



# SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT (SEC)

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) establishes the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC). If a claimant qualifies for inclusion in a SEC class the claimant receives compensation for cancers caused by exposure to radiation without the completion of a radiation dose reconstruction by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and without a determination by the Department of Labor's Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) of the probability of causation (PoC).

## HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF AN SEC CLASS?

To qualify for compensation as a member of an SEC class, a covered employee must have worked for a specified period of time at an SEC work site and must have developed at least one of 22 "specified cancers."

## WHAT ARE THE SEC WORK SITES?

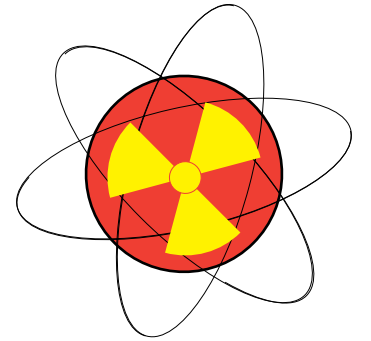
EEOICPA originally established four (4) SEC classes, which includes employees who were diagnosed with a specified cancer and who worked at gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; or Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for a total of at least 250 days before February 1, 1992 and were monitored for radiation exposure with dosimetry badges or had jobs with similar exposures to those monitored, and employees who worked before January 1, 1974, on Amchitka Island, Alaska, and were exposed to radiation related to the Long Shot, Milrow or Cannikin underground nuclear tests.

EEOICPA also authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to add other classes of employees to the SEC.

A current listing of all of the SEC work sites can be found on DEEOIC's Web site at: <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/law/SEC-Employees.htm> or on NIOSH's Division of Compensation Analysis and Support (DCAS) Web site at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas>

## WHAT ARE THE 22 SPECIFIED CANCERS COVERED UNDER THE SEC?

- **Bone cancer**
- **Renal cancer**
- **Leukemia** (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia) provided that the onset of the disease was at least two years after initial exposure
- **Lung cancer** (other than in situ lung cancer that is discovered during or after a post-mortem exam)
- **Multiple myeloma** provided onset was at least 5 years after the initial exposure
- **Lymphomas** (other than Hodgkin's disease) provided onset was at least 5 years after the initial exposure
- **Primary cancer of the following** (provided onset was at least 5 years after the initial exposure):
  - \* **bile ducts**
  - \* **brain** (malignancies only, not including intracranial endocrine glands and other parts of the central nervous system)
  - \* **breast, male**
  - \* **breast, female**
  - \* **colon** (including rectal cancer)
  - \* **esophagus**
  - \* **gall bladder**
  - \* **liver** (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated)
  - \* **ovary**
  - \* **pancreas**
  - \* **pharynx** (including the soft palate, back of the mouth, base of the tongue, and the tonsils)
  - \* **salivary glands**
  - \* **small intestine**
  - \* **stomach**
  - \* **thyroid**
  - \* **urinary bladder** (including ureter and urethra)



**SPECIAL  
EXPOSURE  
COHORT  
(SEC)**

**Energy Employees  
Occupational Illness  
Compensation Program  
Act (EEOICPA)**



U.S. Department of Labor

**WHAT IS THE SEC DESIGNATION PROCESS?**

The designation process begins with a petition submitted to NIOSH by an employee(s) or their survivor(s), authorized representative(s), or by a labor organization representing the employee(s). NIOSH can also initiate a petition.

- a) NIOSH evaluates the petition to determine if it meets the minimum qualifications for review. If it does, NIOSH completes an evaluation of the petition and forwards the evaluation and the petition to the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health (the Advisory Board) for review. Note: the President appoints the Advisory Board to advise the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on its activities under EEOICPA.
- b) During one of its regular Advisory Board meetings, the Advisory Board reviews NIOSH's evaluation, hears from the petitioners, and reviews any other information appropriate for the petition.
- c) The Advisory Board submits a recommendation on a new SEC class to the Secretary of HHS.

- d) The Secretary of HHS makes the final decision to add or deny a new class to the SEC based on the recommendation of the Advisory Board and NIOSH's evaluation. The Secretary of HHS issues a designation letter to Congress with the definition of the class within 30 days of receiving the Advisory Board's recommendation.
- e) A new SEC class becomes effective 30 calendar days after Congress receives the Secretary's designation letter.
- f) The Secretary of HHS provides a report to DOL containing the definition of the class and either the addition of the class to the SEC or the result of any action by Congress to reverse or expedite the decision.
- g) Following the identification of a new SEC class, the Department of Labor reviews all affected cases and makes a determination on whether an employee meets the criteria for inclusion in the new class.

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