

FY 2016

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT**

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**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT**

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**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
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APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, [\$56,406,000] \$58,552,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary of Labor may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed. (*Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2015.*)

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ANALYSIS OF APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

Language Provision	Explanation
<p><i>Provided</i>, That the Secretary of Labor may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed."</p>	<p>This language provides authority to require disclosure of Social Security account numbers (SSN's) by individuals filing claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). The use prevents duplicate claims being filed by the same claimant and makes it easier to match data from different benefit programs to detect errors (including fraud), consistent with Congressional mandates to do so. This legislative language is needed because the Privacy Act prevents agencies from requiring disclosure of SSN's unless disclosure is required by Federal statute. (See Privacy Act, December 31, 1974, P.L. 93-579, section 7, Statute 909)</p>

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AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	2014		2015		2016	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
A. Appropriation	264	\$55,176	263	\$56,406	263	\$58,552
Sequestration reduction	0	-\$5,407	0	-\$5,359	0	\$0
A.1. Subtotal Appropriation	264	\$49,769	263	\$51,047	263	\$58,552
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	\$5,962	0	\$2,958	0	\$0
Recoveries of prior -year unpaid obligations	0	\$565	0	\$0	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses: (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	241	\$74,042	236	\$74,429	236	\$74,894
Sequestration reduction	0	-\$7,256	0	-\$7,071	0	\$0
Offsetting collections	0	\$325	0	\$0	0	\$0
B. Gross Budget Authority	505	\$123,407	499	\$121,363	499	\$133,446
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	-\$5,962	0	-\$2,958	0	\$0
Recoveries of prior -year unpaid obligations	0	-\$565	0	\$0	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	-241	-\$66,786	-236	-\$67,358	-236	-\$74,894
Offsetting collections	0	-\$325	0	\$0	0	\$0
C. Budget Authority Before Committee	264	\$49,769	263	\$51,047	263	\$58,552
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	\$5,962	0	\$2,958	0	\$0
Recoveries of prior -year unpaid obligations	0	\$565	0	\$0	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	241	\$66,786	236	\$67,358	236	\$74,894
Offsetting collections	0	\$325	0	\$0	0	\$0
D. Total Budgetary Resources (Appropriated and Indefinite)	505	\$123,407	499	\$121,363	499	\$133,446
Unobligated Balances Carrying Forward for Part B	-1	-\$2,958	0	\$0	0	\$0
Unobligated Balances Expiring for Part E	-5	-\$197	0	\$0	0	\$0
E. Total, Estimated Obligations	499	\$120,252	499	\$121,363	499	\$133,446

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2015	2016	Net Change
Budget Authority			
General Funds	\$118,405	\$133,446	+\$15,041
Total	\$118,405	\$133,446	+\$15,041
Full Time Equivalents			
General Funds	499	499	0
Total	499	499	0

2016 Change

Explanation of Change	2015 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Increases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Costs of pay adjustments	499	\$43,749	0	\$0	0	\$644	0	\$644
Personnel benefits	0	\$10,013	0	\$0	0	\$147	0	\$147
Employee health benefits	0	\$3,100	0	\$0	0	\$45	0	\$45
Moving allowance	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
One day more of pay	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0	\$215	0	\$0	0	\$13	0	\$13
Benefits for former personnel	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Travel and transportation of persons	0	\$448	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Transportation of things	0	\$11	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to GSA	0	\$6,377	0	\$0	0	\$121	0	\$121
Rental payments to others	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	\$722	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Printing and reproduction	0	\$44	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Advisory and assistance services	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Working Capital Fund	0	\$12,792	0	\$0	0	\$649	0	\$649
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0	\$511	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0	\$5,824	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Research & Development Contracts	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	\$19	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	\$14,041	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Supplies and materials	0	\$288	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

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Explanation of Change	2016 Change							
	2015 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Equipment	0	\$263	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0	\$500	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Built-Ins Subtotal	499	+\$98,917	0	\$0	0	+\$1,619	0	+\$1,619
B. Programs:								
EEOICPA Part E Sequestration Restoration	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$7,071	0	\$7,071
EEOICPA Part B Sequestration Restoration	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$5,359	0	\$5,359
IT Modernization of OWCP's claims processing systems - EEOICPA Request	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$1,641	0	\$1,641
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	+\$14,071	0	+\$14,071
Total Increase	499	+\$98,917	0	\$0	0	+\$15,690	0	+\$15,690
Decreases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For: Other services from non-Federal sources	0	\$19,488	0	\$0	0	-\$649	0	-\$649
Built-Ins Subtotal	0	+\$19,488	0	\$0	0	-\$649	0	-\$649
B. Programs:								
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total Decrease	0	+\$19,488	0	\$0	0	-\$649	0	-\$649
Total Change	499	+\$118,405	0	\$0	0	+\$15,041	0	+\$15,041

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SUMMARY BUDGET AUTHORITY AND FTE BY APPROPRIATION								
(Dollars in Thousands)								
	2014		2015		2016		Diff. 2016 / 2015	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act - Admin	499	\$116,555	499	\$118,405	499	\$133,446	0	\$15,041
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part B	263	\$49,769	263	\$51,047	263	\$58,552	0	\$7,505
OWCP	259	\$49,130	259	\$50,408	259	\$50,913	0	\$505
Ombudsman	4	\$639	4	\$733	4	\$733	0	\$0
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part E	236	\$66,786	236	\$67,358	236	\$74,894	0	\$7,536
OWCP	234	\$65,952	234	\$66,524	234	\$66,989	0	\$465
Ombudsman	2	\$834	2	\$933	2	\$933	0	\$0
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act - Benefits	0	\$1,065,225	0	\$1,234,108	0	\$1,196,336	0	-\$37,772
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part B	0	\$736,985	0	\$594,665	0	\$551,405	0	-\$43,260
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part E	0	\$328,240	0	\$639,443	0	\$644,931	0	\$5,488
Total	499	\$1,181,780	499	\$1,352,513	499	\$1,329,782	0	-\$22,731

NOTE: 2014 reflects actual FTE.

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BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		2014	2015	2016	Diff. 2016 / 2015
	Full-Time Equivalent				
	Full-time Permanent	505	499	499	0
	Total	505	499	499	0
	Average ES Salary	\$164,138	\$170,596	\$172,302	\$1,706
	Average GM/GS Grade	12/5	12/6	12/6	0
	Average GM/GS Salary	\$86,185	\$89,576	\$90,472	\$896
11.1	Full-time permanent	41,905	43,316	43,954	638
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	25	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	112	228	231	3
11.8	Special personal services payments	114	205	208	3
11.9	Total personnel compensation	42,156	43,749	44,393	644
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	12,541	13,328	13,533	205
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	50	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	345	448	448	0
22.0	Transportation of things	7	11	11	0
23.0	Rent, Communications, and Utilities	0	0	0	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	5,920	6,377	6,498	121
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	731	722	722	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	60	44	44	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	18,618	19,488	25,023	5,535
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	22,477	19,127	24,325	5,198
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	10	19	19	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	12,860	14,041	17,379	3,338
26.0	Supplies and materials	260	288	288	0
31.0	Equipment	520	263	263	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	0	500	500	0
	Total	116,555	118,405	133,446	15,041
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	12,973	12,792	13,441	649
	DHS Services	610	511	511	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	5,022	3,451	3,610	159
	GSA Services	1	1	1	0
	Services by Other Government Departments	3,871	2,372	6,762	4,390

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AUTHORIZING STATUTES

Public Law / Act	Legislation	Statute No. / US Code	Volume No.	Page No.	Expiration Date
Pub. L. 106-398	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act	42 U.S.C. § 7385 <i>et seq.</i>			Does not expire
Pub. L. 108-375	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act	42 U.S.C. § 7384 <i>et seq.</i>			Does not expire

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APPROPRIATION HISTORY					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
	Budget Estimates to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriations	FTE
2006					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$156,031	\$96,081	\$96,081	\$143,031	464
2007					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$161,838	\$0	\$0	\$158,966	464
2008					
Base Appropriation...3/	\$161,630	\$0	\$0	\$158,278	598
2009					
Base Appropriation...4/5/	\$108,178	\$0	\$49,654	\$115,713	598
2010					
Base Appropriation...6/	\$111,209	\$51,197	\$51,197	\$127,137	580
2011					
Base Appropriation...7/	\$126,567	\$0	\$0	\$123,778	494
2012					
Base Appropriation...8/	\$125,590	\$0	\$0	\$125,590	464
2013					
Base Appropriation...9/	\$129,000	\$0	\$0	\$115,798	522
2014					
Base Appropriation...10/	\$129,218	\$0	\$0	\$116,555	505
2015					
Base Appropriation	\$130,835	\$0	\$0	\$118,405	499
2016					
Base Appropriation	\$133,446	\$0	\$0	\$0	499

^{1/} Reflects Part B - \$40,313 and 275 FTE, and HHS - \$55,768. In addition, includes \$4,500 to NIOSH for use by the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

^{2/} Reflects Part B - \$49,971 and 275 FTE, and HHS \$52,336.

^{3/} Reflects Part B - \$49,387 and 305 FTE, and HHS \$55,358.

^{4/} Reflects Part B - \$49,654 and 305 FTE. DOL has requested that the \$55,358 funding for HHS/NIOSH be appropriated directly to HHS.

^{5/} Reflects Part B - \$49,654 and 305 FTE. Funding for HHS/NIOSH was appropriated directly to HHS.

^{6/} Reflects Part B - \$51,900 and 305 FTE. This amount includes \$703 for the Ombudsman's Office.

^{7/} Reflects Part B - \$51,900 and 285 FTE. This amount includes \$703 for the Ombudsman's Office.

^{8/} Reflects Part B - \$52,147 and 219 FTE. This amount includes \$703 for the Ombudsman's Office.

^{9/} Reflects Part B - \$52,147 and 272 FTE. This amount includes \$703 for the Ombudsman's Office. The appropriated amount includes sequestration amount of -\$10,174.

^{10/} Reflects Part B - \$49,769 and 264 FTE. This amount includes \$639 for the Ombudsman's Office. The appropriated amount includes sequestration amount of -\$12,663.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT

Overview

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), enacted in October 2000, directly supports the Secretary's strategic vision of "*Promoting and Protecting Opportunity*" by providing income support and medical care to claimants. OWCP provides benefits under Part B of EEOICPA to covered employees or survivors of employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), and private companies under contract with DOE, who have been diagnosed with a radiation-related cancer, beryllium-related disease, or chronic silicosis as a result of their work in producing or testing nuclear weapons. Benefits for uranium workers covered by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) are also provided. Administrative funds for Part B are appropriated annually. For Part E, administrative funds are provided through indefinite appropriations.

EEOICPA's FY 2016 request includes \$744,000 in Part B funds and \$947,000 in Part E funds for the Office of the Ombudsman for the EEOICPA. The Office of the Ombudsman was created by Congress to address the concerns of claimants and potential claimants regarding their receipt of benefits under Part E of EEOICPA and was later expanded to Part B. By law, this office is required to be independent from the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) program office.

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BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	2014	2015	2016	Diff. 2016 / 2015
Activity Appropriation	49,769	51,047	58,552	7,505
FTE	263	263	263	0

NOTE: FY 2014 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2014 was 264.

Introduction

OWCP's Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation's (DEEOIC) mission is to adjudicate and pay benefits for claims filed under Part B and Part E of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). The work for this program is accomplished in four District Offices, 11 resource centers that provide assistance to claimants in completing benefit applications for both Part B and E of EEOICPA, and a Final Adjudication Branch where claims are adjudicated.

Part B of EEOICPA authorizes a lump sum payment of \$150,000 and medical benefits to Department of Energy (DOE) employees, contractors, or subcontractors who are seriously ill from exposure to beryllium, silica, or radiation while working in the nuclear weapons industry. Part B also provides compensation for some employees' survivors and supplemental lump-sum payments of up to \$50,000 to individuals already eligible for benefits for illnesses covered under Section 5 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), and, where applicable, their survivors.

Under Part E, OWCP provides compensation to covered DOE contractor employees who are determined to have contracted a covered illness through exposure at a DOE facility. Part E authorizes compensation benefits to employees based upon the degree of impairment and lost wages. Certain survivors of covered DOE contractor employees also receive compensation if the covered illness contributed to the employee's death. Additionally, uranium workers eligible under Section 5 of the RECA may also receive compensation under Part E for illnesses due to toxic substance exposure at a uranium mine or mill covered under that Act. Benefits are paid from the Compensation Fund for both EEOICPA and RECA benefits.

Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2011	\$53,778	241
2012	\$52,147	219
2013	\$47,805	272
2014	\$49,769	264
2015	\$51,047	263

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FY 2016

Total resources at the FY 2016 Request level for OWCP's Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) program are \$133,446,000 and 499 FTE. Part B funds are \$58,552,000 and 263 FTE, including \$744,000 and 4 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. The request provides an increase of \$7,505,000 (including \$81,000 for the Office of the Ombudsman). Part E funds are \$74,894,000 and 236 FTE, including \$947,000 and 2 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. The request provides an increase of \$7,536,000 (including \$103,000 for the Office of the Ombudsman). The request provides an overall increase of \$15,041,000 (including \$184,000 for the Office of the Ombudsman) when compared to the FY 2015 enacted level. This funding level provides for built-in inflationary increases of \$970,000, \$12,430,000 in sequestration restoration, and \$1,641,000 for resources to continue OWCP's update of its workers' compensation claims processing systems in support of the theme of *Improving Service Delivery Through Information Technology* in the President's Management Agenda. Please refer to the OWCP's Overview Section for a full discussion of this initiative. OWCP's administrative accounts for the EEOICPA program are still subject to sequestration cuts. In the FY 2016 President's Budget submission, restoration of \$12,430,000 reduced by the FY 2015 sequestration is requested. In FY 2015, in order to mitigate the effect of the cuts on workers paid out of these accounts, OWCP is delaying IT initiatives to build and leverage improvements on prior year investments, is reducing amounts available for services contracts, and is delaying plans to enhance its outreach activities. Restoration of the cuts will provide an increase in performance efficiencies and improvements that will not be realized under sequestered funding and will allow for performance targets to be reached.

At the request level, OWCP will closely monitor and improve the provision and management of home health care services for beneficiaries. Expenditures in this area have risen steadily in the past few years warranting increased oversight. In addition, the requested funding will maintain timely adjudication of claims, quality decisions, and prompt benefit delivery and income support to all EEOICPA claimants. The program will also utilize requested funding to support several IT initiatives that build on prior year investments and leverage improvements and functionality available through other OWCP programs to gain performance efficiencies and improvements.

In recent years, the level of effort to adjudicate claims drastically increased. While the overall caseload is not increasing, this additional effort requires a significant investment in staffing to ensure the most accurate and timely determinations. A substantial number of claims now require additional or ongoing review based on new information, although they are not counted as new claims. For instance, new policies or procedures and changes to the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) dose reconstruction methods result in coverage to individuals who may have previously been denied. In addition, claimants may request reopening at any time after a final decision and with growing number of authorized representatives becoming familiar with the EEOICPA, the number of these requests requiring response grows. These instances result in a re-review of existing or previous cases and often new recommended and final decisions, in effect extending the period of time over which such claims are actively worked. Special Exposure Cohorts (SEC) can result in the need for re-review of old claims, but again, these are not counted as new claims. Additionally, many cases now involve home healthcare, requiring additional coordination and evaluation. As of December 31, 2014, the program has spent over \$1 billion for cases involving

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home health care cases alone, which is over half of the total amount of medical benefits paid for all other bills. The number of requests has increased by over 30% in the last two years alone. This requires significant development, oversight and staff time. Incoming claims projections also do not reflect the extensive communications and outreach required with the cohort community or the level of correspondence, including FOIA and Congressional inquiries that the program addresses each year. The improved functionality provided by the IT investments will allow the program to address these complex adjudication issues more efficiently and to enhance communication and outreach activities.

Resource Centers and the Site Exposure Matrices (SEM) will remain program priorities in FY 2016. The Resource Center staff provides critical local and front line assistance and quality customer service in this activity. The SEM is an essential tool for claims examiners to assess the relationship of an exposure to a claimant's injuries and illnesses. Adequate funding for SEM is critical to ensure documents that address exposures are reviewed and posted timely. FY 2016 funds will be used to ensure timely review and posting of new documents to update SEM, which includes conducting additional research on an ongoing basis to determine whether there are additional toxic substances or causal links that can be added. As the NIOSH continues to add new SEC classes, it is paramount that the Resource Center staffing levels remain at the level supported by the FY 2016 request to support Town Hall Meetings for potential claimants and the influx of inquiries about filing claims that occur after the outreach events and the addition of new cohorts. Resource Centers also respond to questions and concerns that arise from the public as they utilize the additional on-line information in the SEM.

The Energy Compensation System (ECS), which unifies claims management for Parts B and E, became operational in FY 2012. The ECS generates claims processing efficiencies and improves accuracy and timeliness, particularly for claims that require adjudication under both Parts of the Act. As a result, claimants receive a higher level of customer service and the improved program reporting facilitates greater transparency for the public. To enhance these efforts, OWCP will use FY 2016 funding to continue to expand upon the automated reporting mechanism, and continue to update, improve and maintain the system. This will continue to require software developers to make the changes proposed by the work group.

The program will also continue IT investments in the deployment of document imaging and the new ICD-10 coding standard mandated by the Department of Health and Human Services. These will build upon program investments by other OWCP components and, therefore, minimize the costs while maximizing the benefits of implementation.

FY 2015

Total resources at the FY 2015 enacted level for the DEEOIC program are \$118,405,000 and 499 FTE. Part B funds are \$51,047,000 and 263 FTE, including \$663,000 and 4 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. Part E funds are \$67,358,000 and 236 FTE, including \$844,000 and 2 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman.

At the enacted level, DEEOIC will improve the provision and management of home health care services, and the Program plans to create a centralized unit within the Division to process these types of claims as efficiently as possible. DEEOIC will also maintain timely adjudication of claims,

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quality decisions, and prompt benefit delivery and income support to all EEOICPA claimants. The program will direct requested funding to several IT initiatives that build on prior year investments and leverage improvements and functionality available through other OWCP programs to gain performance efficiencies and improvements.

Resource Centers and the SEM will remain program priorities. The Resource Center staff provides critical local and front line assistance and quality customer service in this activity. The SEM is an essential tool for claims examiners to assess the relationship of an exposure to a claimant's injuries and illnesses. Adequate funding for SEM is critical to ensure documents that address exposures are reviewed and posted timely. FY 2015 funds will be used to ensure timely review and posting of new documents to update SEM. As this is a living document, continuous research by the developers and associated scientists is necessary. This includes ongoing work with the Department of Energy (DOE) and with the developer of Haz-Map (the database that houses the causal links). Additional funds may be necessary to comply with the recommendations from the National Institute of Medicine's report on the SEM (including developing an independent advisory panel of experts). As the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) continues to add new Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) classes, it is paramount that the Resource Center staffing levels are sufficient to support outreach to potential claimants and to respond to the influx of inquiries about filing claims that occur after the outreach events and the addition of new cohorts. Resource Centers also respond to questions and concerns that arise from the public as they utilize the additional on-line information in the SEM. With the higher levels of home health care services, there have been an influx of potential fraud situations, and therefore ongoing targeted outreach to the Provider and medical community, as well as to existing claimants, will continue to necessary for education purposes.

In FY 2015 the DEEOIC will continue to update and enhance ECS to improve service to the customers as well as ease the burden of DEEOIC employees. This will include monthly meetings with two separate teams of employees from around the country, one for a new reporting system within ECS, and one to discuss system changes required for improvement. This will assist in developing an automated reporting mechanism, and update, improve and maintain the system, including software developers to provide additional upgrades and releases every three to four months. In addition, the DEEOIC is working with OWCP to determine what parts of the ECS platform can be leveraged across programs, which requires significant coordination with other Divisions in OWCP to determine commonalities across systems.

In FY2015 the DEEOIC also plans to work with NIOSH to develop a portal for sharing case files and dose reconstruction reports electronically, rather than through the US Postal Service. The program plans to leverage the new OWCP Imaging System (OIS) deployed in FY13 and FY14 in this process.

The program will also continue IT investments for deployment of document imaging and the new ICD-10 coding standard mandated by the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the Division will develop an Energy Document Portal (EDP) which will allow stakeholders and claimants to submit documents electronically through a portal, rather than

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relying on U.S. mail. These will build upon program investments by other OWCP components and therefore, minimize the costs while maximizing the benefits of implementation.

Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2015, Congress added a provision to establish an Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health to Part E of EEOICPA. Per the statutory language in the NDAA, the Board will be advising the Secretary of Labor with respect to the Site Exposure Matrices; medical advice for claims examiners to consider on weighing medical evidence in claims for covered illnesses under Part E; enhancing the evidentiary requirements for claims under Part B for lung disease (beryllium diseases and chronic silicosis); and reviewing samples of work of the industrial hygienists and staff physicians and consulting physicians and their reports to enhance quality, objectivity and consistency. Board membership will comprise experts in the field of medicine and toxic substances, as well as members of the stakeholder community, such as advocates and attorneys. The statute did not include an appropriation to fund the Board, but the Department is working to determine how to implement and fund this requirement.

FY 2014

Total resources at the FY 2014 enacted level for the DEEOIC program were \$116,555,000 and 505 FTE. Part B funds were \$49,769,000 and 263 FTE, including \$639,000 and 4 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. Part E funds were \$66,786,000 and 236 FTE, including \$834,000 and 2 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman.

In FY 2014, DEEOIC maintained timely adjudication of claims, quality decisions, and prompt benefit delivery. DEEOIC activities focused on shortening the time it takes to process and pay compensation benefits while at the same time maintain quality and accuracy to ensure that claimants receive benefits and services timely and for which they are entitled. In FY 2014, DEEOIC issued 22,362 Final Decisions under Part B and Part E. DEEOIC implemented two new joint processing timeliness measures with DOE and NIOSH to reduce the overall time to make claims decisions. Specific focus was placed on the cohort of claims that typically require the longest amount of time to adjudicate – those that require both dose reconstruction and oral hearings. In FY 2014, for claims sent to NIOSH for dose reconstruction and not requiring a hearing, DEEOIC process efficiencies were negated by increased delays at NIOSH and DEEOIC was unable to achieve a targeted reduction of an average 10 days per case. For cases sent to NIOSH and requiring a hearing, DEEOIC achieved a 15% reduction in time from filing to final decision, exceeding the targeted reduction of 12 percent (from 550 days in FY 2013 to 485 days in FY 2014.)

Management of home health care services was also a key program activity. The program developed a measure to ensure the appropriateness of prescribed home health care as well as improve fraud detection and fiscal integrity. The program shifted existing resources to focus on this new measure. Such shifts did not negatively impact program performance in other areas and

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the strengthening of standards which demonstrate that home health care services are necessary for the medical condition approved will serve to control costs.

Funding enhanced the operation of Resource Centers that provide critical local and front line assistance and quality customer service in this activity and the maintenance of the SEM. The SEM is an essential tool for claims examiners to assess the relationship of an exposure to a claimant's injuries and illnesses. FY 2014 funds were used to ensure timely review and posting of new documents to update SEM. Resource Center staff supported Town Hall Meetings for potential claimants and responded to the influx of inquiries about filing claims that occur after the outreach events and the addition of new cohorts. Resource Centers also responded to questions and concerns from the public as they accessed the additional on-line information in the SEM.

The program directed funding to several IT initiatives that built on prior year investments and leveraged improvements and functionality available through other OWCP programs to gain performance efficiencies and improvements. DEEOIC continued to update, improve and maintain the ECS system, including software developers to provide additional upgrades and releases every three to four months.

The program deployed document imaging and ICD-10 coding through IT investments. These investments built upon program investments by other OWCP components to minimize the costs while maximizing the benefits of implementation. In FY 2012, DEEOIC began planning imaging of documents through the OWCP Imaging System (OIS). OIS is the infrastructure that allows programs to store images that may be retrieved via a standalone desktop imaging viewer application. Second generation imaging uses a web-based viewer. Imaging of documents allows for ease of transferring files between offices, reductions in storage of claims files, and easier portability of case files. DEEOIC implementation of OIS was completed in FY 2014. The ECS system was modified to accommodate the new ICD-10 coding standard mandated by the Department of Health and Human Services; however, it will require modification once the coding standard has been made official.

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DETAILED WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE					
		2014		2015	2016
		Target	Result	Target	Target
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part B					
Strategic Goal 4 - Secure retirement, health, and other employee benefits and, for those not working, provide income security					
Strategic Objective 4.1 - Provide income support when work is impossible or unavailable and facilitate return to work					
Performance Measures					
EE 3	Percentage of Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) recommended decisions issued within 60 days	95.00%	97.00%	--	--
EE 4a	Average number of days between filing date and final decision for cases sent to NIOSH when a hearing is held (Part B and E)	485[p]	469	--	--
EE 4b	Average number of days between filing date and final decision for cases sent to NIOSH when a hearing is not held (Part B and E)	315[p]	352	--	--
EE 5	Percent of telephone inquiries responded to within 1 work day	93.00%	96.00%	93.00%	93.00%
EE 7	Average time (days) to process initial claims (Part B and E)	100	95	100	100
Workload Measures					
EE WL 1	Initial Claims Received	5,616	5,671	5,500	5,400
EE WL 2	Initial Claims Processed	7,543	6,737	6,602	6,470
EE WL 3	Final Decisions Issued	10,813	9,566	9,375	9,188
EE WL 4	Payments Issued	5,225	3,913	3,835	3,758

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DETAILED WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE					
		2014		2015	2016
		Target	Result	Target	Target
EE WL 9	Consequential Claims Received (Part B and E)	1,172	752	737	722
EE WL 10	Number of Cases Requiring Review due to a new SEC	2,235	668	655	642
EE WL 11	Directors Orders Received (Part B and E)	2,643	2,224	2,000	1,800
EE WL 12	Threads - Medical Authorizations (Part B and E)	29,471	36,606	40,000	45,000

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

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DETAILED WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE					
		2014		2015	2016
		Target	Result	Target	Target
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part E					
Strategic Goal 4 - Secure retirement, health, and other employee benefits and, for those not working, provide income security					
Strategic Objective 4.1 - Provide income support when work is impossible or unavailable and facilitate return to work					
Workload Measures					
EE WL 5	Initial Claims Received	4,852	4,625	4,533	4,442
EE WL 6	Initial Claims Processed	6,112	5,320	5,214	5,110
EE WL 7	Final Decisions Issued	13,700	12,796	12,540	12,290
EE WL 8	Payments Issued	4,012	3,733	3,658	3,585
EE WL 13	Wage Loss Claims Received	338	316	300	280
EE WL 14	Impairment Claims Received	3,616	3,367	3,230	3,165

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

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Workload Summary

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) workload activities include the provision of income and medical support. Performance measures for this program are focused on shortening the time it takes to provide monetary and medical compensation benefits to which claimants may be entitled. This is accomplished by promptly and accurately processing claims to determine entitlement and deliver benefits. OWCP balances quality and accuracy with production demands to ensure that claimants receive in a timely manner the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

In FY 2013, OWCP's Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act Program revised its performance measure involving the processing of initial claims for Part B and Part E. The baseline for this goal, originally established in FY 2007, resulted in initial targets of 238 days for Part B and 293 days for Part E. FY 2012 results for the performance goals were an average of 92 days to process an initial claim under Part B and 104 days to process an initial claim under Part E, cutting the FY 2007 baseline durations by more than one-half. After reviewing the performance through FY 2012, the program decided to combine these measures into one with a target of 100 days. The combined result for FY 2014 was 95 days.

OWCP revised the joint measures with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) due to the complications of developing valid targets combining the performance of the three programs. These measures display the overall time to make claims decisions and to provide information that can be used to improve program implementation. The performance measures combine Part B and Part E results. OWCP will continue to report on these measures in FY 2016. The measures also account for the various actions a case may require, including employment verification, dose reconstruction or oral hearing. These measures provide a more transparent view of the claims process, including time spent in case development outside of OWCP.

The most significant item of note in the workload tables is the spike in the number of threads. Threads refer to the electronic communication between the program and the medical bill contractor granting approval of incoming medical requests (home health care, durable medical equipment, wheelchairs, etc.) for which it must provide pre-authorization. Total threads more than doubled in FY 2014, with further increases of 10 percent and 13 percent expected in fiscal years 2015 and 2016. This three-fold increase in threads in a four-year span has increased workload and required additional oversight. While the program is working on ways to manage the process such that fraud and/or abuse of the system by providers is lessened, the cost of these services have continually increased each year. Until new EEOICPA regulations will allow for more program control over the process, we expect that the cost will continue to increase in the next two years. The increase in number and complexity of medical authorizations is the reason OWCP is seeking to centralize the medical authorization process in FY 2015 and 2016.

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BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		2014	2015	2016	Diff. 2016 / 2015
11.1	Full-time permanent	22,025	22,766	23,102	336
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	112	228	231	3
11.9	Total personnel compensation	22,137	22,994	23,333	339
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	6,724	6,766	6,875	109
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	25	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	195	232	232	0
22.0	Transportation of things	5	7	7	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	2,800	3,045	3,102	57
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	350	412	412	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	40	32	32	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	4,368	5,108	6,810	1,702
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	10,078	7,180	10,837	3,657
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	5	11	11	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	2,432	4,387	6,028	1,641
26.0	Supplies and materials	170	164	164	0
31.0	Equipment	440	209	209	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	0	500	500	0
	Total	49,769	51,047	58,552	7,505
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	5,353	5,284	5,933	649
	DHS Services	300	265	265	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	2,475	1,204	1,274	70
	GSA Services	1	1	1	0
	Services by Other Government Departments	1,949	426	3,364	2,938

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CHANGES IN 2016 (Dollars in Thousands)

Activity Changes

Built-In

To Provide For:

Costs of pay adjustments	\$339
Personnel benefits	73
Employee health benefits	23
Moving allowance	0
One day more of pay	0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	13
Benefits for former personnel	0
Travel and transportation of persons	0
Transportation of things	0
Rental payments to GSA	57
Rental payments to others	0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0
Printing and reproduction	0
Advisory and assistance services	0
Other services from non-Federal sources	-649
Working Capital Fund	649
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0
Research & Development Contracts	0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Supplies and materials	0
Equipment	0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0

Built-Ins Subtotal **\$505**

Net Program **\$0**

Direct FTE **0**

	Estimate	FTE
Base	\$51,552	263
Program Increase	\$0	0
Program Decrease	\$0	0