

WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

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NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

This year marks the fourth consecutive year the United States Senate unanimously approved a resolution

(<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:S.RES.519:>) dedicating October 30th as the National Day of Remembrance for former nuclear weapons program workers, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers. This day, which was first celebrated on October 30, 2009, honors the hundreds of thousands of American workers that have served this Nation in building its nuclear defense and contributing to its security from World War II through the Cold War.

In observance of the fourth annual National Day of Remembrance, several sites held events that provided the workers, their families, and the public the ability to recognize the labors of former nuclear weapons program workers.



Chief Health Safety and Security Officer, Glenn Podonsky speaks at National Day of Remembrance with Senator Reid in attendance (seated middle)

The Office of Health, Safety and Security, along with the Cold War Patriots and the National Atomic Testing Museum, co-sponsored an event at the museum, on October 26th.

Cold War workers were honored at the museum, designated earlier this year by President Obama as the newest national museum (37 total;

19 of them located on the National Mall in Washington, DC). Speakers for the event included: Senator Harry Reid – United States Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Glenn Podonsky – Department of Energy's Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer, and Bishop Sylvester – The Great Commission Interdenominational Church.
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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Workers' Spotlight, the newsletter from the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support, within the Office of Health, Safety and Security. Our office implements DOE's role in two very important programs - the Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

Each month, we will shine a spotlight on program news, innovative ideas, best practices, and special events like the National Day of Remembrance. Our goal is to foster a sense of community and cooperation between EEOICPA and FWP program staff, partner agencies, and external stakeholders.

In late September, I attended an event in Ames, Iowa, hosted by the University of Iowa's FWP, also attended by the Ames Laboratory EEOICPA staff. At this meeting, I met a

woman who relayed to me a story she referred to as the "hoboes on a train."

The story dates back to the early days of the weapons complex, when the Ames Laboratory in Iowa was shipping uranium to the Metallurgical Laboratory in Chicago. The uranium would be transported via rail on boxcars. Due to its density and weight, the uranium could only be stacked a foot or so high before the weight limit of the boxcars was reached,
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REMEMBRANCE *cont.*



National Atomic Testing Museum National Day of Remembrance Event

With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed.

Abraham Lincoln



Participants at the Hanford event listened to remarks from Congressman Doc Hastings' District Representative followed by a reception, highlighting a historical Hanford display compliments of a local Hanford historian.

EARLY LUNG CANCER

By Mary Fields

The new Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) component of the Former Worker Program (FWP) was recently introduced in two ceremonies; one for former Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) (*formerly known as the Nevada Test Site*) workers at the National Atomic Testing Museum in August, and the other for former Idaho National Laboratory (INL) workers at USW Local 652 on November 28th.

The Department's Chief Health, Safety and Security Officer was one of the speakers at the NNSS event. Other guests included representatives from the offices of Senators Reid and Heller, Congresswoman Berkley, and Congressman Heck, local public officials, local union officials, and former NNSS workers.

Representatives from the offices of Senators Crapo and Risch, and Congressman Simpson were present to provide remarks at the INL event. Other speakers included Jim Frederick from the

USW, and Dr. Steven Markowitz from Queens College (all pictured below).

For former workers, occupational exposure to lung carcinogens, such as asbestos, uranium, plutonium, and beryllium, makes them potentially at elevated risk for developing lung cancer. The ELCD program will utilize low-dose CT scans to detect lung cancer at an early stage when it is more treatable. The lung cancer screening program expands the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP). WHPP is jointly conducted by Queens College of the City University of New York, the United Steelworkers, and the Atomic Trades and Labor Council. For more information on WHPP, visit www.worker-health.org. ■



INL ELCD Event



"I did not have any symptoms at the time my lung cancer was detected through the low-dose CT scan given by the Worker Health Protection program. The surgeon who provided my treatment told me that the screening definitely saved my life, and I agree! I urge any worker who is eligible for this program to participate." -Philip Creech, 32 years of service at the Mound Plant

SECURE ELECTRONIC RECORDS TRANSFER (SERT)

By Moriah Ferullo

On October 15th the SERT system went live, providing over 400 users from the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Labor (DOL), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) with the ability to securely and efficiently exchange records and information in support of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

SERT is an easy to use and secure web-based application that was developed by the Office of Health, Safety and Security's (HSS) Offices of Worker Screening and Compensation Support and Information Management in conjunction with the Idaho National Laboratory, to facilitate the secure and timely transfer of current and former employee records from DOE sites to DOL and NIOSH in support of EEOICPA.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE COMPLEX

By Gail Splett

RICHLAND - We have completed the quality check on all of the personnel indexing that we currently are aware of that contain information relating to people/Hanford employment. We have mined data from log books, monthly progress reports (from the 1940's and 1950's), duPont employment lists, General Electric's records, "craft cards", etc. We have also added a significant amount of indexing that had previously been done by others. The current count for the index is now 530,000 entries, and we are moving towards the last step in this major undertaking.

Lockheed Martin is taking all the various separate excel spreadsheets that we have completed or inherited from others and will merge them into one large database for our use, and it will be secured by a structured configuration control process. There are 21 separate, potential fields and each entry has only relevant information to that field. Some have record box locators, some have log book page identification, some have document numbers. Almost all will have a source identifier:

- duPont list from NIOSH
- document number
- document/phonebook/log book

We have captured an electronic image so we can provide a copy of the source information to the Department of Labor (DOL) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to add credibility to the information. Of course, we only have images for information that we've indexed or captured.

We are very excited about this project - it will allow the DOL District Office claims representatives to "triage" claims. When this information is added to the data from the dosimetry records and badging system, that they already have on-line access to, they will experience greater efficiencies and accuracy in directing searches. They'll have a significant amount of information on the first day and cut significant wasted efforts (and money). As we begin a new SEC increase in claims, this product will hopefully allow us to keep up the turnaround time (currently approximately 20 - 25 days for employment verifications and DAR) without any incremental funding or staffing.

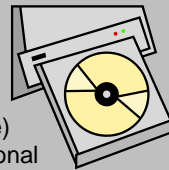


Richland EEOICPA Staff and Indexing Team

Additionally, this project has generated indexing on some HR record boxes in long term storage and we will be sharing box specific indexing with our records group as soon as we're complete. It will add value to the Site as a whole when non-EEOICPA requests are received. ■

Note: One of DOE's responsibilities under EEOICPA is to work on behalf of the program claimants to ensure that all available worker and facility records and data are provided to DOL, NIOSH, or Department of Justice to assist in the adjudication of claim. In doing so, our sites are regularly taking on projects to improve records management for their facility.

Trivia Question:



What former Hanford Site (General Electric employee) and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (Battelle employee) worker is credited with inventing the compact disc (CD)?

SERT *cont.*

Prior to the implementation of SERT, the employee records supporting actions in the EEOICPA program were sent via encrypted thumb drive from DOE sites to DOL and/or NIOSH through FedEx or UPS. When factoring in the potential for lost or misplaced shipments, mailroom processing time and cost, this method was less than ideal. Using two factor authentications, the SERT system allows for records and information to be transferred through a secure network, reducing the risk of missing or lost Personally Identifiable Information. The data transmission through the SERT system is instantaneous, thereby eliminating an average of 4-8 working days for mailroom processing. As a web-based application, SERT will also lower the program costs to DOE by eliminating some labor hours, as well as the shipping costs.

SERT will greatly improve the overall DOE response time and, ultimately, will serve the current and former DOE workers by reducing the timeframe for the claims process. HSS believes that the implementation of the SERT system will be the single biggest improvement in how DOE processes EEOICPA requests. ■

Calendar of Events



December

4	9:30 am 1:30 pm	EEOICPA Event DOL sponsored informational meeting Courtyard Marriott, 560 Scott Avenue, Farmington, NM 87401
5	10:00 am 12:30 pm	EEOICPA Event DOL sponsored informational meeting Hampton Inn Kayenta, US Highway 160, Kayenta, AZ 86033

For a complete list of calendar events, visit:
http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html

DIRECTOR *cont.*

so from the outside it looked like the boxcars were empty. Each car also had one to two security guards, but due to the secrecy of the project, the guards were dressed as "hoboes." Apparently it was common to hear local residents chatting about why there were so many empty train cars and hoboes, and why the cars weren't being used for something useful like hauling grain or other farming products.

I used this particular story to highlight the challenges of both the EEOICPA and FWP programs. The first is the unique nature of the nuclear weapons complex. Some of the materials and processes used in the complex (train boxcars of uranium) are simply just not used anywhere else in the United States and the documentation, in some cases, does not exist to support the stories. The second is the secrecy involved in the weapons complex. Workers were not always aware of the mission or the materials they were working with and their potential hazards, which can make it difficult to select the most effective medical tests for the FWP. Family members were typically even less knowledgeable of the exposure risks their loved ones were experiencing. Recreating a paper trail on the scope of work, the location the work was done, and placing a worker at that location is sometimes impossible.

These are challenges that the EEOICPA and FWP staff members face every day, and it is why the knowledge and experience of the staff is so important. We believe this newsletter will be an opportunity to share information, to help the staff of both programs share knowledge and innovative solutions.

Copies of the newsletter will be available at outreach events, and it will be featured on the Office of Health, Safety and Security Web site <http://www.hss.doe.gov>. If you wish to receive the Workers' Spotlight regularly, you may sign up via e-mail at Cecelia.Kenney@hq.doe.gov, by contacting us at (202) 586-4399, or in person at outreach events. We want this to be a community effort, so we welcome ideas and suggestions. ■

NIOSH ADVISORY BOARD ON RADIATION AND WORKER HEALTH

The Advisory Board last met in Denver September 18-20 (see agenda and presentations at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas/pubmtgs.html#sep18>) and made recommendations on the following SEC Petitions:

For Approval:

Oak Ridge National Laboratory SEC-00189
Los Alamos National Laboratory Revision to SEC-00109
Mound Plant SEC (1972, 1975-1976)
Nuclear Materials (Oct 29, 1958-Dec 31, 1979)

For Denial:

Weldon Spring Plant SEC (1955-1966, Oct 1, 1985-2002)
Mound Plant SEC (1980-2007)
United Nuclear Corp. SEC-116

The next scheduled meeting is December 10, 2012. The schedule for Advisory Board meetings can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas/pubmtgs.html#dec>

Trivia Answer: Charles Russell

REMEMBRANCE *cont.*



Tim Lerew, CWP, examines the quilt

Last October, hundreds of current and former Site employees took part in the Cold War Patriots' (CPW) Remembrance Quilt Project, personalizing quilt squares in honor or in remembrance of current and

former Savannah River Site (SRS) Cold War patriots serving in our country's nuclear weapons program. Added to hundreds of other squares collected from nuclear weapons workers across the country, these were sewn together to make a spectacular 17-foot wide by 11-foot tall quilt in the design of an American flag.

Featuring numerous quilt squares of SRS patriots, CWP shared the quilt on display for the 2000-plus attendees of the annual SRS 25-year Employee Receptions in Augusta, GA, earlier this month before taking it on the road to National Day of Remembrance celebrations across the U.S.



Congressmen John Duncan (pictured) and Chuck Fleischmann, Tennessee, attended the NDR event held in Oak Ridge.



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