

NIOSH AWARDS CONTRACT FOR SUPPORT OF THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT (EEOICPA) RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) awarded a contract for support of NIOSH scientific support activities under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) to a team led by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), based out of Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

ORAU and its partners, Dade Moeller & Associates, Inc., and MJW Technical Services Inc., provide services to NIOSH in the following areas: database management; data collection related to claims and petitions; dose reconstruction research; claimant interviews; dose estimation and reporting; and technical and program management support. NIOSH performs dose reconstructions, oversees the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) petitioning process, and supports the Secretary of Health and Human Services, under EEOICPA.

The contract awarded on April 27, 2009, is the second contract awarded to the ORAU team to support EEOICPA activities. The contract is designed as a one-year contract with the option for four additional years (based on the needs of NIOSH), and is for approximately \$30 million per year. It was a competitive award based on technical and business proposals by the responding companies.

NIOSH estimates radiation doses for workers whose EEOICPA claims for compensation of work-related cancer have been referred from the Department of Labor (DOL). The results of worker dose reconstructions are used by DOL to determine the probability that a worker's cancer was "at least as likely as not" due to his or her occupational exposure to ionizing radiation during employment at a covered facility. NIOSH also oversees the SEC petitioning process. The SEC, established by EEOICPA, allows eligible claims to be compensated without requiring the completion of a radiation dose reconstruction or determination of the probability of causation.

As of April 30, 2009, DOL has referred 29,354 claims to NIOSH for dose reconstructions, and NIOSH has returned 82% (rounded from 81.91%) or 24,044 of these claims to DOL. Through NIOSH's efforts, 42 classes of workers, representing 33 facilities and 2,278 potential claims, have been added to the SEC to date.

For more information about NIOSH activities under EEOICPA, please visit the NIOSH Web site at www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas.

Note to Editors: For more information or to arrange interviews with NIOSH representatives, call Shannon Bradford, NIOSH Health Communications Specialist, at (513) 533-6800 or via e-mail at ocas@cdc.gov.



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