April 25, 2007

The Honorable Victoria A. Lipnic
Assistant Secretary for
Employment Standards Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Assistant Secretary Lipnic:

The Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups (ANWAG) is very disappointed in your April 20, 2007 letter responding to the class action lawsuit addressed to the sick nuclear weapons worker community. We respectfully disagree with your assessment of the problems within the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (DEEOICP).

The news media is not, in fact, causing unnecessary anxiety among these claimants. It is the actions of the Department of Labor (DOL) that is the source of their frustrations. The DEEOICP claims process is neither fair nor prompt. It is unfair to schedule a hearing and demand attendance by the claimant prior to a claimant receiving requested information. It is unfair to have claims adjudicated prior to the Site Exposure Matrices being posted to DOL's website. It is unfair to wait two years to receive impairment compensation for a covered disease. These are just a few of the problems within this program.

ANWAG continues to bring these issues and others to DOL's attention. Thus far, these issues have been ignored by DOL. Conducting additional town hall meetings appear to be a waste of limited taxpayer dollars until the final rules are completely revamped. Until that time the claimants will continue to see delay after delay and inconsistencies in decisions.

We respectfully request a response from you pertaining to ANWAG's continuing concerns. Your prompt attention to these matters is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Janine Anderson
for ANWAG members

cc: Secretary Elaine Chao
    Assistant Deputy Secretary, Shelby Hallmark
    Director, Peter Turcic
    Part E Ombudsman, Malcolm Nelson
    Members of Congress