



Cold War Patriots Fact Sheet

According to the Brookings Institution, between 1945 and 1990, the U.S. developed more than 70,000 nuclear warheads.

Between 1940 and 1996, the U.S. spent at least \$5.8 trillion (in 1996 dollars) on nuclear weapons development. Over half was spent on building delivery mechanisms for the weapons, but only 0.02% (the lowest category of expenditure) was spent on Congressional oversight. \$365 billion was spent on nuclear waste management and environmental remediation.

On October 5, 1990, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), providing for payments to individuals who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases as a result of their exposure to radiation released during above ground nuclear weapons tests or as a result of their exposure to radiation during employment in underground uranium mines.

Congress passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) in 2000, to provide compensation to covered employees and survivors of such employees, suffering from illnesses incurred in the performance of duty for the Department of Energy and its contractors and subcontractors.

There are over 362 facilities in which workers are entitled to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program.

According to the Rocky Mountain News (8/31/07), radiation sickened 36,500 and killed at least 4,000 of those who built bombs, mined uranium, and were exposed to nuclear test fallout.

According to the Washington Post (5/11/07), since 2000, the compensation program has cut more than 20,000 checks to workers whose illnesses were hidden costs of the Cold War's military buildup. But more than 60 percent of the 72,000 cases processed have been denied. Thousands of others have been waiting years for an answer. Overall, only 21 percent of applicants have received checks.

While a growing number of nuclear weapons workers are turning to lawyers and legislators for help, Labor Department officials claim that missing or unreliable records and the uncertainty of cancer science make it difficult to satisfy all the claimants. They point to the \$2.6 billion in payments distributed in the first five years since EEOICPA as an indication of the program's success.

Cold War Patriots members point to the thousands of cases that have been denied as an indication that mismanagement of the program has been a cruel joke.

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)

provides benefits to Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons plant complex employees, contractors and certain survivors. Part B of the Program went into effect on July 31, 2001 and Part E of the Program went into effect on October 28, 2004.

Part B provides compensation of \$150,000 and medical expenses to:

- DOE employees, contractors, subcontractors, and atomic weapons employers with radiation-induced cancer if the employee developed cancer after working at a covered facility;
- DOE employees, contractors or subcontractors who were exposed to radiation at certain underground nuclear test sites and who developed certain cancers;
- DOE employees, contractors and subcontractors, and designated beryllium vendors who worked at covered facilities and who developed Chronic Beryllium Disease; and
- DOE employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at least 250 days during the mining of tunnels at underground nuclear weapons tests sites in Nevada or Alaska and who developed chronic silicosis.
- If the employee is no longer living, the compensation is payable to eligible survivors.

Compensation of \$50,000 and payment of medical expenses is available for uranium workers (or their survivors) previously awarded benefits under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).

Part E provides compensation and medical expenses to DOE workers or their survivors who develop an illness due to exposure to toxic substances at certain DOE facilities. Uranium miners, millers, and ore transporters are also eligible for benefits if they develop an illness as a result of toxic exposure and worked at a facility covered under Section 5 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). Under Part E, a toxic substance is not limited to radiation but includes things such as chemicals, solvents, acids and heavy metals. Compensation up to \$250,000 is determined based on wage loss, impairment, and survivorship.

Total compensation under Part B and Part E of the EEOICPA as of April 24, 2008:

- There were a total of 161,695 applications filed.
- The applications involved 113,268 cases representing 67,005 individual workers
- 121,820 applications were for covered employees with conditions covered by EEOICPA
- There were 40,062 payments made in 29,381 cases
- A total of \$3,733,654,547 was paid in compensation and medical expenses

Claimant Categories

Nuclear Weapons Site Workers. Includes employees and contractors who worked at nuclear weapons sites during the period of the Cold War arms race.

Uranium Miners. Employees who worked in above ground or underground uranium mines located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, and Texas at any time between January 1, 1942, and December 31, 1971. Additional mining states may be included for compensation upon application.

Uranium Mill Workers. Individuals employed in uranium mills located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, and Texas at any time between January 1, 1942, and December 31, 1971.

Ore Transporters. Individuals employed in the transport of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore from mines or mills located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, and Texas at any time between January 1, 1942, and December 31, 1971.

Downwinders. Individuals who were physically present in one of the affected areas downwind of the Nevada Test Site during atmospheric nuclear testing and later contracted a specified compensable disease.

Onsite Participants. Individuals who participated onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device, and later developed a specified compensable disease.

Major U.S. Nuclear Weapons Sites

Site name	Location	Function	Status
<u>Los Alamos National Laboratory</u>	<u>Los Alamos, New Mexico</u>	Research, Design, Pit Production	Active
<u>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</u>	<u>Livermore, California</u>	Research and design	Active
<u>Sandia National Laboratories</u>	<u>Livermore, California;</u> <u>Albuquerque, New Mexico</u>	Research and design	Active

<u>Hanford Site</u>	<u>Richland, Washington</u>	Material production (Plutonium)	Not active, <u>environmental remediation</u>
<u>Oak Ridge National Laboratory</u>	<u>Oak Ridge, Tennessee</u>	Material production (Uranium-235, fusion fuel), research	Active to some extent
Y-12 National Security	<u>Oak Ridge, Tennessee</u>	Component fabrication, <u>stockpile stewardship</u> , <u>uranium storage</u>	Active
<u>Nevada Test Site</u>	Near <u>Las Vegas, Nevada</u>	<u>Nuclear testing</u> and <u>nuclear waste disposal</u>	No nuclear tests since 1992, engaged in waste disposal
<u>Yucca Mountain</u>	<u>Nevada Test Site</u>	Waste disposal	Active/pending
<u>Pacific Proving Grounds</u>	<u>Marshall Islands</u>	Nuclear testing	Not active, last test in 1962
<u>Rocky Flats Plant</u>	Near <u>Denver, Colorado</u>	Components fabrication	Not active, <u>environmental remediation</u>
<u>Pantex</u>	<u>Amarillo, Texas</u>	Weapons assembly, disassembly, pit storage	Active, esp. disassembly
Paducah Plant	<u>Paducah, Kentucky</u>	Material production (Uranium-235)	Active (commercial use)
<u>Fernald Site</u>	Near <u>Cincinnati, Ohio</u>	Material fabrication (Uranium-235)	Not active, <u>environmental remediation</u>
<u>Kansas City Plant</u>	<u>Kansas City, Missouri</u>	Component production	Active

Mound Plant	<u>Miamisburg, Ohio</u>	Research, component production, <u>Tritium</u> purification	Not active, <u>environmental remediation</u>
Portsmouth <u>Gaseous Diffusion</u> Plant	Near <u>Portsmouth, Ohio</u>	Material fabrication (<u>Uranium-235</u>)	Active, but not for weapons production
Pinellas Plant	<u>Largo, Florida</u>	Manufacture of electrical components	Active, but not for weapons production
<u>Savannah River Site</u>	Near <u>Aiken, South Carolina</u>	Material production (<u>Plutonium, Tritium</u>)	Active (limited operation), <u>environmental remediation</u>

