



Department of Energy Support to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)



Office of Health, Safety and Security
August 2012



National Day of Remembrance



- On July 16, 2012, the United States Senate announced the passage of S. Res. 519, a Senate resolution designating October 30, 2010, as a National Day of Remembrance (NDR) for Nuclear Weapons Program Workers.
- This year will mark the fourth anniversary of the NDR, honoring the thousands of men and women who tirelessly served our country by building and maintaining our nuclear weapons complex during World War II through the Cold War.



DOE's Core Mandate



Work on behalf of the program claimants to ensure that all available worker and facility records and data are provided to DOL, NIOSH, and the Advisory Board.



DOE Responsibilities



1. Respond to DOL and NIOSH requests for information related to individual claims. (employment verification, exposure records).
2. Provide support and assistance to DOL, NIOSH, and Advisory Board on large-scale research and site characterization projects through records research and retrieval efforts at various DOE sites.
3. Conduct research, in coordination with DOL and NIOSH, on issues related to covered facilities designations.



EEOICPA Site Contacts



- DOE EEOICPA Site POCs:
 - Coordinate all research activities with NIOSH, Advisory Board, DOL and various contractors
 - Set up site visits and tours for NIOSH and DOL staff as well as other groups
 - Work with both DOL and NIOSH to identify site subject matter experts and to facilitate interviews with current and former workers
 - Manage site's response to individual records requests. Ensure DOE responses are complete and timely
 - Onsite source of EEOICPA information to workers



Individual Records



Fund and coordinate records retrieval activities at DOE sites in support of individual claims.

- Employment verifications for DOL (~6,000/year)
- Dose records for NIOSH (~4,500/year)
- Document Acquisition Requests (DAR) employee work history/exposures for DOL (~5,500/year)



Individual Records



Total number of EEOICPA records requests completed:

- FY 2011: ~16,000
- FY 2012: Anticipate approximately 16,000



Individual Records



- Claimants often worked at multiple DOE sites, for multiple contractors and subcontractors, and in different jobs or divisions over a career.
- Records packages that DOE provides to DOL and NIOSH can be hundreds of pages long.



Individual Records



- For a typical request for a worker's records, DOE will have to go to many different site departments and within those departments many different records sources or databases.
- For example, one DOE site routinely checks approximately 40 different sources for responsive records, including hard copy paper records, microfilm, microfiche, databases and scanned electronic records.



Large Scale Research Projects



- Large scale research projects are driven by the needs of DOL and NIOSH.
 - DOE must react and accommodate the requests within existing funding.
- These projects can take years and can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to support.



Large Scale Research Projects

The logo for the Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS), featuring a stylized atom symbol above the letters "HSS" and a swoosh underline. Below the letters, the text "Office of Health, Safety and Security" is written in a smaller font.

Office of Health, Safety and Security

- DOE must review many of the requested records due to classification concerns.
 - Millions of pages have been reviewed so far and this can be a time consuming and costly process.
- DOE is often supporting 4-5 projects at once, although at various stages of the process (start up, research, wrap up, etc.)



Large Scale Research Projects



- *Rocky Flats*
- *Savannah River*
- *Pantex*
- *Hanford*
- *Sandia*
- *Los Alamos*
- *Clarksville*
- *Medina*



Document Reviews



- DOE committed to providing documents to NIOSH, DOL, and the Advisory Board, but must do so in a responsible manner.

- The DOE EEOICPA Security Plan link:

http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/Advocacy/HSS_Security_Plan_EEOICPA.pdf



Document Reviews (cont.)



- NIOSH, the Advisory Board and their contractors have submitted 50 documents for DOE classification review since June 2012.
- The average turn around time for review and released documents was 8 work days.
- In certain cases where an expedited review is necessary, DOE has returned documents in one to two days.



Facility Research



Research and maintain the Covered Facilities Database

- Database of **over 300 facilities covered** under EEOICPA. This includes DOE facilities, AWEs and Beryllium Vendors whose employees are eligible for benefits under EEOICP.
- Full listing on the DOE HSS website:
 - <http://www.hss.energy.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Advocacy/faclist/findfacility.cfm>



DOE Initiatives



- Ongoing effort to identify additional records collections useful for EEOICPA.
 - Collections are evaluated, indexed and cross referenced against previous claims.
- Sandia National Lab and Nevada National Security Site (former Nevada Test Site) collaborating on a legacy records collection potentially useful for EEOICPA requests.



Secure Electronic Records Transfer (SERT) System



- The SERT is an HSS-hosted environment where DOL and NIOSH can send and receive records and data in a secure manner.
- To effectively securing large volumes of PII information, the system will reduce the time to complete EEOICPA claims and improve transparency between Agencies.
- Currently, all DOL, NIOSH and DOE users have been trained and we are taking the final steps to go live.



Outreach



- DOE Headquarters (HSS)
 - Has initiated a Joint outreach Task Group that includes DOE, DOL and NIOSH, along with the DOL Ombudsman and the DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Programs.
 - The goal of creating a workgroup is to coordinate and improve outreach efforts between the agencies.
 - The Group held 18 "Town Hall" meetings in and near the communities of 9 DOE sites.
 - http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html



Informational Video



- Preparing an informational video on the benefits and services available to DOE workers and their family members through the Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) and the EEOICPA Program.
- The video is intended as an additional outreach tool to promote the FWP and EEOICPA; it will not replace the Town Hall meetings that the JOTG holds in the communities near and around the DOE sites.



Former Worker Medical Screening Program



- Mission: To identify and notify former workers at risk for occupational disease and offer them medical screening that can lead to treatment
- Program now serves ***all*** former workers from ***all*** DOE sites in locations close to their residences
- Further information on the FWP can be found at:
<http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/>



Former Worker Medical Screening Program



Local Screening Programs for Rocky Flats:

- **Production Workers**
 - Principal Investigator: Donna Cragle, PhD,
 - Co-Principal Investigators: John McInerney, MD, and Lee Newman, MD
 - Local Outreach: 1-866-812-6703
- **Construction Workers**
 - Principal Investigator: Knut Ringen, DrPH, MHA, MPH
 - Local Outreach: 1-800-866-9663



Questions?