




The Deputy Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 1, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM:

DANIEL B. PONEMAN 

SUBJECT:

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation
Program Act Interviews of Current and Former Workers

The Department embraces its responsibility for and commitment to the health and well-being of the Department of Energy's (DOE) current and former workers, both Federal and contractor employees. Two key programs that advance DOE's commitment to its former and current workers are the Department of Labor (DOL) managed Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) and the Former Worker Medical Screening Program. In the context of support to EEOICP, DOE's role is to work on behalf of the program claimants to make sure that all available worker and DOE facility records and data are provided to DOL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH) and its contractors, or the Department of Justice. These records serve as the basis for DOL and NIOSH to make informed decisions regarding claim adjudication.

A critical factor to the success, credibility, and objectivity of this process is the ability for both current and former workers to participate voluntarily in NIOSH, ABRWH, DOL, or other Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)-related interviews without any fear or concerns for reprisal or adverse consequences. The purpose of the interviews by NIOSH/ABRWH is to gather information regarding site operational history, past radiological practices, and other information related to radiation exposure. These interviews support the dose reconstruction process by NIOSH and claims adjudications by DOL. The Secretary of Energy and I encourage all former and current workers to volunteer to participate in EEOICPA interviews without fear or concern for any potential adverse consequences. Each DOE organization's Security Officer should be viewed as a resource to provide the needed guidance regarding interviews that may involve discussion of classified information.

The Office of Health, Safety and Security is available to address and follow up on any concerns that former or current employees may have. Please contact Dr. Patricia R. Worthington, Director, Office of Health and Safety, at (301) 903-5926 with any questions or need for assistance.



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Program Act Interviews by Current and Former Workers**

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