

ACTION ALERT

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. ASK THEM TO DEMAND THAT THE DEPT OF LABOR BASE THE EEOICPA COMPENSATION PROGRAM ON SCIENCE AND NOT ECONOMICS.

- **Stop the White House / Department of Labor (DOL) Plans To Change the Science-Based Designation of Special Exposure Cohorts to an Economic-Based Designation**

The pass-back memo that was leaked to the Associated Press revealed that the Department of Labor had alerted the White House to the fact that the *Energy Employees Occupational Illness and Compensation Program Act* (EEOICPA) was about to get more expensive due to the approval of new Special Exposure Cohorts. DOL wanted to put saving money above science. In one option in the memo, the White House suggested requiring Bush Administration clearance before new Special Exposure Cohorts could be designated on a case by case basis.

- **Require the National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health to Redraft the Livermore Laboratory Site Profile From the Ground Up**

The site profile is fundamentally flawed. It omits major accidents, including the two largest tritium accidents in Livermore Lab's history. It omits many documents that provide detailed information about where contamination was located and where workers were exposed to radiation. One of the site profile's principle authors is Carol Berger. NIOSH does not dispute that Carol Berger simply cut and pasted alpha activity ratio tables from her 1992 report performed for Martin Marietta Energy Systems into the Paducah site profile that, at the time that it was released, was severely criticized for underestimating worker exposures. It is no surprise that most sick former Livermore Lab employees have not received compensation after a dose reconstruction at a rate of 1 approval to 6 denials. (21/135 - figure as of 4/17/06)

- **Livermore Laboratory Needs a Special Exposure Cohort**

There are too many gaps in the data and lost or destroyed documents to reconstruct dose. Without adequate documentation, the onus of proving exposure is placed on the sick worker. They now have to find colleagues who are still living and extract affidavits from them in an attempt to show that they were exposed to listed materials on specific dates where no other documentation exists. Further, although workers were told not to maintain records of their top-secret activities, they are now asked to produce records to prove their exposures. This is manifestly unfair and places a huge burden on an already sick population.

CALL UPON YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO:

1. Join other concerned members of Congress in calling for the rejection of the administration's plans to cut benefits for the sick worker program and ignore science for financial reasons. (See attached Udall / Salazar letter for an example)
2. Support the Special Exposure Cohorts as a valuable aspect of EEOICPA.

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