

**We did our part to  
keep America free!**

**IN THIS EDITION:**

- ★ Updates & News | Pg 1
- ★ Ask an EEOICP Expert | Pg 2
- ★ Event Information | Pg 3
- ★ Your Everyday Patriots | Pg 3
- ★ CWP and PCM Spotlight | Pg 4
- ★ What If Your EEOICP Claim Was Denied | Pg 4
- ★ One Woman's Journey for Care and Her Continued Fight for Fellow Workers | Pg 5-6
- ★ The Outreach Help Center | Pg 7

Edition 42 | Volume 12 | 2021

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

# Updates & News

## News from the Advisory Board

The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health's (ABRWH) held a two-day virtual meeting on April 14-15, 2021.

### Special Exposure Cohort Update — Savannah River Site

The ABRWH recommended that subcontract construct trade workers employed at the Savannah River Site between October 1, 1972 and December 31, 1990 be included in the Special Exposure Cohort. Once the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) publishes when they will begin processing claims, Cold War Patriots will alert our members.

The Advisory Board on Toxic Substance and Worker Health (ABTSWH) met April 22-23, 2021—unfortunately, after this newsletter went to print. To read a recap of that meeting, visit [coldwar patriots.org](http://coldwar patriots.org).

### Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021

Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) is set to expire in 2022. The House Judiciary Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the need to expand eligibility. At the hearing, witnesses stressed the importance of extending the program, expanding coverage and labor categories, increasing the number of counties and states who can be eligible to file claims as a downwinder, and requested medical benefits be added to RECA. When Cold War Patriots learns more about if legislation will be introduced, we will alert Cold War Patriots members.

## ★ We Need Your Help To Get ★ This Legislation Passed This Year!

Senator Murray (D-WA), Senator Manchin (D-WV) and Congressman Smith (D-WA) introduced the **Toxic Exposure Safety Act of 2021** on March 25, 2021. If passed, this legislation will reduce the burden of proof for many claimants and streamline the claims' process. With the new legislation, the U.S Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) scientific community will be responsible for determining whether a toxic substance resulted in a disease. This is great news for the claimants as some will no longer need to provide scientific reports and rationalized reports from their physician to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Please contact your legislator and ask them to co-sponsor the Toxic Exposure Safety Act of 2021. This can be done by calling their local office or completing the contact form available on their website. You can also share your experience with the claims process, especially if you have previously been denied. So far, only Senator Heinrich and Senator Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico have co-sponsored the bill.

If you are unsure who your representatives are, visit the two websites below to find their contact information:

- ★ [house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)
- ★ [senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm](http://senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)

★ Please share this information with your family and friends and encourage them to raise their concerns as well. Every email or call will make a difference. As always, thank you for your support. ★

# Ask an EEOICP Expert

BY: TIM LEREW, COLD WAR PATRIOTS

## What is the purpose of EEOICPA?

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), effective in July 2001, was created to provide monetary compensation and free health care benefits to nuclear weapons workers who became ill as a result of their workplace exposure to radioactive and toxic substances. EEOICPA benefits are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Qualifying beneficiaries include employees, contractors and subcontractors who worked at any of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) or Atomic Weapons Employer facilities covered under this program.



## What medical expenses are covered under EEOICP?

When a claim is approved under EEOICP for a living worker, the medical costs that are considered common and customary for an approved illness can be covered 100%. Medical payments are retroactive to the earliest date the claim was filed for the specific illness. Your physician must be enrolled in the program to accept the card and receive reimbursement. The physician will be paid directly from the U.S. DOL and you will have no out of pocket expenses. There are no copays, caps, or deductibles.

## What services are covered by my U.S. DOL white medical benefits card?

Services covered include:

- ★ Physician office visits
- ★ Inpatient/outpatient medical treatment
- ★ Hospital visits
- ★ Prescription drugs (brand and generic)
- ★ Ambulance service
- ★ Travel reimbursement
- ★ In-home health care
- ★ Medical equipment, including durable medical equipment (DME)

## What types of in-home health care can I receive?

In-home health care can vary by individual and can include skilled nursing or unskilled care. Skilled care is performed by a Registered Nurse (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Some individuals only need monthly monitoring or weekly visits while others need round-the-clock care. Unskilled care is performed by a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Home Health Aide or Personal Care Attendant for needs such as meal preparation and light housekeeping.

In-home health care allows you to live at home rather than a nursing home or assisted living facility and provides relief to a spouse or family member in the caregiving role. Unlike other in-home care programs, you do not have to be homebound to receive in-home care services under EEOICPA.

If you need assistance or have questions on how to apply or maximize your EEOICP benefits, **please call the Cold War Patriots Outreach Help Center at 1.877.335.0779.** We have helped thousands of workers receive the benefits you have earned.



# Event Information

Cold War Patriots continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation, so we can begin safely hosting in-person events this summer. Keep an eye on your mailbox for an invitation. We look forward to seeing you!

In the meantime, please join our Virtual Events from the comfort of your home. We have available a variety of 25–50 minute virtual events, including events hosted by an Impairment Doctor and Certified Respiratory Therapist. **Visit [coldwar patriots.org/CWPevents](https://coldwar patriots.org/CWPevents) to sign up.**

## Your Everyday Patriots



This quarter's Everyday Patriots are Don, Larry, and Bob. Together these three patriots have over 99 years of experience as nuclear weapons workers, holding important and unique roles, including: Multi-craft Foreman, Pipe Fitter, Machinist, National Organizing Director for the Machinists Union, Associate Research Scientist, and Experimental Nuclear Physicist!



**Don**

Don worked at Rocky Flats and now works to arrange retiree breakfasts and encourage others to pursue their EEOICP benefits.



**Larry**

Larry worked in Oak Ridge and now arranges Union Retiree breakfasts and is a regular attendee at CWP and PCM events.



**Bob**

Bob worked at Rocky Flats and received several prestigious awards. Just as impressive, Bob and his wife have fostered 75 kids!

Through their health benefits from Professional Case Management they can focus on remaining physically healthy and mentally sharp—allowing Don to perfect his wood carving, Larry to continue his community volunteerism, and Bob to work on his model railroads! Their final bit of advice? Stay as physically active as possible, if your illnesses prevents this, stay mentally active!

Cold War Patriots is proud to tell these stories. To learn more about this year's Everyday Patriots, visit [ColdWarPatriots.org/EverydayPatriot](https://ColdWarPatriots.org/EverydayPatriot). If you did not receive your 2021 Cold War Patriots Calendar, please call our **Outreach Help Center at 877.335.0779.**

# CWP and PCM Spotlight

My name is Shasta and I have worked at Cold War Patriots (CWP) and Professional Case Management (PCM) since 2012. As a Community Homecare Outreach Representative, I help current and former nuclear weapons workers navigate the sometimes-complicated Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP). I also work to ensure that healthcare providers in our community understand the benefits available to their patients who have received the U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card.



While most of my work is focused on Tennessee, I have had the opportunity to travel around the country and visit many other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites—I may have even met you at one of the Cold War Patriots Events! Many generations of my family have worked and continue to work in the Oak Ridge National Security Complex, including my great-uncle, both my parents, and my husband—all of whom are Cold War Patriots members. I grew up with a great appreciation for the work the men and women of our community completed “inside the fence.” I am passionate about assisting U.S. DOE workers who have become ill, through no fault of their own, working to protect our great nation.

## What If Your EEOICP Claim Was Denied

BY: KEVIN FITZGERALD, COLD WAR PATRIOTS

Filing your Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) claim can be challenging. Some claims are simple, and some are very complex. Sometimes you are approved for one illness, but denied for another. The most common reasons for a denied claim are due to incomplete medical records proving your work-related qualifying illness and incomplete employment records proving you worked at a U.S. DOE site. If your claim has been denied, do not despair, as your claim can be re-opened.

**You can engage an Advocate, someone who focuses on U.S. DOL EEOICP claims to assist you. To re-open or appeal a denied claim you can:**

- ★ Provide new medical evidence to help substantiate your diagnosed illness is work related.
- ★ Provide additional employment records to help substantiate specific areas where you worked.
- ★ Provide new evidence of overtime that would increase the number of days worked.
- ★ Find former co-workers that can be used to file an affidavit to prove you worked at the site.
- ★ Discover new information, such as U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Procedure Manual changes.

As always, continue to stay in touch with Cold War Patriots, as the EEOICP could change. Those changes could impact your eligibility and turn your denied claim into an approved claim. **Please call our CWP Outreach Help Center at 877.335.0779 to learn more.**

# One Woman's Journey for Care and Her Continued Fight for Fellow Workers

*"It is so important for those of us with our U.S. Department of Labor white medical benefits card to talk to and help others in pursuit of theirs."*

Throughout this time, Linda continued to work, but due to her worsening health, she retired early in March 2011. Linda then partnered with her doctor and together they made calls, wrote letters, and researched EEOICPA. The result? All of her debilitating illnesses became listed on her U.S. DOL white medical benefits card.

In 2012 Cold War Patriots held its first event in Savannah, Georgia, and Linda was one of the first to arrive. She quickly realized what an asset CWP was, and has since attended every event she could.

Linda worked at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina from 1999 to 2011. In August of 2000, misfortune struck, and Linda was contaminated during the pulling of ceiling cables at work. At the time, the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Program Act (EEOICPA) had not been passed, so she began looking into Workman's Compensation Benefits.

In 2000 EEOICPA was enacted, Linda received her U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) white medical benefits card and after years of dogged pursuit, research, calls, and letter after letter, Linda finally had her first covered condition added to her white card.



Linda P., Cold War Patriots member and featured Everyday Patriot in the 2021 CWP calendar.





Today, Linda receives in-home care from Professional Case Management (PCM), and her husband and daughter have been trained by PCM to be her personal care attendants.

Linda believes that although the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) had a hand in causing her illness, they have two hands in providing her health care, medicine, and supplies. After meeting others at events and becoming a CWP member, Linda decided to dedicate herself to helping other patriots in need of obtaining the benefits they have earned.

Linda outside the Chavis House where she frequently volunteers with the families of the Joseph M. Still Burn Center patients.

***“Cold War Patriots is the best war dog you can have on your side.”***

***“Get over the rage and anger about your illness. Get up, get out, be aggressive in the pursuit of what you believe you deserve. Keep pushing, fight for your white card. PUSH! PUSH! PUSH! It is so important to fight hard and keep fighting.”***

The path to your U.S. DOL white medical benefits card does not have to be as challenging as it was for Linda. With the help of Cold War Patriots and our courageous members like Linda, you can be assured that we will do the best we can to assist you.

**Call the CWP Outreach Help Center today at 877.355.0779 to get started.**

**Read more about Linda, and other CWP Everyday Patriots, at [ColdWarPatriots.org/EverydayPatriot](https://ColdWarPatriots.org/EverydayPatriot).**

# Ask the CWP Outreach Help Center

---

**Q: I have been diagnosed with cancer, how do I know if I qualify for EEOICPA or RECA benefits?**

We are very sorry to hear about your diagnosis. A great first place to start is calling our Outreach Help Center at 877.335.0779. Based on the type of cancer you have and where you worked, we can help you determine what information you will need to provide when you file your claim to receive the benefits you have earned. If you have one of the 22 Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) covered cancers, you have a lower burden of proof and do not need to undergo a dose reconstruction to qualify.

**Q: What is a Special Exposure Cohort?**

A Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) is for certain classes of employees. SEC time periods vary by facility. For some SECs you will have had to work at a certain plant or facility for at least 250 days and have one of the 22 SEC covered cancers, to receive monetary compensation. For a list of current approved SEC facilities, covered dates, and a full list of the 22 SEC covered cancers, you can call the Outreach Help Center at 877.355.0779.

## Meet an Outreach Help Center Representative

---

My name is Ray and I have worked for Professional Case Management (PCM) for 15 years, the founder of Cold War Patriots, and for 8 of those years I have worked in the Cold War Patriots (CWP) Outreach Help Center as a Lead Associate. Previously, I worked at Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado for 31 years where I held various classifications: Laborer, Waste Management Operation, Non-destructive Testing (NDT), and Lab Tech. These years were very enjoyable, and we all saw each other as one large family.

The Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) was something I took an active part developing during my years at Rocky Flats. Before working for PCM I helped open the first Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) Resource Center in Colorado for the U.S. Department of Labor. I was very honored to have been part of the opening and while working at the Resource Center I filed many claims and assisted my sick Rocky Flats brothers and sisters in obtaining the benefits they truly earned through their careers as nuclear weapons workers.

I am saddened that many of my work family members are deceased due to their exposure and illnesses at the site and hope those who are still alive take advantage of the benefits the EEOICPA and RECA programs have; especially the health benefits and in-home health care from a company who really cares for them. During my 15 years with PCM, I have seen a company who truly cares about our lives and the lives of our families. PLEASE take advantage of the benefits the EEOICPA and RECA programs have for us, we earned them!

