



November 18, 2015

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) has published for public comment a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that updates and improves the current regulations governing OWCP's administration of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000, as amended (EEOICPA), 42 U.S.C. § 7384 *et seq.* Because of your interest in EEOICPA, I wanted to notify you of this publication and provide you with a summary of the changes we are proposing.

The majority of the changes in the NPRM consist of routine updates to the regulations to remove obsolete terms, update references and incorporate policy changes that have already been adopted in the Federal (EEOICPA) Procedure Manual. Most significantly, OWCP proposes to:

- Modify the regulations to describe the increased involvement of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in the Final Adjudication Branch's consideration of objections to NIOSH's final radiation dose reconstruction reports.
- Bring its regulations regarding the processing and payment of medical bills into alignment with the current system OWCP uses to pay medical bills.
- Revise the regulations covering exclusion of providers of medical services under EEOICPA to increase the transparency of that process.
- Refocus the process for claiming and authorizing in-home health care back toward beneficiaries and away from medical providers in the hope that this will result in OWCP being better able to provide its beneficiaries with appropriate care.

In addition to memorializing current programmatic policies and practices, I feel strongly that these proposed revisions will enhance transparency, modernize processes and bring further clarity to the regulatory description of the claims adjudication process.

The NPRM was published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2015. You may review the NPRM and submit written comments on the proposed rule by visiting www.regulations.gov.

Sincerely,

Rachel P. Leiton
Director, Division of Energy Employees
Occupational Illness Compensation