



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



Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

August 2020



COVID-19 Update



- The DOE EEOICPA Operations have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic since mid March
- DOE has been doing everything we can to respond to both individual records requests and records research projects
- Depending on location, many DOE sites still in a “maximum telework” situation where all but essential employees are teleworking



COVID-19 Update



(cont.)

- Site status is determined individually at each site and depends primarily on the COVID rate and trends in that area, but there are other factors as well. These are site wide decisions, and the DOE Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security does not have direct input into these decisions
- Backlogs at many DOE sites and we will be doing everything we can to complete all requests once sites have staffing levels back to normal



COVID-19 Update



(cont.)

The ability of the DOE sites to respond to records requests varies widely by the site. Factors include:

- Are key staff onsite (Medical, Rad, IH, HR, Record)
- If not onsite, can these groups search and access their records remotely
 - In some cases, if the collections can be searched remotely, sites are able to send limited staff on site to pull hard copy records (paper, microfilm, etc.).



COVID-19 Update

(cont.)



- Some DOE sites rely heavily on Federal Records Centers, and most of those have been closed or at a very reduced capacity (less than 20%) since the start of the pandemic
- Do sites have enough classification reviewers onsite (this is more relevant for site research projects but can sometimes impact individual claims)



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

- Respond via the SERT system to DOL and NIOSH requests for information related to individual claims (employment verification, exposure records).
- 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.
- Conduct research, in coordination with DOL and NIOSH, on issues related to covered facilities designations.



Individual Records

- Claimants often worked at multiple DOE sites, for multiple contractors and subcontractors, and in different jobs or divisions over a career.
- For a typical request for a worker's records, DOE may 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 hardcopy 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 accommodates all requests.
- These projects can take years.



Document Reviews

- DOE committed to providing documents to NIOSH, DOL, and the Advisory Board, but must do so in a responsible manner.
- DOE HQ reviews NIOSH generated reports but DOE field sites review the DOE source documents
 - The average turnaround time for reports reviewed at DOE HQ is typically about 8 workdays. (but there are fewer reports and they are typically shorter)
 - The turnaround time for source documents reviewed in the field can vary considerably because there can be hundreds of documents requested and thousands of pages to review.



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 can be found at:
<https://ehss.energy.gov/Search/Facility/findfacility.aspx>



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.
- Published an annual report.



Former Worker Program



FWP website:

- <http://energy.gov/ehss/services/worker-health-and-safety/former-worker-medical-screening-program>

FWP brochure:

- <http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/former-worker-medical-screening-program-brochure>



Questions?