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Cold War Patriots is a division of Professional Case Management and not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Labor.



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[www.coldwar patriots.org](http://www.coldwar patriots.org)

**FOR THE LATEST UPDATES**

1.877.335.0779

# Updates & News

## Mound Discovery Center Opening

The Mound Cold War Discovery Center, a collaboration between Dayton History, the Mound Museum Association, Department of Energy, and Mound Development Corporation, opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 23rd. The Center tells the story of Mound Laboratory, the first nuclear weapons facility to be constructed by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Discovery Center is open Wednesday – Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at 1075 Mound Street in Miamisburg, OH.



## SEC Expansion Update

Special Exposure Cohorts (SECs) have been expanded for Ames Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. The SEC covers all employees of the Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, and their contractors and subcontractors who worked in any area of the Ames Laboratory during the period of 1942 – 1989. Employees will need to have a number of work days aggregating at least 250 days. For more information on this or other SECs, call the Help Center at 1.877.335.0779.

## Member Alerts

Cold War Patriots members have reported being visited unannounced at their homes by persons stating they are with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) or the U.S. DOL Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center. In the event a U.S. DOL Energy Employees Compensation Resource Center employee needs to visit your home to follow up on your claim or questions, they will make an appointment in advance and show their government identification upon arriving. They will not show up unannounced.

# News from the Advisory Boards

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health held a meeting on April 11 in Oak Ridge, TN. Below is a summary of the meeting topics:

- ★ Due to budgetary reasons the U.S. Department of Energy had been less timely in their response in providing records to NIOSH/DOL for the last quarter. The issue is believed to have been fixed for next quarter.
- ★ The Savannah River Site has found approximately 850 boxes of new worker documents. NIOSH is reviewing and developing a sampling plan.
- ★ There was a short discussion about adding Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia to the list of 22 specified cancers. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will not make a recommendation to Congress to add to the list of cancers.
- ★ NIOSH is researching the feasibility to reconstruct dose for ORNL and Y-12 for years not covered by the current Special Exposure Cohorts.

**The next Advisory Board meeting will be August 22–23, location to be determined.  
To read the full recap, please visit [coldwar patriots.org](http://coldwar patriots.org) and click on NEWS.**

## What is COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and How Would I Know if I Have It?

COPD is a group of lung diseases that cause slow but progressive shortness of breath. The two main types are chronic bronchitis and emphysema. COPD is the 4th leading cause of death in the U.S.

### There are several causes of COPD:

- 1) Cigarette smoking is by far the most common cause of this progressive illness. The more a person smokes - measured in "pack-years" - the worse the damage to the lungs. Stopping smoking, no matter how long you've smoked, can prevent further damage.
- 2) COPD has also been linked to exposure to industrial agents: Certain chemical gases or vapors such as ammonia, chlorine, strong acids and benzenes are a few examples. Nuclear workers may be exposed to hundreds of potentially toxic chemicals in their workplaces. Some of these chemicals can cause inflammation and destruction of the delicate airways if inhaled over time.

Another group of workplace irritants is dusts and other airborne fine particulates. Examples are coal, silica, beryllium, talc, metal shavings, even wood dust. PPE (personal protective equipment) and good ventilation systems are important preventive measures.

### What are the signs and symptoms of COPD?

The main symptom is progressive shortness of breath. Chronic cough with or without phlegm production is common. You may notice increasing fatigue or weakness during physical activity. COPD tends to get worse over time, especially if irritant exposure continues, so it's best to avoid whenever possible.

Tell your doctor if you think you have symptoms of COPD. He/she may order certain tests such as spirometry (breathing test), a blood oxygen level or other lab work, and a chest X-ray or CT scan to help diagnose your condition.

### How is COPD Treated?

There is no cure for this lung disease, but once diagnosed your doctor may prescribe certain drugs such as bronchodilators that open the airways, and corticosteroids that decrease inflammation. Supplemental oxygen or antibiotics may also be prescribed as needed.

If you are diagnosed with COPD, you may be eligible to file a claim for benefits under EEOICP if you or your doctor think the disease could have been 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. What you were exposed to, when, where and for how long is important information to help prove your EEOICP 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.





# Cold War Patriots Events

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our 48 Town Hall and six Resource Fair events we've hosted since February. Cold War Patriots had the opportunity to bring information about EEOICPA and RECA, as well as resources from the U.S. DOL Energy Employees Resource Centers, Office of the Ombudsman and Medical Screening Programs to over 1,000 Cold War Patriots members.

Please join us at our upcoming newly formatted Town Halls. A morning session will be for people who have already applied for and been awarded the U.S. DOL White Medical Benefits Card OR those whose claim is pending. The afternoon session is for workers who haven't yet applied OR have been denied. Survivor benefits will be discussed at both sessions.

**For date, time, and event locations visit [www.coldwarpatriots.org](http://www.coldwarpatriots.org), call 1.877.335.0779, or check your mailbox for an official invitation.**

## July

- Miamisburg, OH
- Hamilton, OH
- New Ellenton, SC
- North Augusta, SC
- Barnwell, SC
- Pahrump, NV
- Las Vegas, NV

## August

- Yakima, WA
- Kennewick, WA
- Richland, WA
- Los Alamos, NM
- Española, NM
- Albuquerque, NM
- Arvada, CO
- Longmont, CO
- Portsmouth, OH
- Piketon, OH
- Chillicothe, OH
- Knoxville, TN
- Clinton, TN
- Oliver Springs, TN

## September

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

**Celebrating  
10 Years!**



## Help Center

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

**Please call 877.335.0779 or email us at [info@coldwarpatriots.org](mailto:info@coldwarpatriots.org).**

