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

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

April 2021

COVID-19 Update

- The DOE EEOICPA Operations were initially impacted significantly during the start of the pandemic in 2020

- Currently most DOE sites have few if any late records requests from NIOSH or DOL, but there are a few exceptions including the Nevada National Security Site and the Y-12 National Security Complex

- Challenges these sites face include:

  - Some DOE sites still in a "maximum telework" situation where all but essential employees are teleworking,

COVID-19 Update
(cont.)

- Some DOE sites rely heavily on Federal Records Centers, and most of those have been closed or at a very reduced capacity (less than 20%) since the start of the pandemic

- Sites may not have enough classification reviewers onsite (this is more relevant for site research projects but can sometimes impact individual claims)

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

- Respond via the SERT system to DOL and NIOSH requests for information related to individual claims (employment verification, exposure records).

- 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.

- Conduct research, in coordination with DOL and NIOSH, on issues related to covered facilities designations.

Individual Records

- Claimants often worked at multiple DOE sites, for multiple contractors and subcontractors, and in different jobs or divisions over a career.

- For a typical request for a worker's records, DOE may 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 hardcopy 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.

- Recent data capture requests for the following DOE sites:
  - Fermilab
  - DOE Office of Legacy Management
  - Los Alamos National Lab
  - Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Document Reviews

- DOE committed to providing documents to NIOSH, DOL, and the Advisory Board, but must do so in a responsible manner.

- DOE HQ reviews NIOSH generated reports but DOE field sites review the DOE source documents

  - The average turnaround time for reports reviewed at DOE HQ is typically about 8 workdays. (but there are fewer reports and they are typically shorter)

  - The turnaround time for source documents reviewed in the field can vary considerably because there can be hundreds of documents requested and thousands of pages to review.

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 can be found at:
  https://ehss.energy.gov/Search/Facility/findfacility.aspx

Former Worker Medical Screening Program

- Mission: To identify and notify former workers at risk for occupational disease and offer them medical screening that can lead to treatment.

- Program now serves *all* former workers from *all* DOE sites in locations close to their residences.

- Published an annual report.

Former Worker Program

FWP website:

- http://energy.gov/ehss/services/worker-health-and-safety/former-worker-medical-screening-program

FWP brochure:

- http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/former-worker-medical-screening-program-brochure

Questions?