

**TESTIMONY OF DAN MINTER**

**ON**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S PROPOSED RULE  
"GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICIAN PANEL  
DETERMINATIONS OF WORKER REQUESTS FOR  
ASSISTANCE IN  
FILING FOR STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
BENEFITS"**

**RADISSON HOTEL CINCINNATI AIRPORT**

**OCTOBER 25, 2001**

## DAN MINTER

My name is Dan Minter and I have worked at the Portsmouth site from July 1889 to present. I have served as both vice president and the president of the local chapter that represents the Portsmouth Enrichment facility. Exposures to Radiation and hazardous chemicals have been a concern of the Portsmouth work force for the past five decades.

These concerns were discarded and disposed as a nuance to the government contractors and government officials. Numerous safety awards were presented to these government contractors despite significant safety concerns of the workforce. The Portsmouth workforce served a great service to or government or nation and the world during the cold war. As in any era of war rules and standard are compromised to the good of whole. This was true in the case of the Portsmouth workforce and their exposure and sacrifice of their health to serve of nation in its time of need.

Many of the chemical and radiation exposures and their cause and effect are unknown by non-governmental medical providers. Little was known of the nuclear era's impacts and effects until the past 50 years of history and the full impact may not be recognized for many years to come.

The federal government recently acknowledged and apologized for the exposures and illness caused by the cold war era and it's contractors. The passage of the Federal Compensation Program to provide compensation for these exposures was a step in the right direction, but fall short of full compensation due to these cold war heroes.

The current burden of proof for a State of Ohio claims to be approved and processed is that. The current standard to have a State of Ohio claim processed and approved requires a medical provider must declare that an illness or decease is in fact work related. Note that these medical providers do not have background work history information data or experience in the type of and / or degree of exposures that these workers were subjected to. The degree of technical detail, lack of exposure data and blanket of alleged top secrets of the Department of Energy and its contractors has made this determination nearly impossible.

The past and current DOE contractors and today USEC continues to fight the workers compensation claims as any compensation to the workers will serve as a hit to their financial margins or performance fees. Attempts to file claims against the Department of Energy and the nations top contractors were futile attempts at best and those who were committed to defend the position of the working injured were labeled as trouble makers and ostracized by the management and government contractors.

Today, sick workers are asked to have their medical providers provide proof that their illness and/or disease are a direct result of their work activities and exposures. The workers were not informed. They are not chemical exposure experts. They are not Radiation hazard experts and they are not Epidemiologists. Recent revelations of tainted, falsified documents, nonexistent monitoring programs and deception of exposures to workers will make it practically impossible to determine the extent of the illnesses. This responsibility belongs with the government who allowed these atrocities to take place to some of the nation most dedicated citizens.

The DOE should assist workers with state claims. Based on the lack and credibility of exposure data, illnesses and diseases should be presumed as work related from a medical perspective and the Department of Energy should ensure that state compensation programs provide the necessary compensation to these workers. The state mandates for medical evidence and the lack of credible exposure data create a conflict, which will deny these workers compensation that they need and deserve.

The DOE physician panel should provide MEDICAL EVIDENCE THAT SUCH EXPOSURE IS, IN FACT, WORK-RELATED BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EITHER NEGLIGENTLY OR INTENTIONALLY ALLOWED THE HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAMS TO BE LESS THAN ADEQUATE.