



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



Office of Health, Safety and Security
June 2012



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 2010: ~16,000
- 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



- 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



- *Hanford*
- *Brookhaven*
- *Savannah River*
- *Sandia*
- *Pantex*
- *Los Alamos*
- *Medina*
- *Clarksville*



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 52 documents for DOE classification review since February 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.
 - Ex. Working with Brookhaven now on developing a more comprehensive list of subcontractor companies.



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, working to finalize the web based platform for SERT, which will streamline the logon process for the close to 400 users that will ultimately use the system.



Former Worker Medical Screening Program



FWP Background



History:

- Established following the issuance of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 1993 (P.L. 102-484), authorizing DOE to:

“...establish and carry out a program for the identification and on-going medical evaluation of...former DOE employees who are subject to significant health risks as a result of the exposure of such employees to hazardous or radioactive substances during such employment....”

- First former worker projects initiated in 1996.
- Program now serves **all** former Federal, contractor, and subcontractor workers from **all** DOE sites in locations close to their residences.



FWP Background (cont.)



Mission:

- Identify and notify former workers at risk for occupational disease.
- Offer them medical screening that can lead to treatment.
 - Over 68,000 individuals have received an initial screening exam
 - Over 17,500 have received a rescreening exam
- Provide information and assistance about medical follow-up and compensation.
- Use findings to strengthen safety and health protection for current and future workers.

Further information on the FWP can be found at:

<http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/>



FWP Background (cont.)



- To ensure objective evaluation of former workers' health, DOE offers exams by third-party providers through cooperative agreements.
- There are 2 national projects and 5 regional projects.
- Each team focuses on a distinct subset of the former worker population to:
 - Obtain rosters of former employees and their updated addresses;
 - Advertise the program through union and DOE newsletters, TV and newspaper, public meetings, and individual mailings;
 - Provide medical screening to interested individuals
 - Projects follow standardized medical screening protocol
 - Customize screening according to individual's work history and likely exposures
 - Refer individuals with suspicious findings for follow-up medical testing and, if applicable, to the DOL-run EEOICP.



FWP Background (cont.)



Organizations administering the FWP:

- CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training
- Drexel University School of Public Health
- Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Oak Ridge Associated Universities
- Queens College City University of New York
- United Steelworkers
- University of Iowa College of Public Health



Medical Screening



- Medical and occupational exposure history
- Comprehensive physical examination (includes general health assessments), may consist of the following:
 - Physical exam
 - Chest x-ray with B read
 - Spirometry (breathing test)
 - Blood chemistry
 - Urinalysis
 - Audiometry (hearing test)
 - Other tests based on exposures (e.g., BeLPT)



Former Worker Medical Screening Program



Local Screening Programs for LANL and SNL

- Principal Investigator: Brian S. Schwartz, MD, MS
- Local Outreach: 1-877-500-8615



Program Benefits

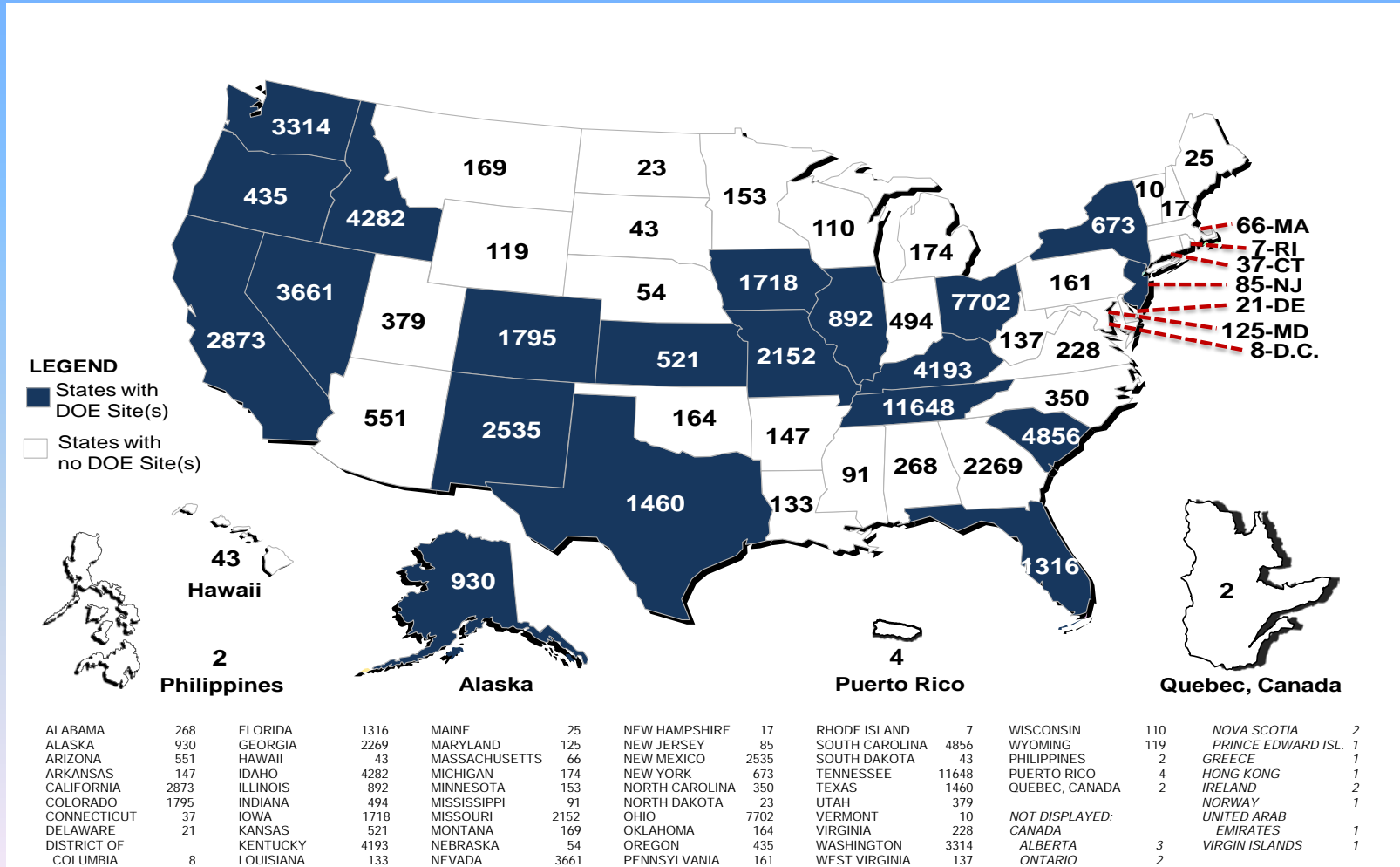


- Resulted in the **identification** of conditions at an **early** stage, allowing for more successful treatment.
- Ongoing medical screening exams, similar to a “**wellness**” type exam.
- Identified **non-occupational** health conditions, such as: high blood pressure, diabetes & highly elevated cholesterol levels. (Added benefit but **NOT** compensable).
- Medical results from these screenings serve useful purpose in supporting claims filed under **EEOICP and/or workers’ compensation**.



Participants Screened by State of Residence

(as of September 30, 2011)

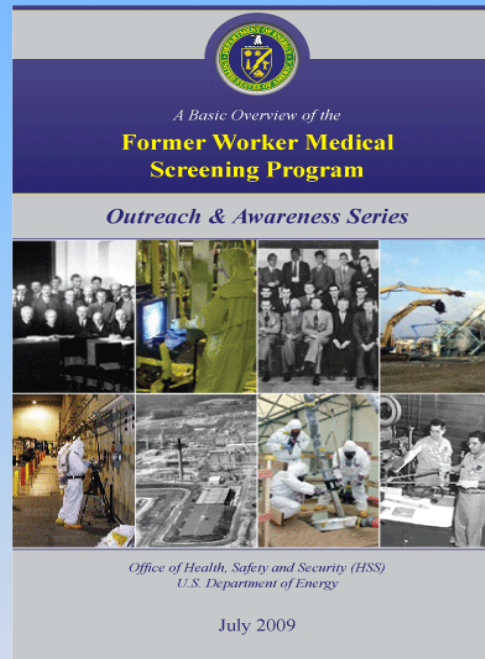




FWP Informational Resources



FWP Brochure

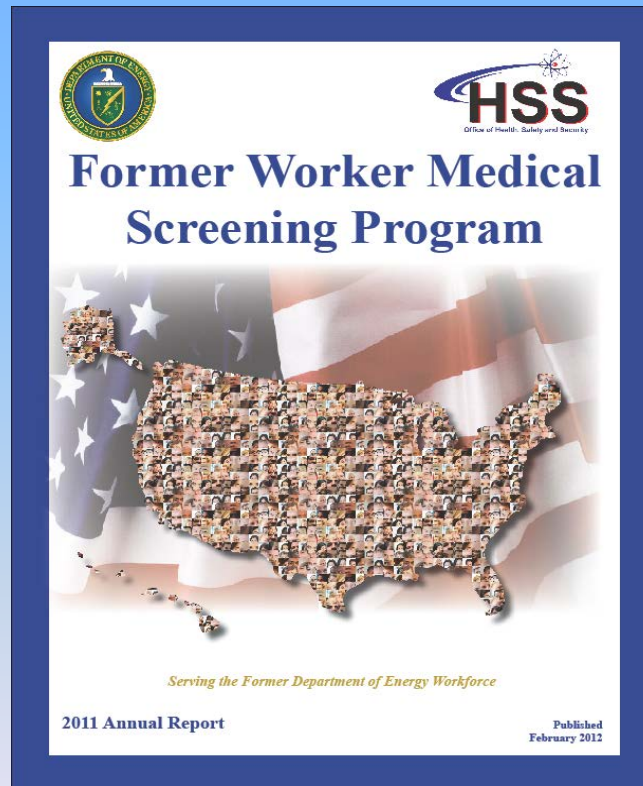


http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/FWP_pamphlet.pdf



FWP Informational Resources (cont.)

FWP Annual Report



http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/FWP_Annual_Report.pdf



Questions?