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keep America free!***

NEWSLETTER & LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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Cold War Patriots, a division of Professional Case Management



Q: I was approved for my U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card and received my impairment rating, but I was denied for lost wages. What should I do?

A: Lost wage claims can be among the most complex for a worker to successfully resolve. Upon receiving a denial, we generally recommend seeking out a local advocate who has had success with wage loss claims. Call the Cold War Patriots Help Center at 877.335.0779 for help in locating an advocate with experience in this area.

New Cold War Patriots Website

Cold War Patriots (CWP) is pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved website! The updated website features extensive information about EEOICPA and RECA benefits, including finding out if you qualify, how to apply and how to maximize your benefits once you are approved. You can also find up-to-date information about events such as Town Halls and Resource Fairs that are coming to a location near you. Or, read the latest news that affects you and your EEOICPA or RECA benefits and see how CWP is advocating for your worker rights. Visit the website at ColdWarPatriots.org to find the information you need!



News from the Advisory Boards

Cold War Patriots was saddened to learn about the unexpected passing of Dr. James Melius, Chair of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Advisory Board. Dr. Melius faithfully served on this board since the beginning of the EEOICPA program. CWP honors his service and will miss his expertise. A new chairperson has not been announced.

The Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health (ABTSWH) held its last teleconference of its term on January 30, 2018. The two-year term for all but one of the current board members expired on February 16, 2018. CWP sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) asking that the current board members be reappointed. The U.S. DOL responded, stating all nominations are still under consideration. At the time this newsletter went to print, the DOL had not made a decision on the make-up of the board.

The board offered the U.S. DOL clarification to the recommendations they previously submitted after the October 2016 meeting and in April 2017. The board's clarifications involved the Site Exposure Matrix (SEM), presumptions for certain lung diseases, the Occupational Health Questionnaire, and assessing reports from the U.S. DOL's medical experts for consistency and quality.

The board also developed a plan for the future. Some of the ideas include reviewing the procedure manual to ensure accuracy and consistency and investigating whether presumptions for other diseases can be developed. A more updated account of these meetings and other current news can be found at www.coldwarpatriots.org under the NEWS section.

What is Lung Cancer and How Would I Know if I Have It?

Cancer is a disease marked by uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells in the body. Most cancers form a lump or mass called a tumor.

There are two main causes of lung cancer: Cigarette smoking and occupational exposures.

- 1) Cigarette smoking—the more packs smoked and longer the smoking history (measured by a physician in cigarette “pack-years”) the more likely your lungs are damaged, and the greater risk of developing chronic lung disease and/or cancer.
- 2) Occupational exposures—nuclear workers are often exposed to toxic dusts, chemicals, heavy metals, and radiation at work. A few examples of lung cancer-causing substances are asbestos, nickel, beryllium and radiation. If you are a worker who is also a smoker, your risk for lung cancer is multiplied.

What are the signs and symptoms of lung cancer?

Remember, most lung cancers do not cause overt signs and symptoms until years later, often after the cancer has spread. The best way to catch cancer early is by routine screening. In the case of lung cancer, having a low-dose helical CT scan of the lungs is ideal. To see if you are eligible for FREE medical screening, visit www.coldwar patriots.org or call the CWP Help Center. Your doctor may also order blood work, other imaging tests or breathing tests. If lung cancer is caught and treated early before it has spread, your chances of survival are much higher.

Tell your doctor if you have:

- ★ Cough that persists or worsens over time
- ★ Chest pain that persists
- ★ Decreased appetite, weight loss or fatigue
- ★ Coughing up blood
- ★ Fever of unknown origin (FUO)
- ★ Recurring lung infections such as bronchitis or pneumonia



If you are diagnosed with lung cancer, you may be eligible to file a claim for benefits under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) if you or your doctors think the disease was caused by exposures in the workplace.

Helpful Hints for Filing a Successful Claim with the U.S. Department of Labor

- ★ Make sure you have completed an occupational history questionnaire. Leave no part blank. What you were exposed to, when, where and for how long is important information to help prove your EEOICPA claim. Obtain a copy of your employment records including job titles.
- ★ Obtain a copy of your medical history and physical exam from your doctors to include all tests, results, diagnoses and treatments related to the lungs.
- ★ Remember, even if you have a smoking history that does not mean you can't file a claim for benefits due to occupational exposures.



Town Halls & Resource Fairs

April

Grand Junction, CO

May

Los Alamos, NM
Española, NM
Albuquerque, NM

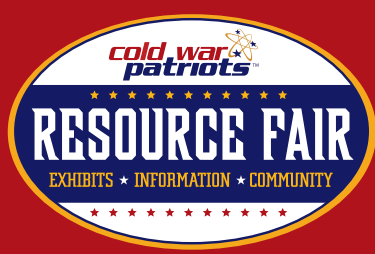
June

Farmington, NM
Shiprock, NM
Burlington, IA
Mt. Pleasant, IA
Ames, IA

July

Miamisburg, OH
Hamilton, OH
New Ellenton, SC
North Augusta, SC
Barnwell, SC

**August & September
Events Coming Soon!**



April

Paducah, KY
Arvada, CO

May

Aiken, SC
Oak Ridge, TN

June

Kennewick, WA
Santa Fe, NM
Portsmouth, OH

Cold War Patriots (CWP) is excited to announce our Town Hall events this year will have a NEW format customized to make it easier for you to get the specific information needed regarding your EEOICPA benefits. CWP will be hosting two events on the same day.

A morning session will be for people who have already been awarded a U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card OR those whose claim is pending.

The afternoon session is for workers who haven't yet applied for their benefits OR those who have applied but have been denied. Survivor benefits will be discussed at both sessions.

Our information-packed Resource Fairs will include vendors and resources, a box lunch, entertainment and FREE bingo. Join us to learn about the benefits you have earned, as well as visit with coworkers and friends.

For date, time, and event location visit www.coldwarpatriots.org, call 1.877.335.0779, or check your mailbox for an official invitation.



CWP Help Center

The Cold War Patriots Help Center assists nuclear weapons and uranium workers navigate programs related to EEOICPA and RECA. Many CWP Help Center representatives are former workers themselves and understand personally the issues that you may face. The CWP Help Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. MST.

Please call 877.335.0779 or email us at info@coldwarpatriots.org.