



Issue 8

July/August 2013

WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

I recently attended the kickoff of the DOE HQ *Feds Feed Families* campaign. *Feds Feed Families* is a 2-month long effort to collect food that is used by food banks and local organizations around the country to help families in need. This effort encompasses all government agencies and many of the DOE Federal facilities. During the kick off ceremony

there were a number of impassioned speakers who talked about the success of the program in the past, as well as the ongoing need for the program (1 out of 2 children in Washington, DC are still at risk for hunger).

For me, it's sobering to hear the statistics and to be reminded of the tough road that some people face, but

it's also nice to know that a program like *Feds Feed Families* gives us an opportunity to make a positive contribution. The *Feds Feed Families* campaign is a wonderful program and an opportunity to help people in need, and it reminds me that everyone involved with both the Energy Employees Occupational Illness

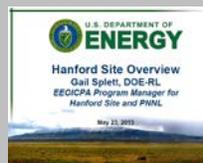
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SITE INFORMATIVE SESSIONS

In May the Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support (HS-14) began hosting a series of Site Informative Sessions for the Department of Labor (DOL). The goal of these meetings is to provide the DOL staff who work on the Energy Employees Occupational Illness and Compensation Program (EEOICPA) with useful information about the Department of Energy (DOE) sites and to promote openness and communication between the two agencies.

In 2007, representatives from the major DOE sites traveled to the DOL District Offices to participate in informational sessions. By using online meeting technology we are replicating that effort to provide the presentations, but at a fraction of the cost of the 2007 meetings.

The topics covered by the DOE site representatives include the history of the site, the major activities and operations that have occurred at the site, information about any



remediation, and an overview of the site process for locating responsive EEOICPA records. DOE will

incorporate the answers to questions, submitted by DOL prior to the session, into the presentations, but every session will also include a question and answer period to address questions that have come up during the presentation.

The presentations are being recorded while they are conducted so that they can be used for future training at DOL. The recording, along with a PDF, will be available to staff from DOL, DOE, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through a module currently being developed in Secure Electronic Records Transfer (SERT); SERT is the DOE HSS-hosted environment where Department of Labor (DOL) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH),

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR STAFF



Ragen Hall, Program Analyst, provides support to the Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support, HS-14 and responds to inquiries from the Department of Labor regarding DOE former

workers employment verification in support of claims filed under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). She has been involved with EEOICPA since the program was first established in 2000. Ragen also provides assistance to the Office of Health

and Safety (HS-10) on an as-needed basis with tracking and updating incoming and outgoing Health and Safety correspondence.

In her spare time, Ragen enjoys spending time with her family, attending her three children's sporting events, scrapbooking and shopping. ■

JOINT OUTREACH TASK GROUP MEETING – CHICAGO AREA WORKERS

On June 19, 2013, the Joint Outreach Task Group (JOTG) held two outreach meetings in the Chicago, Illinois area.

In 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE) teamed with the Department of Labor (DOL), the Office of the Ombudsman for DOL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the Ombudsman for NIOSH, and the DOE-funded Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) projects to create the JOTG. The JOTG was established under the premise that

agencies/programs with common goals can work together by combining resources and coordinating outreach efforts for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program and FWP, to better serve the current and former DOE workforce.

The JOTG also held meetings in the Chicago area in 2010. At those meetings, JOTG received positive feedback about the information provided, but attendees also voiced their opinion that there was a need for more outreach in the area. After obtaining updated worker rosters from the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) and the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL), collectively the JOTG decided that it was time to hold another Chicago area meeting.

The National Supplemental Screening Program, the FWP project that provides medical screening to former ANL



and FNAL workers, sent approximately 7,100 letters of invitation to former DOE workers in the Illinois and Indiana area, informing them of the event. While the majority of attendees were from ANL and FNAL sites, there were also attendees with interest in the Blockson Chemical Company, the Oak Ridge Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation, and other sites. There were over 50 people in attendance at each meeting to hear the presentations. Staff from DOL were available to meet with individuals to discuss questions related to their claims, and staff from the FWP were available to schedule screening appointments. ■

SESSIONS *cont.*

two other Agencies that implement the EEOICPA, can send and receive records and data in a secure manner.

On May 23rd, the Hanford Site EEOICPA Program Manager provided representatives for the DOL's Denver, Seattle, Cleveland and Jacksonville District Offices, their respective Final Adjudication Branch Offices, and the DOL's Headquarters Office a presentation on Hanford Site and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. More recently, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office and the Office of Legacy management provided presentations to the same audience.

Although DOL has provided a list of priority sites for each District Office, it is our plan to conduct a presentation for each of the DOE sites, including Atomic Energy Commission and legacy sites. For information or questions on this initiative, please contact Moriah Ferrullo at (301) 903-0881 or Cecelia Kenney at (202) 586-4399. ■

TRIVIA QUESTION

On July 11, 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme established the observance of this day...

THE NATIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL SCREENING PROGRAM LOW-DOSE CT PROGRAM

In 1993, the Department of Energy (DOE) expanded medical screening programs to detect possible occupational illness to former DOE workers. With the passage of the FY1993 Defense Authorization Act, DOE funding was provided to academic institutions and labor organizations through the Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) to conduct medical screening examinations. In 2000, DOE funded one of the aforementioned DOE FWPs, the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP), to begin low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) screening for the early detection of lung cancer in former Gaseous Diffusion Plant workers. WHPP has published their results in the peer reviewed medical literature (Manowitz, 2012).

Starting in July 2013, the National Supplemental Screening Program (NSSP), one of the DOE FWPs, will begin LDCT testing at National Jewish Health (NJH) in Denver, Colorado. The NSSP LDCT program was developed under the guidance of the NJH and NSSP radiologist, Dr. David Lynch. Dr. Lynch is certified by the American Board of Radiology and is an internationally recognized expert in the imaging of occupational lung diseases. He is also a member of the Fleischner Society, an internationally recognized panel of expert radiologists and other physicians, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Lung Screening Trial. Dr. Lynch will provide the technical guidance and the quality assurance plan that will be used for this pilot project.

Upon completion of the pilot, we plan to expand the LDCT program to former workers from our other primary DOE sites, Argonne National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Kansas City Plant (production workers), Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, Savannah River Site (production workers), Hanford Site (production workers), and Pinellas Plant (production workers), as well as for referrals (production, building trades) from the other DOE FWPs whose participants may live outside of their respective medical screening coverage areas. The NSSP LDCT pilot program is designed to provide more informed predictions about future participation to help guide fiscally responsible management of the LDCT screening program within this budget neutral program so as not to compromise the NSSP's other medical screening goals and priorities.

The NSSP LDCT pilot testing will include 100 participants. By virtue of geographic proximity to the former Rocky Flats Plant, former workers from this

site will likely comprise the majority of the participants in the pilot project, but workers from our other primary sites and from FWP referrals who reside in the Denver metro area will be equally eligible to participate.

Two important eligibility criteria for the NSSP LDCT pilot are: 1. age 50-80 years, and 2. current or former smoker with at least a 20 pack-year history. The NSSP LDCT pilot program may provide the following:

1. Decreased lung cancer deaths. The detection of lung cancer at the earliest stages can reduce lung cancer-related mortality, as well as overall mortality in a population at high risk for lung cancer.
2. Improved quality of life. The earlier detection of lung cancer can reduce lung cancer treatment-related morbidity and mortality. Cancer in an earlier stage may require less treatment, a smaller amount of lung tissue removed (lobectomy versus pneumonectomy), and less aggressive chemotherapy.
3. Reduced anxiety and psychological burden about past exposures and possible lung cancer.
4. The ability to detect findings consistent with pleural and parenchymal evidence of pneumoconiosis, and workers with relevant occupational exposure history will be counseled to file with DOL for possible medical benefits and compensation.
5. The opportunity to identify other serious non-work related medical conditions, which can decrease morbidity and mortality and enhance quality of life.
6. The opportunity to provide targeted education and counseling on the risks of ongoing tobacco use and recommend smoking cessation resources.

The overall risk to LDCT participants from participating in the LDCT program is very low. The NSSP recognizes that some psychological issues may be induced as the result of the receipt of abnormal findings from the LDCT. The NSSP will provide counseling to those participants who request assistance resulting from their receipt of LDCT results. ■

Calendar of Events



July

- 17 8:15 am EEOICPA Event
Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (ABRWH)
Shilo Inn, Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID
- 18 11:30 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Meeting
Golden Corral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH

August

- 6 8:00 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Breakfast
Bob Evans, 220 Byers Road, Miamisburg, OH
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 204 S Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
- 7 7:15 am Local Event
X-10 Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 8529 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN
- 9:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Inspector Group Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 11:00 am Local Event
Y-12 Guards Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 4:30 pm FWP Event
X-10/Y-12 ATLC Council Meeting
ATLC Union Hall, 109 Viking Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 8 9:00 am Local Event
X-10/Y-12 Asbestos Retiree Meeting
Shoney's, 3739 West US Highway 9, Lake City, TN
- 6:00 pm FWP Event
K-25 AGRE Meeting
USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN
- 13 11:00 am Local Event
X-10 Guards Meeting
Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenoir City, TN
- 11:00 am FWP Event
Fernald Retiree Meeting
Fernald Nature Preserve, 10995 Hamilton Cleves Highway,
Harrison, OH

DIRECTOR'S NOTE *cont.*

Compensation Program (EEOICPA) and the Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) also have the great privilege (and responsibility) of helping those in need each and every day. Whether it is a screening examination that catches a medical condition in the early stages, or locating key records that lead to compensation for a worker or their survivor, the work that we do has a tremendous impact on the people we serve.

For the staff working on the EEOICPA or the FWP, please remember that the work you do matters to a great many people. We have a chance to make a difference, and we owe it to the people we serve to bring our best every day. ■

August cont.

- 15 11:30 am FWP Event
Mound Retiree Meeting
Golden Corral, 8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH
- 12:00 pm Local Event
X-10/Y12 Machinist Local 480 Meeting
Local 480 Hall, Oak Ridge, TN
- 20 5:00 pm Local Event
Y-12 Gage Lab
Gondolier, Oak Ridge, TN

For a complete list of calendar events, visit:

http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html

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Trivia Answer: World Population Day. It was inspired by the date on which the world's population reached 5 billion people. Today's estimate is just a little over 7 billion.