



# NEWS

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 3, 2003

## **Current and Former U.S. Department of Energy Employees, Contractor Employees, or Their Survivors Can File Claims for Medical Assistance for Illnesses Due to Toxic Exposure at Work**

**Oakland**—A joint U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Traveling Resource Center will return to the San Francisco Bay Area on three different occasions over the next five months to assist individuals in answering questions or filing claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. The Traveling Resource Center will be at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Pleasanton, CA on November 18-19, 2003, as well as January 20-21, 2004, and March 23-24, 2004.

“We are doing all we can to find workers or their families who may be eligible for assistance under this program,” said Beverly Cook, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health. “These men and women performed an important service for their country, and we want them to receive the benefits they deserve.”

The program became effective on July 31, 2001 and provides two different types of assistance. Eligibility and benefits differ in each program. The DOL administers the program that provides a lump sum of up to \$150,000 and payment of future medical expenses to current and former DOE employees and DOE contractor employees who suffer from specific diseases – radiogenic cancers, beryllium disease and chronic silicosis. Qualified survivors of covered employees, including adult children, are also eligible for benefits.

The DOE program helps DOE contractor employees apply for State workers’ compensation benefits, if it is determined by an independent physician’s panel that the worker sustained an illness caused by exposure to a toxic substance at a DOE facility. Benefits for successful claimants vary from state to state, but are generally a portion of lost wages plus reimbursement of medical costs.

The Bay Area is home to several facilities where employees may have suffered potential exposures: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, CA; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA; Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore, CA; and Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Menlo Park, CA. Additionally, 17 beryllium vendor facilities were recently added to the covered facilities list. These facilities include: City Tool and Die Manufacturing in Santa Clara, CA; C.L. Hann Industries in San Jose, CA; EDM Exotics, in Hayward, CA; Electrofusion in Fremont, CA; Hafer Tool in Oakland, CA; Hexcel Products in Berkeley, CA; Jerry Carroll Machining in San Carlos, CA; Pleasanton Tool and Manufacturing, Poltech Precision in Fremont, CA; Robin Materials in Mountain View, CA; Ron Witherspoon, Inc. in Campbell, CA; and Tapemation in Scotts Valley, CA.

Workers who need help filling out claim forms, seek additional information, or wish to schedule appointments at the Traveling Resource Center should call **toll-free, (866)697-0841**, or drop in during the hours listed.

**November 18-19, 2003; January 20-21, 2004; March 23-24, 2004**  
**8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA (925) 460-8800**