

**ADVOCATES FOR SICKENED NUCLEAR WEAPONS WORKERS CALL UPON  
SECRETARY SOLIS AND SECRETARY SEBELIUS TO AMEND RULES GOVERNING  
EEOICPA COMPENSATION**

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Contact: Antoinette Bonsignore, Linde Ceramics SEC Action Group, [antbonsignore@gmail.com](mailto:antbonsignore@gmail.com), 425-835-2850  
Terrie Barrie, ANWAG, [tbarrie@yahoo.com](mailto:tbarrie@yahoo.com), 970-824-2260

Redmond, WA - The Linde Ceramics Special Exposure Cohort petitioners, the Linde Ceramics SEC Action Group, and the Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups (ANWAG) petitioned the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to amend their respective Final Rules governing the administration of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). Final Rules are generated by administrative agencies to interpret legislation and implement law.

"Nuclear weapons workers that developed cancer from the unwitting exposure to radiation deserve to be compensated in a fair and equitable manner that does not subject them to questionable science that is being used to compensate workers only as a last resort," said Antoinette Bonsignore, Linde Ceramics SEC Action Group. "These workers were exposed to radiation and were never informed of that danger by the Department of Energy. To continue to deny valid claims when workers were never monitored for exposure or provided with any protective or safety equipment is an affront to basic fairness and justice."

"Congress never intended this program to develop into the ongoing and overwhelming burden it has become for sickened nuclear weapons workers or their survivors," states Terrie Barrie of ANWAG. "Congress was well aware when they passed EEOICPA that the Department of Energy did not keep adequate exposure records, particularly for chemicals and heavy metals. Yet, DOL requires claimants to provide proof of exposure where none exists. It is long past due to return this program to the original intent of the law."

"There is a need for scientific oversight of Part E policies and procedures by a panel of independent experts," adds Dr. Eugene Schwartz, former medical director for DOL Division for Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program. "Claims are often denied by DOL because the program lacks objective, independent scientific expertise. In addition, claimants typically experienced complex exposure situations that may have involved multiple chemicals as well as ionizing radiation. Claims are wrongly denied by DOL, in part, because the program fails to acknowledge the complexity and context of the exposure situation."

Two of the changes advocates seek are for NIOSH to put an end to the use of surrogate and/or co-worker exposure data to reconstruct dose under the Part B program; and request DOL to issue a presumptive disease list to expedite the adjudication of claims under the Part E program.

The advocates look forward to a timely and positive response from both agencies that will begin to remedy the injustice endemic throughout this program for the last eight years.

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