

Understanding The EEOICPA Claims Process

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) was created to help former Nuclear Energy and Uranium Workers who have become ill due to their workplace exposures at a DOE site. This program provides financial compensation and lifetime medical benefits for qualified energy workers. Understanding how an EEOICPA Claim moves through the process can make all the difference in securing your benefits.

1. Employment & Medical History

Every EEOICPA claim begins by proving two key things: where you worked and a medical diagnosis.

- **Employment Verification:** The first step is completing and submitting the DOL's Employment History (EE-3) Form. The DOL will use that form to verify your employment. They may ask you to submit additional documentation including the Employment History Affidavit (EE-4) Form, W-2 statements, DOE worksite letters or Union records that document your worksite history.
- **Medical Documentation:** You will also need to provide medical records and reports that link your diagnosed illness to your workplace exposure.

CNS Cares can help you organize these materials and connect you to resources to help you with your claim.

2. Radiation Exposure Claims vs. Toxic Exposure Claims

The DOL's Claim evaluation process differs based on whether your claim is linked to radiation exposure or exposure to toxic substances at the DOE site where you worked.

- **Radiation Exposure Claims:** The DOL submits these claims to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for a process called Dose Reconstruction – a scientific estimate of how much radiation exposure you experienced during your employment.

NOTE: Dose Reconstruction is NOT required if you qualify as part of a Special Exposure Cohort or SEC. You may qualify as part of an SEC if you worked during the cohort's designated timeframe for 250 consecutive days and you have been diagnosed with one of 22 approved cancers. Learn more about SEC's [here](#)

- **Toxic Exposure Claims:** Claims for illnesses caused by exposure to chemicals, solvents, asbestos, beryllium or other toxic substances are reviewed directly by the Department of Labor. In these cases, an Industrial Hygienist may be involved in evaluating your job duties, work environment and known site hazards to determine whether a link exists between your illness and your worksite exposures.

3. Filing Your Claim

There are two options for filing your DOL EEOICPA Claim:

- **Self-Filing:** You can submit your claim directly to the DOL using the official forms and documentation found at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/energy>
- **Filing through an Authorized Representative (AR):** You can also elect to work with an experienced Authorized Representative (AR) who can prepare, file and track your claim on your behalf. The AR will receive a percentage of your settlement amount once your claim is approved:
 - 2% for new claims
 - Up to 10% for previously denied claims

CNS Cares can help you understand your eligibility and decide which filing method is best for you.

4. The DOL Review Process

Once the Department of Labor receives your completed claim, these stages follow:

- **Initial Review:** Your DOL Claims Examiner will review your information to ensure all required documentation is in place. During this phase the DOL may request additional employment or medical documentation – or refer your claim to NIOSH or an industrial Hygienist for further analysis.
- **Recommended Decision:** Your Claims Examiner will make a Recommended Decision to Approve or Deny your claim. You will receive notification of this decision.
- **Final Decision:** In this last step, the DOL's Final Adjudication Branch will review the Recommended Decision and make the final determination on whether your claim is Approved or Denied.

5. What Happens Next

If Your Claim Is Approved:

- You may be eligible for up to \$400,000 in financial compensation. Actual amounts vary.
- You will receive your DOL White Card that gives you access to no-cost medical benefits for your covered conditions including: Home health care, prescriptions, medical equipment and supplies.

If Your Claim Is Denied:

- You have the right to appeal the decision or request re-evaluation with additional evidence.
- CNS Cares can help connect you to advocates who specialize in DOL EEOICPA claim appeals.

We're Here To Help – Every Step Of The Way

The EEOICPA Claims process can feel complex, but you don't have to go through it alone. CNS Cares has helped thousands of former energy workers navigate their claims.

Let us help you make sure you receive all the care and benefits you have earned.
Call us at **877-259-9001** or Visit **CNSCares.com** to get started.