

Site-wide Job Titles in the Site Exposure Matrices Recommendation

(Adopted by the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health, November 20-21, 2019)

The Board recommends that the Department, as part of the Site Exposure Matrices, identify job categories at DOE sites that likely have worked throughout the applicable sites and would have had potential exposure to many or all listed toxic substances at those facilities.

Rationale

The Site Exposure Matrices (SEM) of the Department is an important Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program tool that links job titles with potential exposures to toxic substances at Department of Energy sites. It is a key, though by no means exclusive, element used by claims examiners to understand potential exposures of claimants and whether such exposures may be connected to illnesses that are the subjects of submitted claims. The SEM does not purport to provide certain details about such exposures, such as frequency, intensity or duration, but serves to promote understanding of the universe of potential exposures that claimants may have had during their tenure at Department of Energy sites.

A limited number of job titles at Department of Energy sites have been associated with duties that likely require on a routine basis that they visit and work in many, if not most, buildings and locations within a DOE site. Personnel with such job titles, thus, have a potential for exposure to many toxic substances across the DOE site where they work. Examples include, but are not limited to, firefighters, guards, health physics personnel, radiation technician, and safety personnel. The SEM varies considerably by DOE site with respect to these job titles and associated listing of toxic substances. The Board recommends that the Department modify the SEM to identify a full list of site-wide job titles and link them to many, if not all, of the toxic chemicals to which they may have been exposed, or were used, at the DOE site where they worked.