demonstrated the feasibility and value of conducting targeted medical screening programs for occupational diseases among DOE workers by using third-party medical experts who provide high-quality services, resulting in high credibility with worker populations. The FWP program is not part of EEOICPA, but instead compliments it, as it provides workers with medical evaluations conducted by expert occupational medicine physicians and labs that provide both the worker and the claims examiners with objective information for decision-making about the appropriateness of compensation.

- Medical screenings are designed to detect adverse health outcomes related to occupational exposures (for example, beryllium, asbestos, silica, welding fumes, lead, cadmium, chromium and solvents) at the earliest stages to prevent, treat and control occupational-related illnesses.
- Depending on the type of occupational exposure, the medical screening includes all or some of the following tests: physical examination, blood and urine tests, hearing test, chest x-ray, lung function test, and beryllium sensitization screening. Medical screening is available **at no cost** to all former DOE federal, contractor and subcontractor employees from all DOE facilities.
- Occupational medicine physicians will review the findings from the screening exam, provide a written results letter and, if necessary, recommend follow-up care for any abnormal findings. If a work-related illness is identified and the former worker chooses to file for compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation program (EEOICP), the screening exam results letter may support the claim.

For more information about FWP, please contact Mary Fields, Program Manager at (301) 903-1613 or via e-mail at [Mary.Fields@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Mary.Fields@hq.doe.gov) or visit: <http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/>

Click on: "**Outreach Calendar for DOE Nuclear Weapons Workers**" on the left hand side of the page for a complete listing of Outreach Events that the agencies/programs listed on this Fact Sheet are holding in your area.