

***DEEOIC Claims Examiner Training Course***

# **Exposure Development**



# ***PARTICIPANT GUIDE***

*US Department of Labor  
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210*

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### Session Description

This session provides basic information regarding exposure – definition of toxic substances, how a worker may be exposed to a toxic substance, what key elements are considered when looking at exposure, the importance of dose.

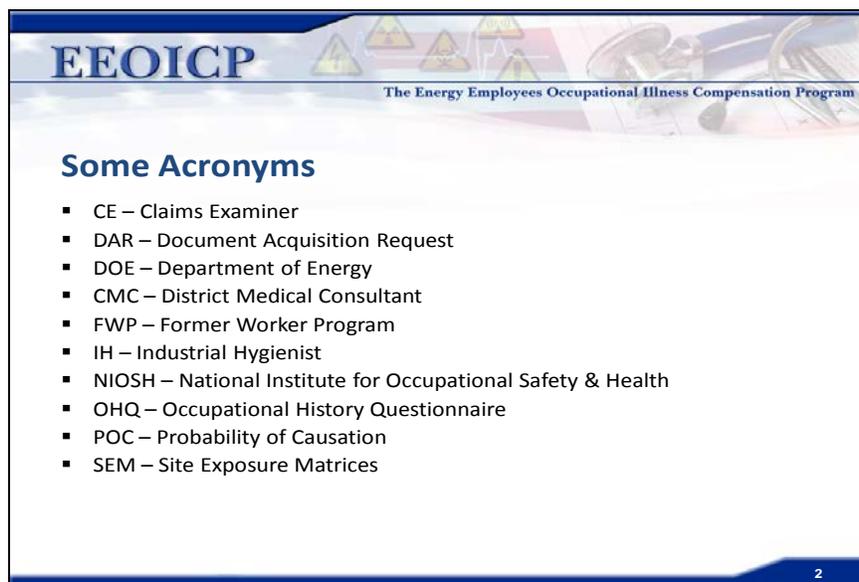
Thereafter, the instruction focuses on the wide range of tools the CE may use to help establish exposure. Each tool is reviewed with information provided about what it contains and, importantly, how the information can be used to establish exposure.

### Instructional Objectives

Upon completion of this session, you will be able to:

- Identify the routes of exposure
- Explain the importance of dose when considering exposure
- List tools that can be used to establish exposure
- Identify where to locate and how to obtain each tool
- Describe how information found in each tool can be used to establish exposure
- Explain the difference between a production and construction worker
- Identify the ECS coding associated with each tool

### Some Acronyms



The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'. The main content area is white with a blue border. It lists several acronyms with their full names. A small number '2' is visible in the bottom right corner of the slide.

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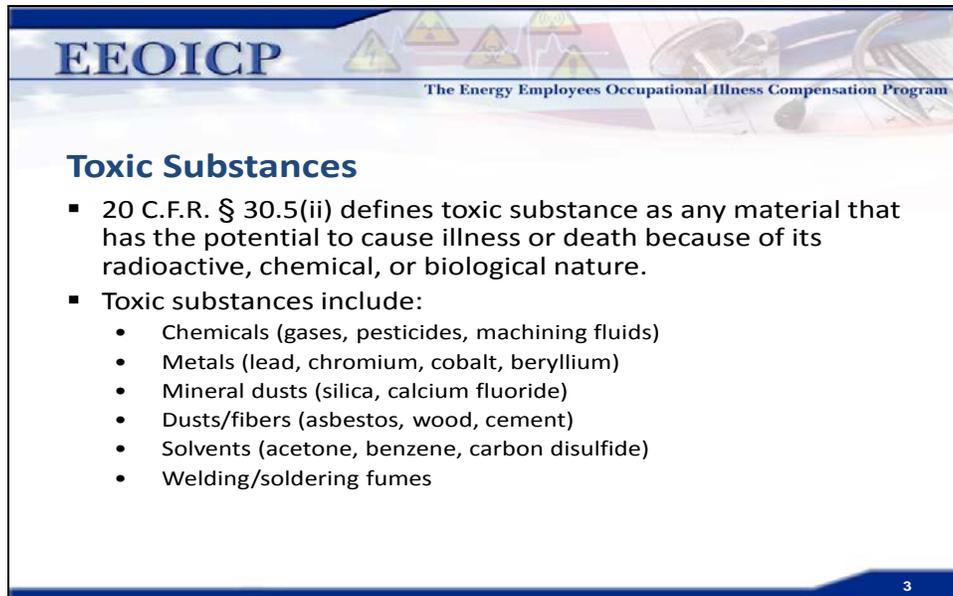
**Some Acronyms**

- CE – Claims Examiner
- DAR – Document Acquisition Request
- DOE – Department of Energy
- CMC – District Medical Consultant
- FWP – Former Worker Program
- IH – Industrial Hygienist
- NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health
- OHQ – Occupational History Questionnaire
- POC – Probability of Causation
- SEM – Site Exposure Matrices

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## Toxic Substances and Exposure

What are toxic substances?



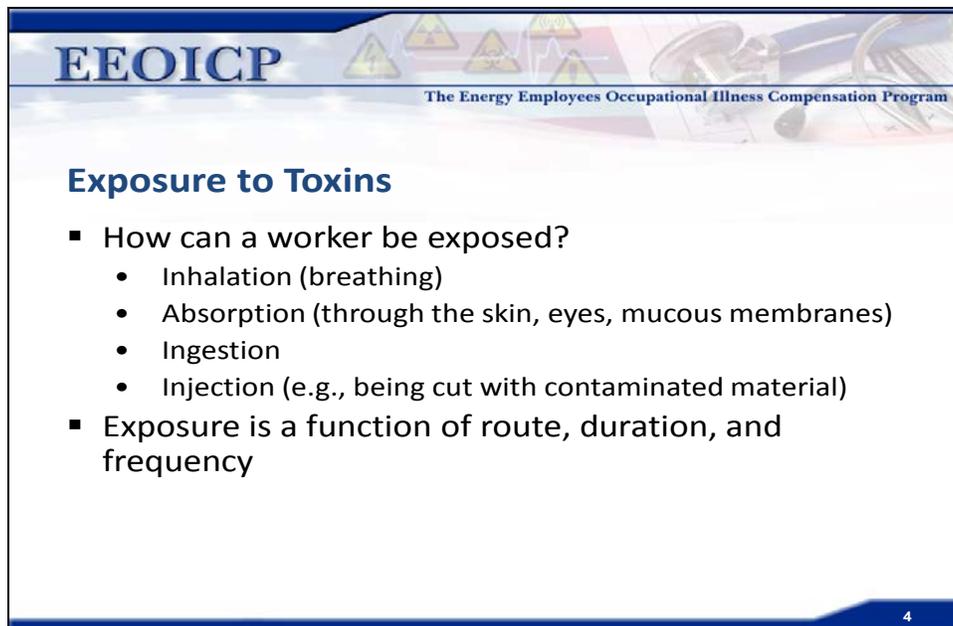
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### Toxic Substances

- 20 C.F.R. § 30.5(ii) defines toxic substance as any material that has the potential to cause illness or death because of its radioactive, chemical, or biological nature.
- Toxic substances include:
  - Chemicals (gases, pesticides, machining fluids)
  - Metals (lead, chromium, cobalt, beryllium)
  - Mineral dusts (silica, calcium fluoride)
  - Dusts/fibers (asbestos, wood, cement)
  - Solvents (acetone, benzene, carbon disulfide)
  - Welding/soldering fumes

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How can a worker be exposed?



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### Exposure to Toxins

- How can a worker be exposed?
  - Inhalation (breathing)
  - Absorption (through the skin, eyes, mucous membranes)
  - Ingestion
  - Injection (e.g., being cut with contaminated material)
- Exposure is a function of route, duration, and frequency

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## Dose

Exposure is a function of route, duration, and frequency.

Essentially, any substance can be toxic, depending on the dose (water for example, wet vs. drowning).

The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'. The background includes icons for radiation, chemical, and biological hazards, along with a medical monitor. The main content is a bulleted list under the heading 'The Dose Makes the Poison'.

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### The Dose Makes the Poison

- Exposure by itself is not enough to establish causation; it is the dose that makes the poison:
- Substance X
  - Specific characteristics (radioactive, chemical or biological nature)
  - Route of exposure (inhalation, absorption, ingestion, or injection)
  - Extent of exposure (frequency and duration)

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## Your Notes

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Tools

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### Tools to Help Establish Exposure

- Presence & Contact (can often be established using the same tools)
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building Trades screening programs
  - Physician Panel reports
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other *probative* evidence
- Plausibility – given the evidence at hand, the claimed illness arose out of occupational exposure to a toxic substance at a covered DOE facility

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*Your Notes*

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## Site Exposure Matrices (SEM)

What is it?

SEM is a tool to establish the presence of and potential for contact with toxic substances in the workplace.

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### Site Exposure Matrices (SEM)

SEM is:

- a *tool* to establish presence and potential for contact
- a living document and does not contain all information for every covered facility/site
- flexible

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### Your Notes

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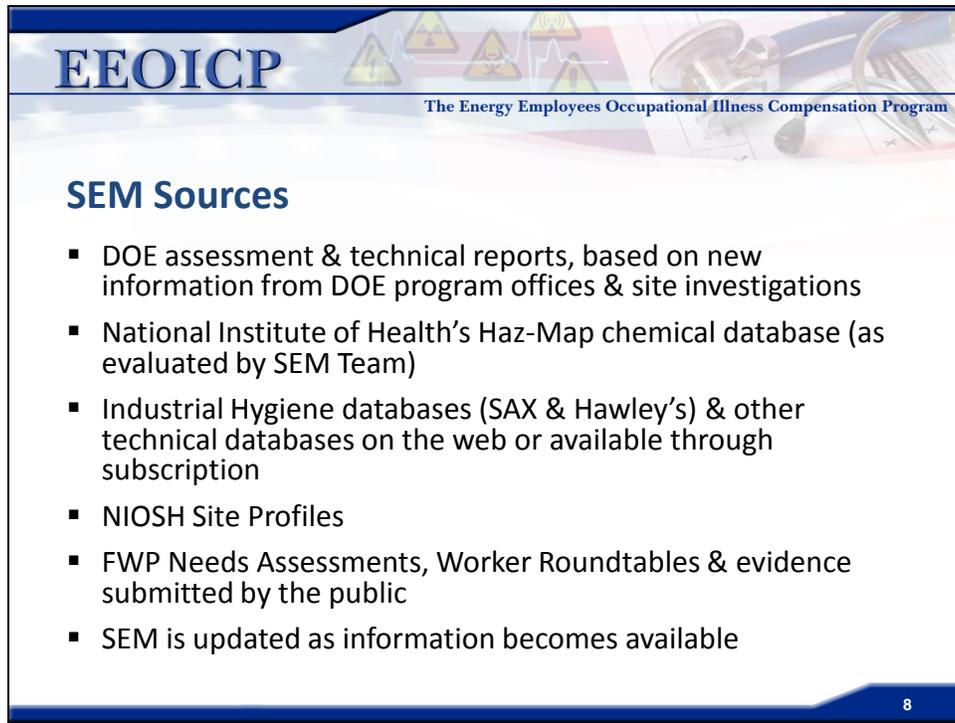
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## Data Sources

Sources of data used to populate the SEM include:



The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'. The main content is titled 'SEM Sources' and lists six bullet points. The slide number '8' is in the bottom right corner.

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### SEM Sources

- DOE assessment & technical reports, based on new information from DOE program offices & site investigations
- National Institute of Health's Haz-Map chemical database (as evaluated by SEM Team)
- Industrial Hygiene databases (SAX & Hawley's) & other technical databases on the web or available through subscription
- NIOSH Site Profiles
- FWP Needs Assessments, Worker Roundtables & evidence submitted by the public
- SEM is updated as information becomes available

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## Your Notes

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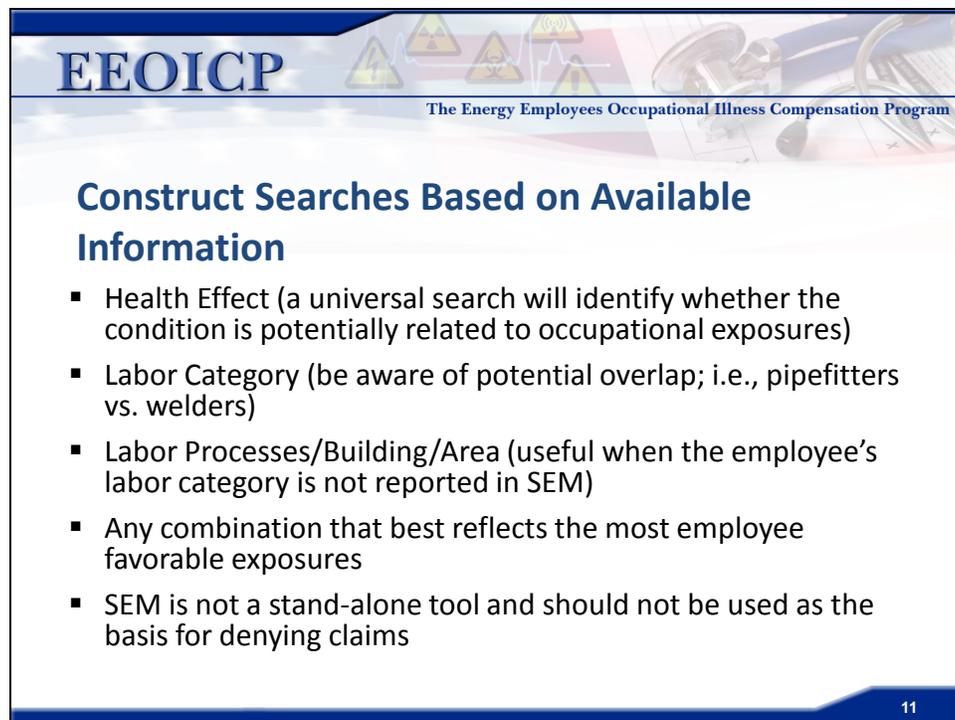
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## Basic SEM Searches and Their Relevance



The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a collage of industrial safety icons like radiation and biohazard symbols, and a photograph of a worker in a hard hat. The main title "Basic SEM Searches and Their Relevance" is centered in a large, bold, blue font. A blue footer bar at the bottom right contains the number "10".



The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a collage of industrial safety icons and a photograph of a worker. The main title "Construct Searches Based on Available Information" is centered in a large, bold, blue font. Below the title is a bulleted list of five points. A blue footer bar at the bottom right contains the number "11".

- Health Effect (a universal search will identify whether the condition is potentially related to occupational exposures)
- Labor Category (be aware of potential overlap; i.e., pipefitters vs. welders)
- Labor Processes/Building/Area (useful when the employee's labor category is not reported in SEM)
- Any combination that best reflects the most employee favorable exposures
- SEM is not a stand-alone tool and should not be used as the basis for denying claims

We are not trying to pigeon hole you into a particular search; this is an intuitive exercise that will vary based on the information at hand.

Do not keep the searches that are not relevant.

Remember that policy disallows the use of HAZ Map to determine if an illness has an occupational origin. HAZ Map plays a supporting role to SEM and only SEM should be used as a development tool.



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### Production Worker and Construction Worker Searches Differ Significantly

- Production worker will be searched by facility
- Construction worker will be searched by a combination of generic construction searches (to identify hazards intrinsic to the craft without regard to facility) & facility-specific searches

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### Other Sources of Information

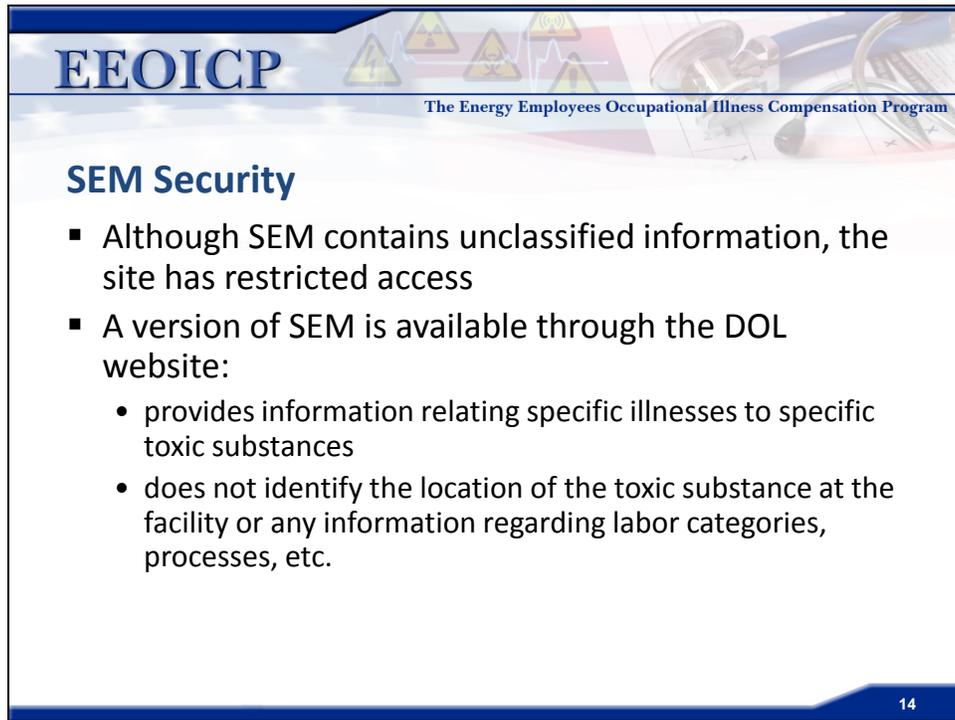
- The EE-3, OHQ, and DAR responses are often excellent sources of information regarding job titles, work locations, specific exposures, and facility incidents.
- Occasionally, depending on the time period, industrial hygiene monitoring data may be available
- This information can be used to facilitate SEM searches.

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## SEM Security

Like all government applications, it is important that you do not share your password for the SEM! For reasons of national security, the DOL has an agreement with the DOE to not share the information incorporated into SEM.



The slide features a blue header with the text "EEOICP" in large white letters and "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program" in smaller white text below it. The background of the header shows various hazard symbols and a microscope. The main content area is white with a blue border on the right and bottom. It contains the title "SEM Security" in bold blue text, followed by a bulleted list of three items. The first item is a square bullet point, and the second and third are circular bullet points. The number "14" is in the bottom right corner of the slide.

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### SEM Security

- Although SEM contains unclassified information, the site has restricted access
- A version of SEM is available through the DOL website:
  - provides information relating specific illnesses to specific toxic substances
  - does not identify the location of the toxic substance at the facility or any information regarding labor categories, processes, etc.

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### *Your Notes*

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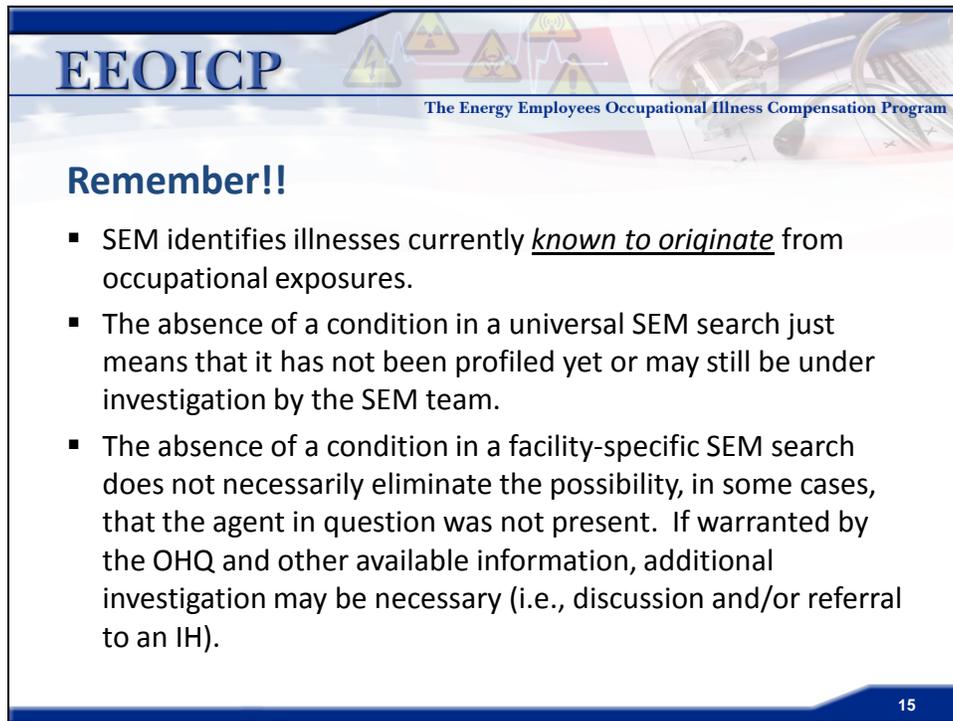
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Remember!!!

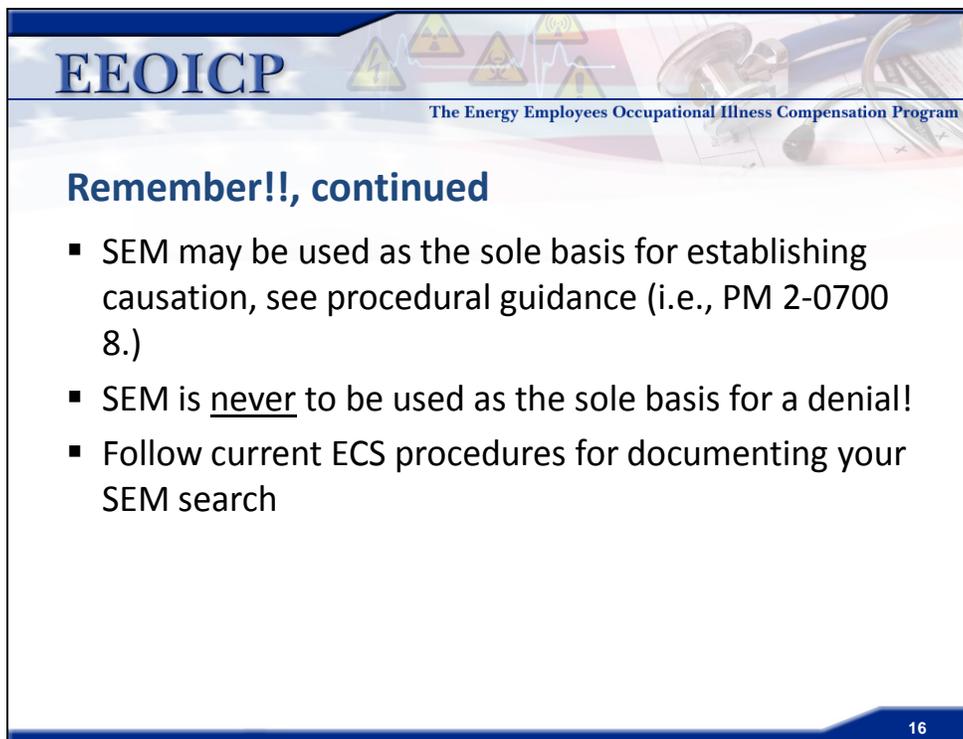
A presentation slide with a blue header containing the text "EEOICP" and "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background features a collage of hazard symbols and laboratory equipment. The main content area is white with a blue border, containing a "Remember!!" section with three bullet points. A blue footer bar at the bottom right contains the number "15".

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**Remember!!**

- SEM identifies illnesses currently known to originate from occupational exposures.
- The absence of a condition in a universal SEM search just means that it has not been profiled yet or may still be under investigation by the SEM team.
- The absence of a condition in a facility-specific SEM search does not necessarily eliminate the possibility, in some cases, that the agent in question was not present. If warranted by the OHQ and other available information, additional investigation may be necessary (i.e., discussion and/or referral to an IH).

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A presentation slide with a blue header containing the text "EEOICP" and "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background features a collage of hazard symbols and laboratory equipment. The main content area is white with a blue border, containing a "Remember!!, continued" section with three bullet points. A blue footer bar at the bottom right contains the number "16".

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**Remember!!, continued**

- SEM may be used as the sole basis for establishing causation, see procedural guidance (i.e., PM 2-0700 8.)
- SEM is never to be used as the sole basis for a denial!
- Follow current ECS procedures for documenting your SEM search

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**SEM Questions**



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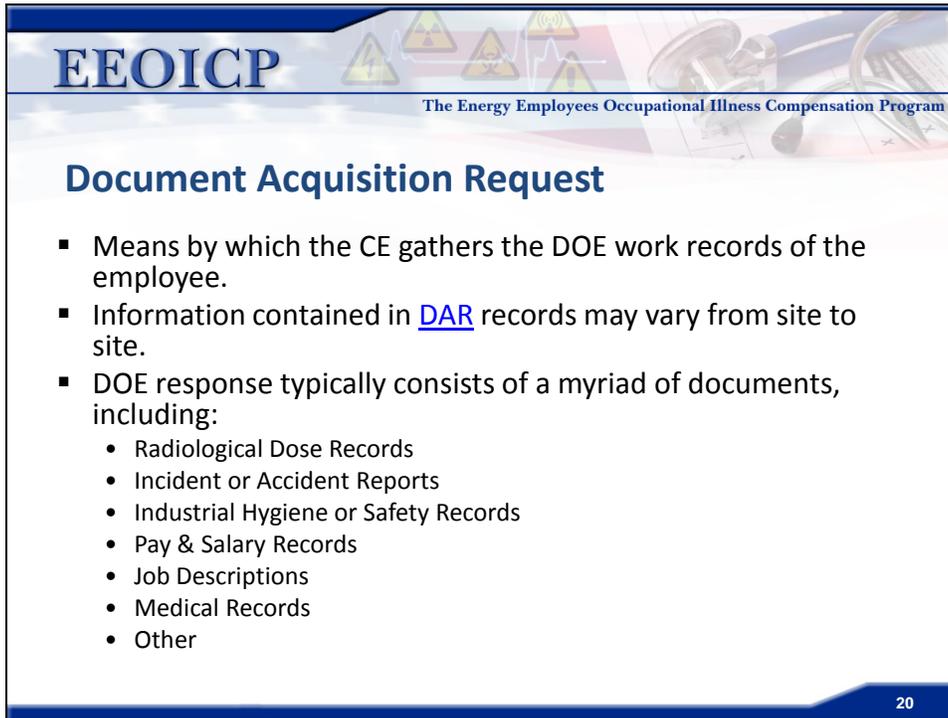
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**Where are we in establishing exposure?**

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - **DAR**
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - Physician Panels
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other probative evidence

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## Document Acquisition Request (DAR)

A presentation slide titled "EEOICP Document Acquisition Request". The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The main content is a bulleted list defining a Document Acquisition Request (DAR) and listing the types of documents typically included in a DOE response. The slide number "20" is visible in the bottom right corner.

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### Document Acquisition Request

- Means by which the CE gathers the DOE work records of the employee.
- Information contained in [DAR](#) records may vary from site to site.
- DOE response typically consists of a myriad of documents, including:
  - Radiological Dose Records
  - Incident or Accident Reports
  - Industrial Hygiene or Safety Records
  - Pay & Salary Records
  - Job Descriptions
  - Medical Records
  - Other

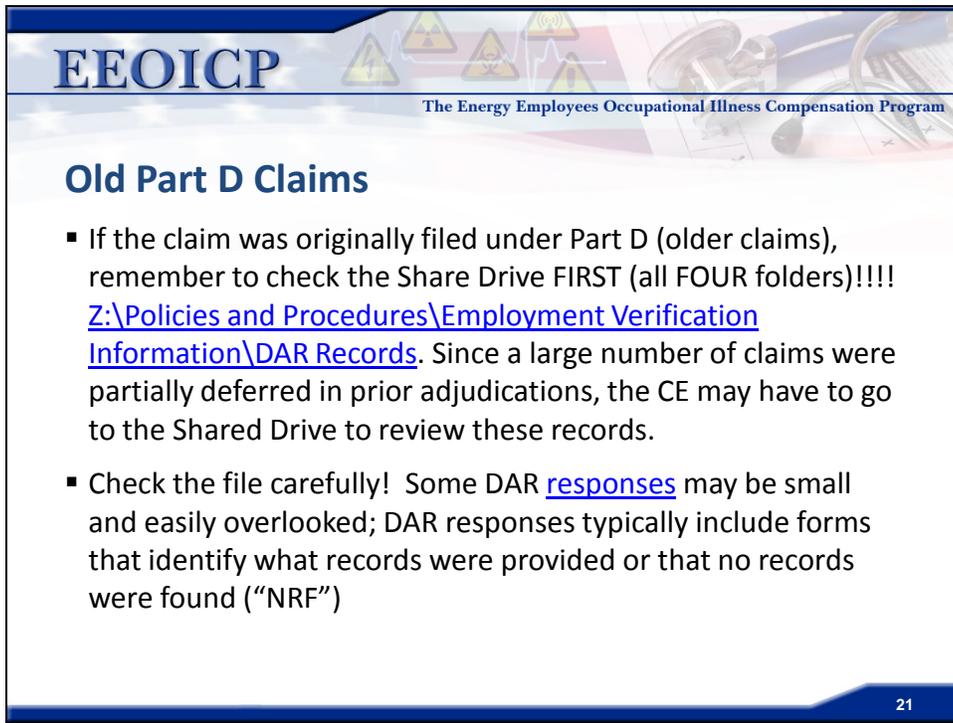
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DAR records can be a treasure trove of information. While all sources of information are important, the DAR frequently contains some little nugget of information that can turn the whole case around.

Many of us have experienced turning a NIOSH denial into an SEC acceptance based on information contained in the DAR. Or we have turned a denial for lack of verified employment around because the DAR had evidence that placed the employee on site or identified employment not originally remembered by the employee or known by the claimant. Unfortunately, we've also had cases where evidence established that the claimant was not an eligible survivor.



## Old Part D Claims

A presentation slide with a blue header and a white body. The header contains the text 'EEOICP' in large blue letters, followed by 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program' in smaller blue text. The background of the header features a collage of radiation warning symbols and a microscope. The main body of the slide has the title 'Old Part D Claims' in bold blue text. Below the title is a bulleted list of two items. The first item discusses checking the Share Drive FIRST (all FOUR folders) and provides a file path: Z:\Policies and Procedures\Employment Verification Information\DAR Records. The second item discusses checking files carefully, noting that some DAR responses may be small and easily overlooked, and that they typically include forms identifying records provided or not found ('NRF'). The slide number '21' is in the bottom right corner.

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### Old Part D Claims

- If the claim was originally filed under Part D (older claims), remember to check the Share Drive FIRST (all FOUR folders)!!!! [Z:\Policies and Procedures\Employment Verification Information\DAR Records](#). Since a large number of claims were partially deferred in prior adjudications, the CE may have to go to the Shared Drive to review these records.
- Check the file carefully! Some DAR [responses](#) may be small and easily overlooked; DAR responses typically include forms that identify what records were provided or that no records were found (“NRF”)

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## Your Notes

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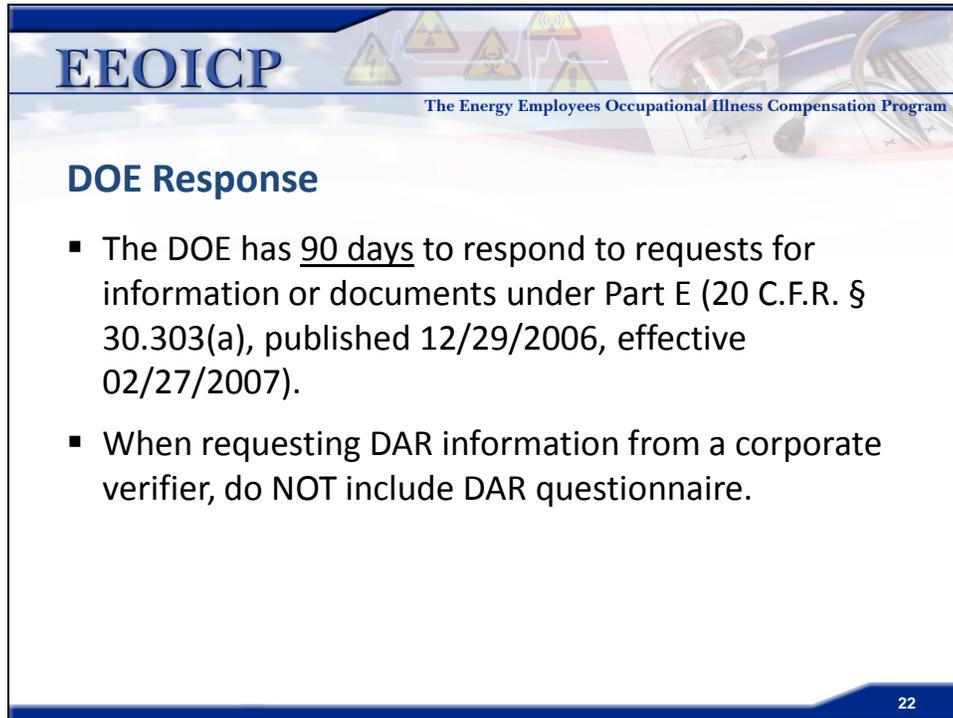
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## DOE Response

Best practice is to request DAR records early in development. The CE needs to advise the supervisor when 90 days have elapsed. Refer to Bulletin 04-06 for additional follow-up with the DOE.

A presentation slide with a blue header and a background image of safety equipment. The header contains the text 'EEOICP' and 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'. The main content area is white with a blue border and contains the title 'DOE Response' and a bulleted list of two items. The slide number '22' is in the bottom right corner.

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### DOE Response

- The DOE has 90 days to respond to requests for information or documents under Part E (20 C.F.R. § 30.303(a), published 12/29/2006, effective 02/27/2007).
- When requesting DAR information from a corporate verifier, do NOT include DAR questionnaire.

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### Your Notes

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## Radiological Dose Records

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### Radiological Dose Records

- These documents are radiation exposure records based on readings from dosimetry badges or similar personal recording devices. They are generally taken at regular intervals during the employee's work.
- However, radiological dose records can be material to other *non-cancerous* illnesses (aplastic anemia, cataracts, acute radiation sickness). If a cancer was previously claimed, the NIOSH CD may have useful information regarding dose for the non-cancer conditions. If the dose records were not previously requested, now is the time to do so for these non-cancerous conditions which may be related to radiological exposures.

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Although the policy directs that the CE does not request such records when developing a claim for cancer (because radiation exposure information will be obtained by NIOSH), these records can help establish employment.

### Your Notes

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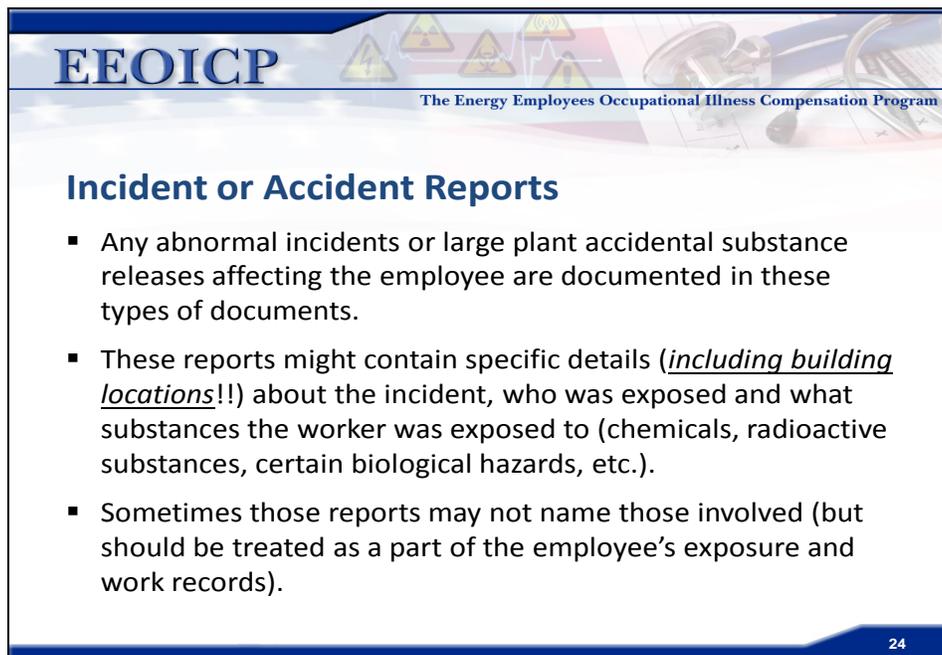
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## Incident or Accident Reports



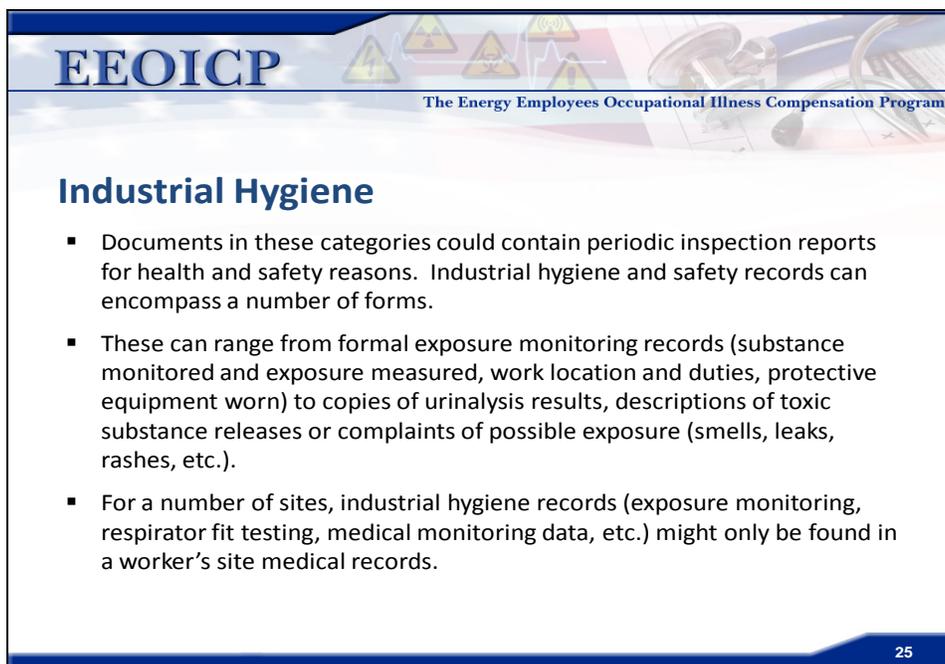
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### Incident or Accident Reports

- Any abnormal incidents or large plant accidental substance releases affecting the employee are documented in these types of documents.
- These reports might contain specific details (*including building locations!!*) about the incident, who was exposed and what substances the worker was exposed to (chemicals, radioactive substances, certain biological hazards, etc.).
- Sometimes those reports may not name those involved (but should be treated as a part of the employee's exposure and work records).

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## Industrial Hygiene



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### Industrial Hygiene

- Documents in these categories could contain periodic inspection reports for health and safety reasons. Industrial hygiene and safety records can encompass a number of forms.
- These can range from formal exposure monitoring records (substance monitored and exposure measured, work location and duties, protective equipment worn) to copies of urinalysis results, descriptions of toxic substance releases or complaints of possible exposure (smells, leaks, rashes, etc.).
- For a number of sites, industrial hygiene records (exposure monitoring, respirator fit testing, medical monitoring data, etc.) might only be found in a worker's site medical records.

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### Industrial Hygiene, continued

- Consider the completeness of the DAR. If no industrial hygiene (IH) records are available, it is possible that the employee was in a labor category where monitoring was determined not to be necessary, or the potential exposures were comparatively low.
- The possibility also exists however, that records were destroyed.

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### Industrial Hygiene, continued

- If the condition is not known to originate from occupational exposures, and there is no evidence to suggest IH monitoring, and there is no underlying condition that could be related to exposures that impact the claimed condition, further development may be unnecessary.
- However, a condition known to be linked to occupational exposures (SEM), even if such exposures are not documented, could warrant a referral to an IH (as addressed more fully later).
- If peer-reviewed studies are provided by a claimant, linking a condition with a specific toxin (not in SEM), a toxicology referral should be made.

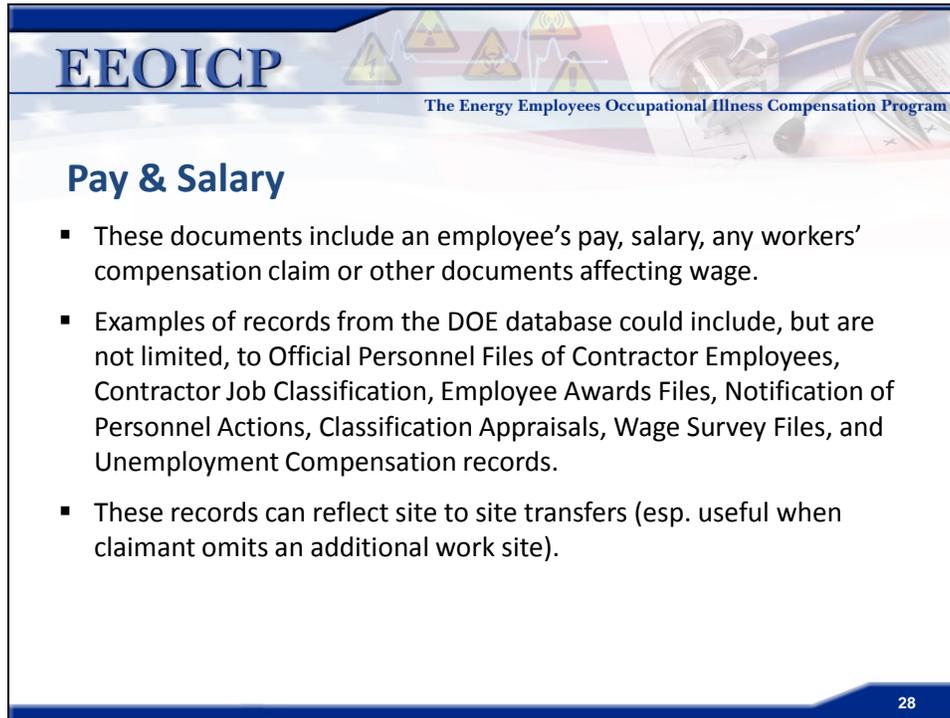
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Consider the Y-12 employee with mercury poisoning who had no industrial hygiene records to evaluate and SEM gave her no potential exposures for either her labor category or her building.

Because the illness was an occupational illness (that is to say it was reported by SEM), the case was referred to an IH to determine whether she could have had exposures to mercury that we were unable to identify. The IH determined through his investigation that her office had been built on a site where a mercury contaminated building was previously destroyed.



## Pay and Salary

A presentation slide for the EEOICP (The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program). The slide has a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the program name. Below the header, the title "Pay & Salary" is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. The main content consists of three bullet points, each preceded by a square symbol. The background of the slide features a collage of images including radiation warning symbols, a microscope, and a person working in a laboratory setting.

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### Pay & Salary

- These documents include an employee’s pay, salary, any workers’ compensation claim or other documents affecting wage.
- Examples of records from the DOE database could include, but are not limited, to Official Personnel Files of Contractor Employees, Contractor Job Classification, Employee Awards Files, Notification of Personnel Actions, Classification Appraisals, Wage Survey Files, and Unemployment Compensation records.
- These records can reflect site to site transfers (esp. useful when claimant omits an additional work site).

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For example, an employee only claimed Y-12 employment. The case was submitted to NIOSH and was in a posture for a denial.

However, in reviewing the DAR, a copy of a memo he wrote suggesting the bus schedule between Y-12 and K-25 be changed to accommodate workers signing in at one facility and working at another was discovered. Further review revealed that his Y-12 performance evaluations specifically discussed how the employee spent approximately two years setting up, testing, and maintaining two new boiler systems at the K-25 Plant.

The case was paid as an SEC.

### *Your Notes*

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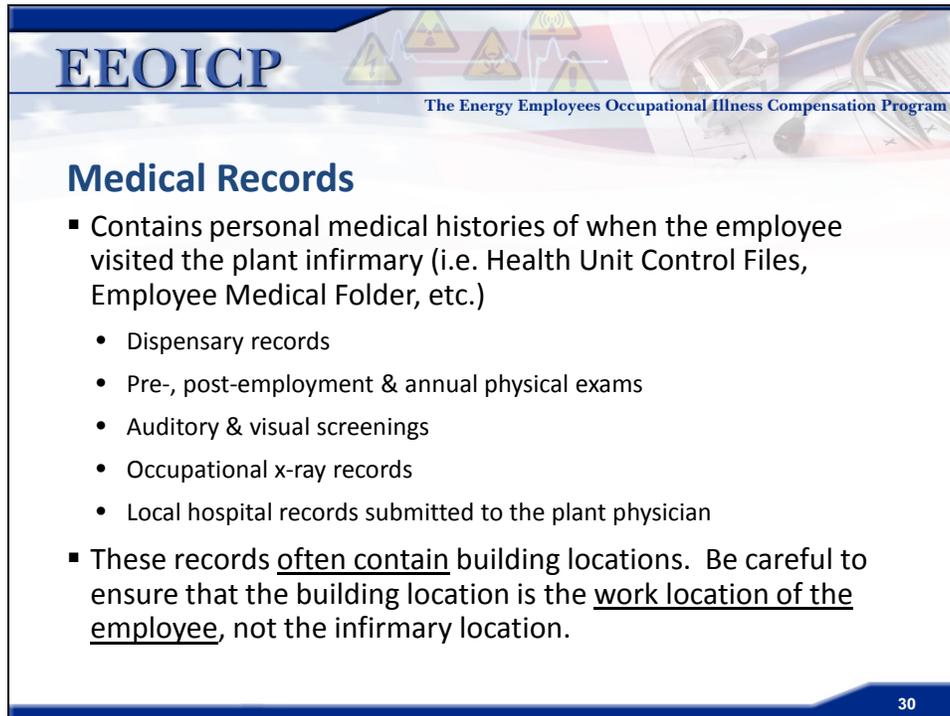
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## Medical Records



The slide features a blue header with the text 'EEOICP' in large white letters and 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program' in smaller white letters below it. The background of the header shows a collage of medical and industrial symbols, including radiation warning signs, a microscope, and a stethoscope. The main content area is white with a blue border. It contains a section title 'Medical Records' followed by a list of bullet points. The bottom right corner of the slide has a small blue box with the number '30'.

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### Medical Records

- Contains personal medical histories of when the employee visited the plant infirmary (i.e. Health Unit Control Files, Employee Medical Folder, etc.)
  - Dispensary records
  - Pre-, post-employment & annual physical exams
  - Auditory & visual screenings
  - Occupational x-ray records
  - Local hospital records submitted to the plant physician
- These records often contain building locations. Be careful to ensure that the building location is the work location of the employee, not the infirmary location.

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For example, an employee or survivor claims Oak Ridge, without identifying a specific facility, or naming them all. In the initial stage of employment verification, because the employee was a subcontractor, DOE may have provided incomplete information.

However, when we request the DAR, the medical records may not only reflect additional employment (that the employee didn't ever remember or the claimant didn't know about), but also may include building locations that may help identify when and at which facility the employee worked.

### Your Notes

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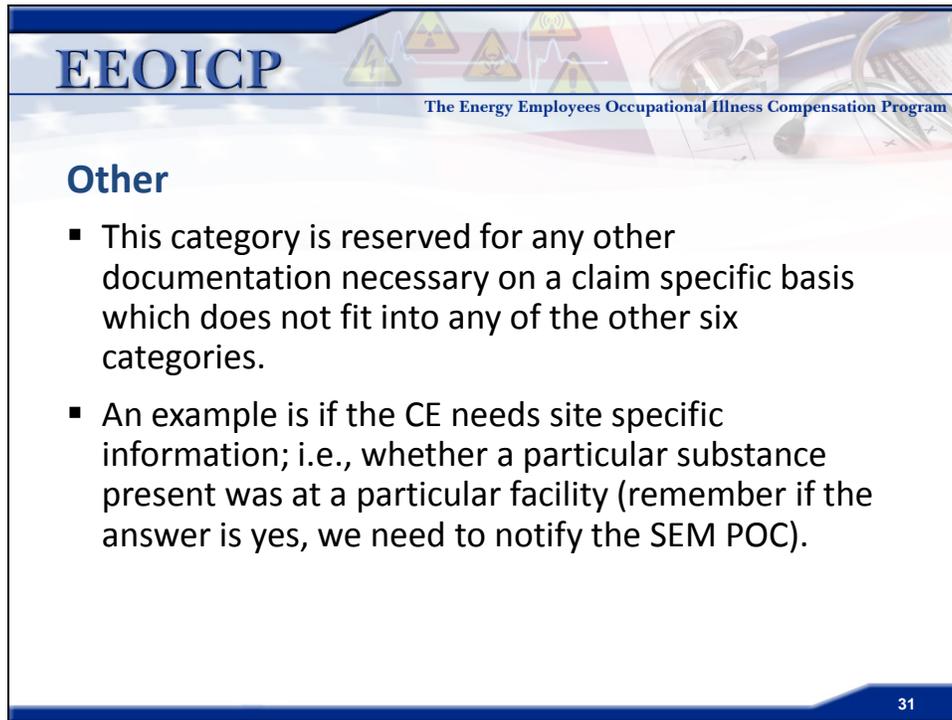
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Other

A presentation slide for the EEOICP (The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program). The slide features a blue header with the acronym 'EEOICP' and the full program name. Below the header, the word 'Other' is written in a large, bold, blue font. Underneath, there are two bullet points: the first states that this category is reserved for any other documentation necessary on a claim specific basis which does not fit into any of the other six categories; the second provides an example where a CE needs site specific information, such as whether a particular substance was present at a particular facility, and notes that if the answer is yes, the SEM POC must be notified. The slide number '31' is located in the bottom right corner.

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**Other**

- This category is reserved for any other documentation necessary on a claim specific basis which does not fit into any of the other six categories.
- An example is if the CE needs site specific information; i.e., whether a particular substance present was at a particular facility (remember if the answer is yes, we need to notify the SEM POC).

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The letter should be site specific. Use the proper letter to request the EE-5 or DAR or both. Although DOE initially stated that departments cannot be correlated to building numbers, we have found some evidence in the DOE site profiles that is being vetted through the National Office.

*Your Notes*

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**DAR Questions**



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*Your Notes*

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Final Note

The PM, 2-0700.6b(3), states that only material documents should be printed from the CD to the case file. Be careful about omitting documents. Our experience is that all of these categories of document share the potential to turn a case around!



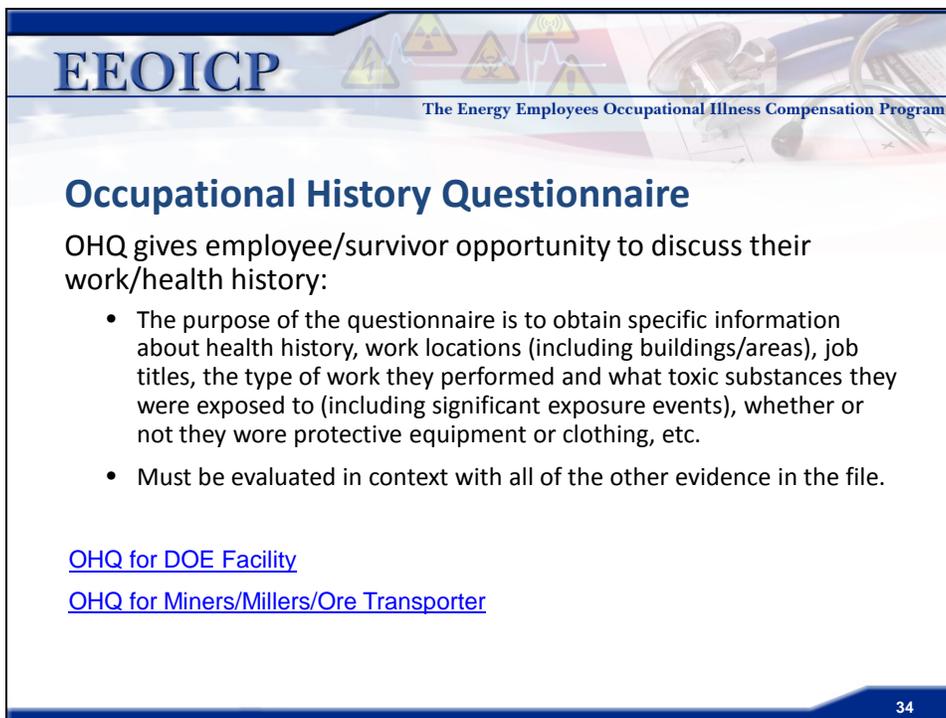
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### Where are we in establishing exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - **OHQ/verified affidavits**
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - Physician Panels
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other *probative* evidence

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## Occupational History Questionnaire (OHQ)



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### Occupational History Questionnaire

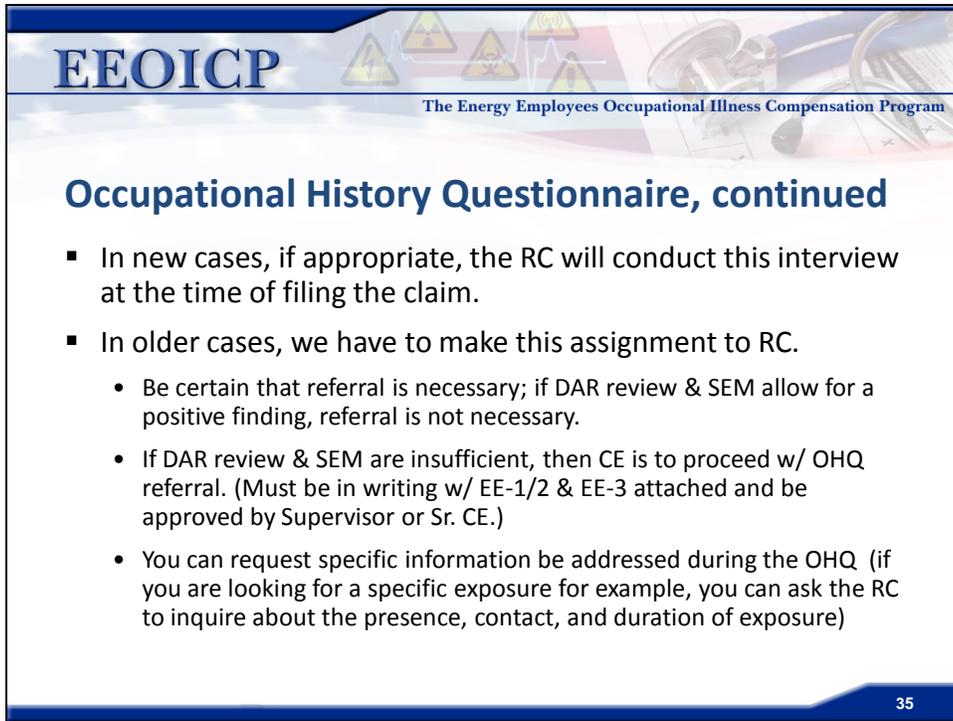
OHQ gives employee/survivor opportunity to discuss their work/health history:

- The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain specific information about health history, work locations (including buildings/areas), job titles, the type of work they performed and what toxic substances they were exposed to (including significant exposure events), whether or not they wore protective equipment or clothing, etc.
- Must be evaluated in context with all of the other evidence in the file.

[OHQ for DOE Facility](#)  
[OHQ for Miners/Millers/Ore Transporter](#)

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**NOTE:** The act that created OSHA was not signed into Law until 1970; therefore, it is likely there was less protective equipment, practices, and clothing utilized prior to that date. Even after the implementation of OSHA, the enforcement was not consistent until years later.



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### Occupational History Questionnaire, continued

- In new cases, if appropriate, the RC will conduct this interview at the time of filing the claim.
- In older cases, we have to make this assignment to RC.
  - Be certain that referral is necessary; if DAR review & SEM allow for a positive finding, referral is not necessary.
  - If DAR review & SEM are insufficient, then CE is to proceed w/ OHQ referral. (Must be in writing w/ EE-1/2 & EE-3 attached and be approved by Supervisor or Sr. CE.)
  - You can request specific information be addressed during the OHQ (if you are looking for a specific exposure for example, you can ask the RC to inquire about the presence, contact, and duration of exposure)

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In new cases, the RC should forward the OHQ to the District Office within seven (7) days.

When the OHQ is assigned to the RC, they have 14 days to complete the OHQ. When assigned to the RC, policy directs that the CE must “close out” the OHQ assignment (or follow-up or rework) by coding the DO-OH if the RC attempted to complete the OHQ, but was unsuccessful because the claimant could not be reached or refused to complete it.

The status effective date is the date of the RC memo to the DO explaining why the OHQ could not be completed.

**Your Notes**

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## EEOICP

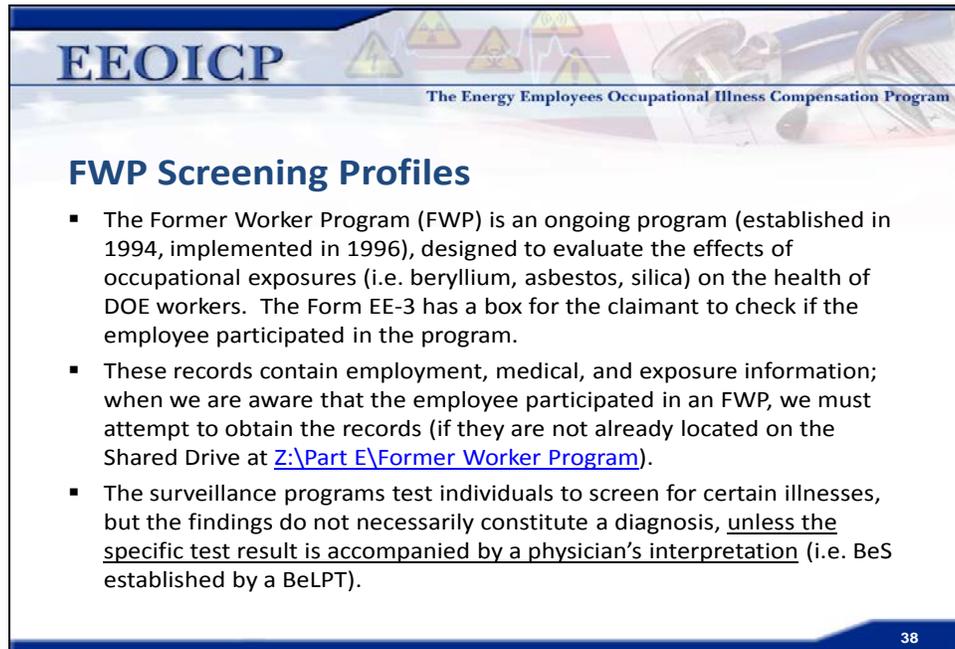
The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

### Where are we in establishing exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - **DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs**
  - Physician Panels
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other *probative* evidence

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## FWP Screening Profiles



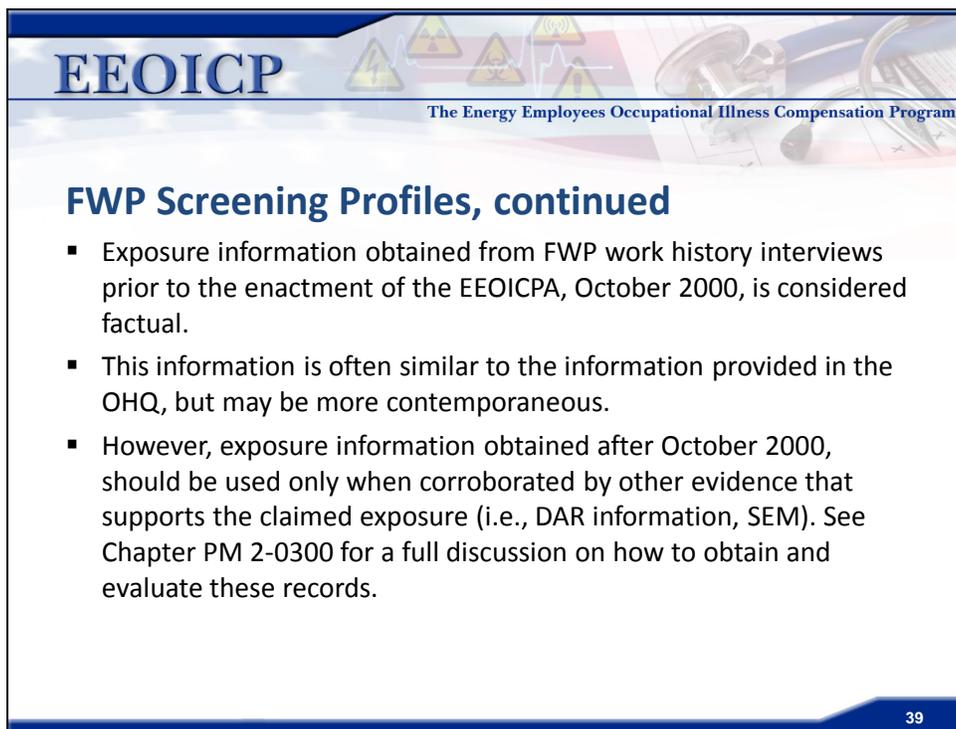
The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a faint image of a microscope and several hazard warning symbols. The main content is a bulleted list of three items.

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### FWP Screening Profiles

- The Former Worker Program (FWP) is an ongoing program (established in 1994, implemented in 1996), designed to evaluate the effects of occupational exposures (i.e. beryllium, asbestos, silica) on the health of DOE workers. The Form EE-3 has a box for the claimant to check if the employee participated in the program.
- These records contain employment, medical, and exposure information; when we are aware that the employee participated in an FWP, we must attempt to obtain the records (if they are not already located on the Shared Drive at [Z:\Part E\Former Worker Program](#)).
- The surveillance programs test individuals to screen for certain illnesses, but the findings do not necessarily constitute a diagnosis, unless the specific test result is accompanied by a physician's interpretation (i.e. BeS established by a BelPT).

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The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a faint image of a microscope and several hazard warning symbols. The main content is a bulleted list of three items.

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### FWP Screening Profiles, continued

- Exposure information obtained from FWP work history interviews prior to the enactment of the EEOICPA, October 2000, is considered factual.
- This information is often similar to the information provided in the OHQ, but may be more contemporaneous.
- However, exposure information obtained after October 2000, should be used only when corroborated by other evidence that supports the claimed exposure (i.e., DAR information, SEM). See Chapter PM 2-0300 for a full discussion on how to obtain and evaluate these records.

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### Where Are We In Establishing Exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - **Physician Panels**
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other probative evidence

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## Physician Panels (Old Part D File)



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### Physician Panels (old Part D file)

- DOE physician panels can be an excellent source of medical, employment & exposure information.
- Only those findings officially approved by DOE (*i.e.*, claimant letter signed by a DOE official) are given full credence when evaluating for causation.
- Negative and unofficial physician panel reports can contain valuable information that needs to be considered in the totality of the evidence.

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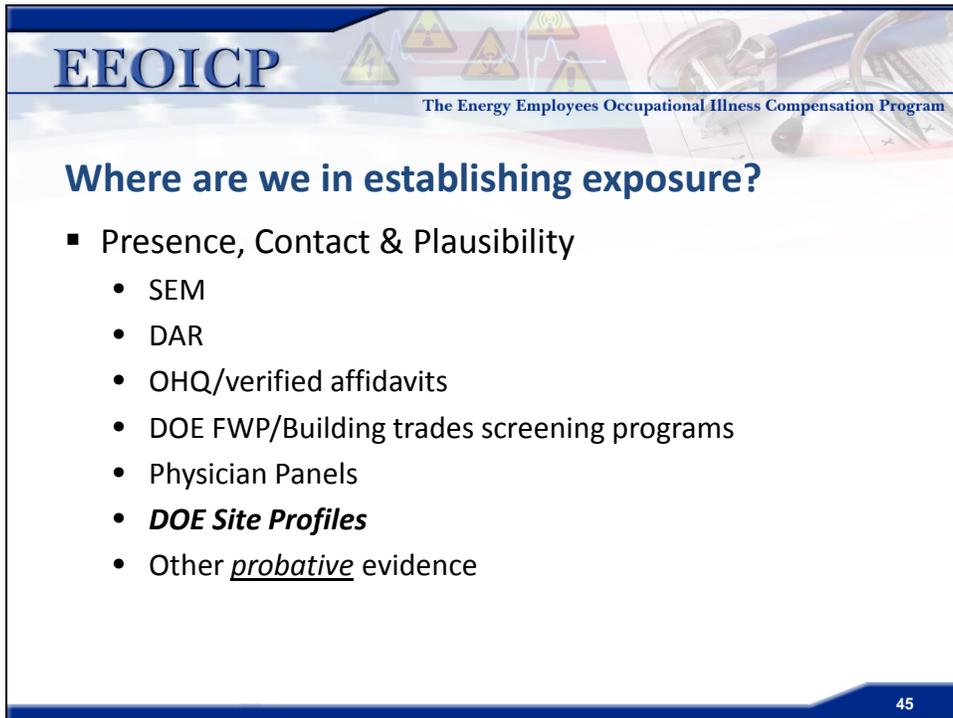
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### Physician Panels (old Part D file), continued

If the employee died after the positive panel was issued, use caution. If the panel accepted a condition which does not appear on the death certificate, additional development is warranted (request medical at the time of the employee's death & consider DMC/treating physician review).

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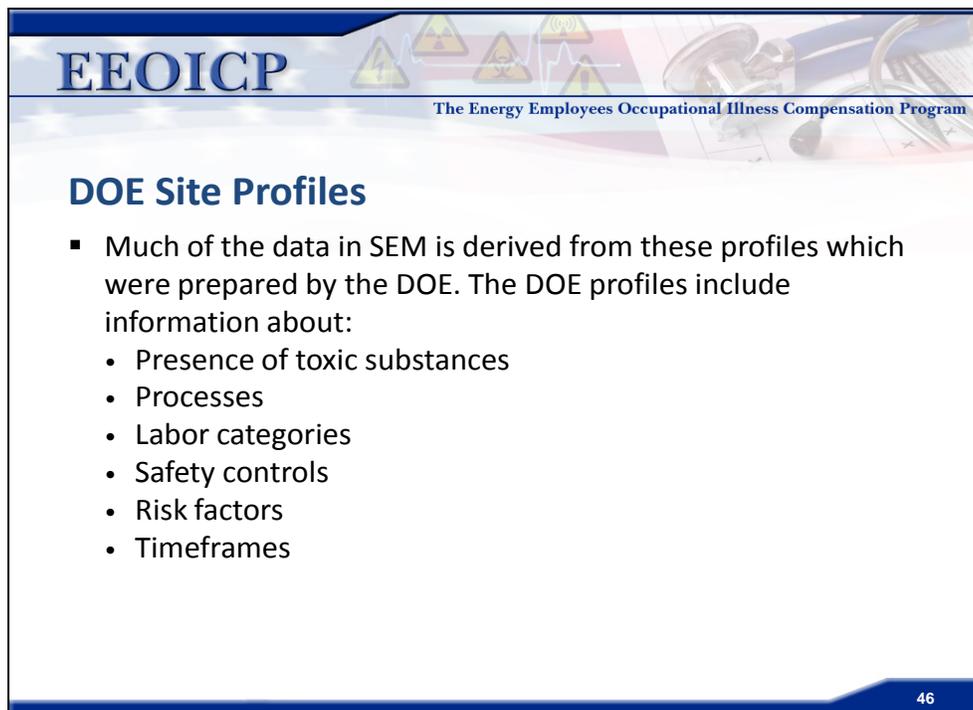
**EEOICP**  
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### Where are we in establishing exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - Physician Panels
  - **DOE Site Profiles**
  - Other probative evidence

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## Doe Site Profiles

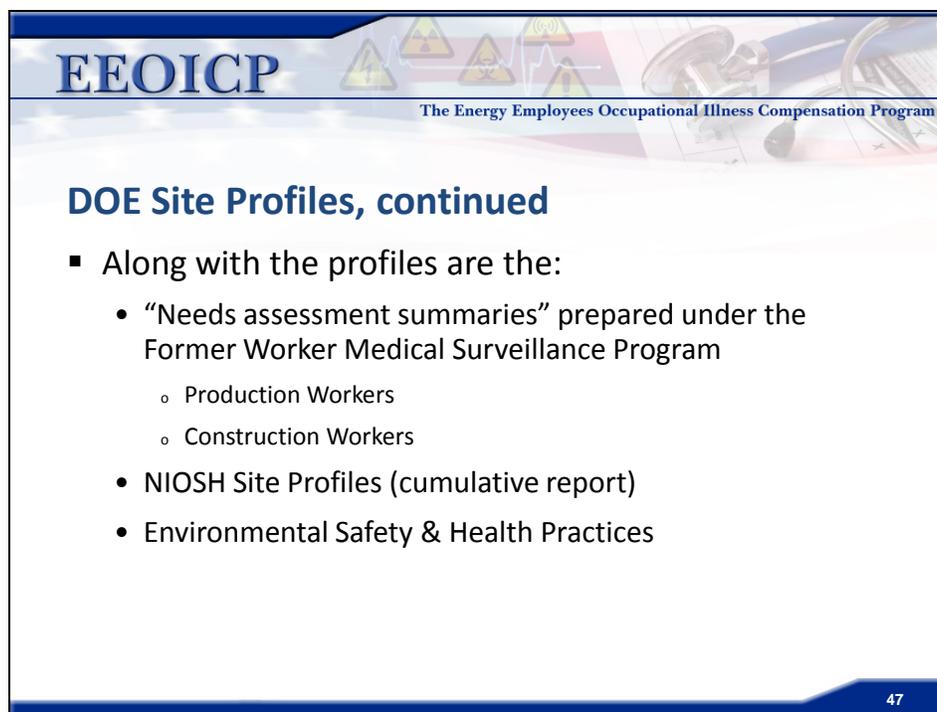


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### DOE Site Profiles

- Much of the data in SEM is derived from these profiles which were prepared by the DOE. The DOE profiles include information about:
  - Presence of toxic substances
  - Processes
  - Labor categories
  - Safety controls
  - Risk factors
  - Timeframes

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A presentation slide with a blue header and footer. The header contains the text 'EEOICP' in large blue letters and 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program' in smaller blue letters. The background of the slide features a collage of images including radiation warning symbols, a microscope, and a computer keyboard. The main content area is white with a blue border on the right and bottom. It contains a section title 'DOE Site Profiles, continued' and a bulleted list of items. The footer is a solid blue bar with the number '47' in white.

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### DOE Site Profiles, continued

- Along with the profiles are the:
  - “Needs assessment summaries” prepared under the Former Worker Medical Surveillance Program
    - Production Workers
    - Construction Workers
  - NIOSH Site Profiles (cumulative report)
  - Environmental Safety & Health Practices

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Although the data from the reports is uploaded into SEM, sometimes a review of these narrative summaries can provide the background information that helps put the data into context.

For example, language from the Oak Ridge profiles was useful for establishing the pervasiveness of asbestos exposure, making it much easier to accept a claim for an employee who might otherwise not be accepted (clerical/administrative/professional staff). DOE physician panels can be an excellent source of medical, employment and exposure information.

Only those findings officially approved by DOE (i.e., claimant letter signed by a DOE official) are given full credence when evaluating for causation.

Negative and unofficial physician panel reports can contain valuable information that needs to be considered in the totality of the evidence.

Many of these profiles are available on CD to load on your hard drive. They are located on the shared drive under Part E – DOE facility data.





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### Where are we in establishing exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - Physician Panels
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - **Other *probative* evidence**

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#### Other Probative Evidence

In terms of other probative evidence, the CE is looking for anything that can help place the employee in particular buildings or identify exposure incidents. This could include such things as:

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**Other Probative Evidence**

- Anecdotal employee letters
- Newspaper articles
- Facility newsletters
- Performance evaluations
- Affidavits (co-workers affidavits tend to be more probative than spouses/family members, unless they worked with the employee)
- Photographs

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**Other probative evidence does not include:**

- Information pulled from unauthorized internet sites
- Vague medical or exposure literature

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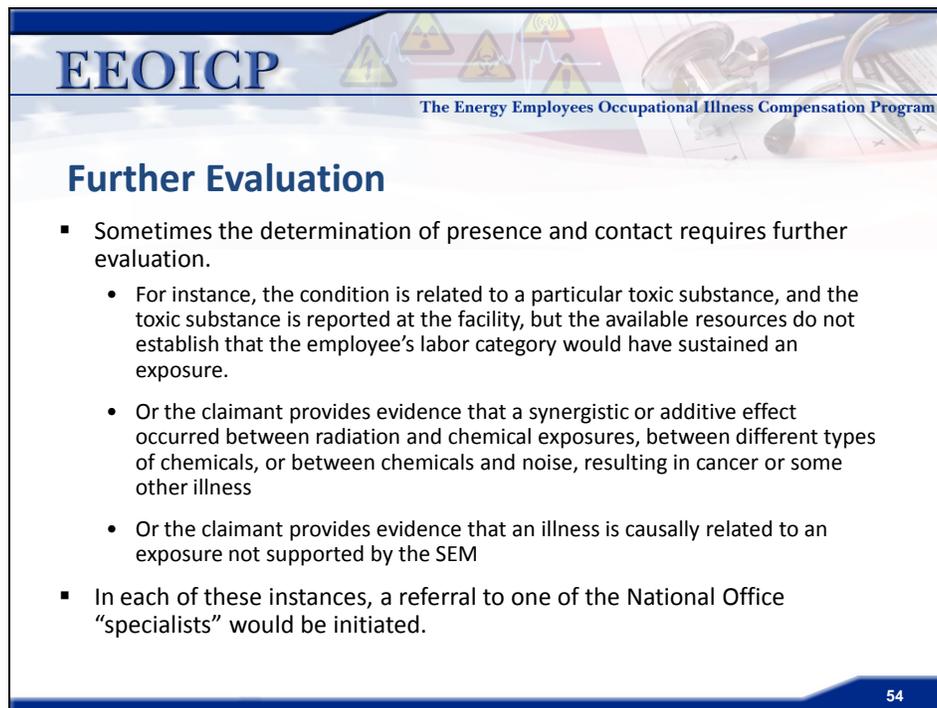
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### Where are we in establishing exposure?

- Presence, Contact & Plausibility
  - SEM
  - DAR
  - OHQ/verified affidavits
  - DOE FWP/Building trades screening programs
  - Physician Panels
  - DOE Site Profiles
  - Other probative evidence

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## Further Evaluation



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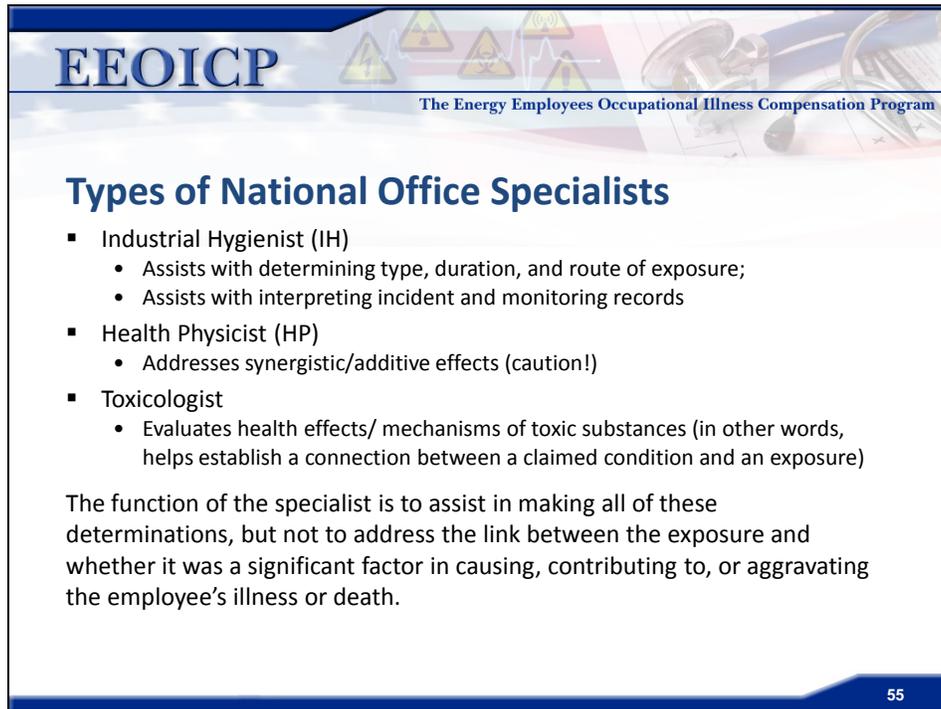
### Further Evaluation

- Sometimes the determination of presence and contact requires further evaluation.
  - For instance, the condition is related to a particular toxic substance, and the toxic substance is reported at the facility, but the available resources do not establish that the employee's labor category would have sustained an exposure.
  - Or the claimant provides evidence that a synergistic or additive effect occurred between radiation and chemical exposures, between different types of chemicals, or between chemicals and noise, resulting in cancer or some other illness
  - Or the claimant provides evidence that an illness is causally related to an exposure not supported by the SEM
- In each of these instances, a referral to one of the National Office "specialists" would be initiated.

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## National Office (NO) Specialists

A presentation slide with a blue header containing the EEOICP logo and the text 'The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program'. The slide title is 'Types of National Office Specialists'. It lists three types of specialists: Industrial Hygienist (IH), Health Physicist (HP), and Toxicologist, each with a bulleted list of their functions. A paragraph below explains the specialist's role in making determinations. The slide number '55' is in the bottom right corner.

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### Types of National Office Specialists

- Industrial Hygienist (IH)
  - Assists with determining type, duration, and route of exposure;
  - Assists with interpreting incident and monitoring records
- Health Physicist (HP)
  - Addresses synergistic/additive effects (caution!)
- Toxicologist
  - Evaluates health effects/ mechanisms of toxic substances (in other words, helps establish a connection between a claimed condition and an exposure)

The function of the specialist is to assist in making all of these determinations, but not to address the link between the exposure and whether it was a significant factor in causing, contributing to, or aggravating the employee's illness or death.

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Currently, DOL has not found scientific evidence to date establishing a synergistic or additive effect between radiation and exposure to a toxic substance, and if the physician presents this finding he or she must provide actual scientific or medical research evidence to support the finding before the CE may consider the assertion.

Do not apply this standard to non-cancer cases.

### *Your Notes*

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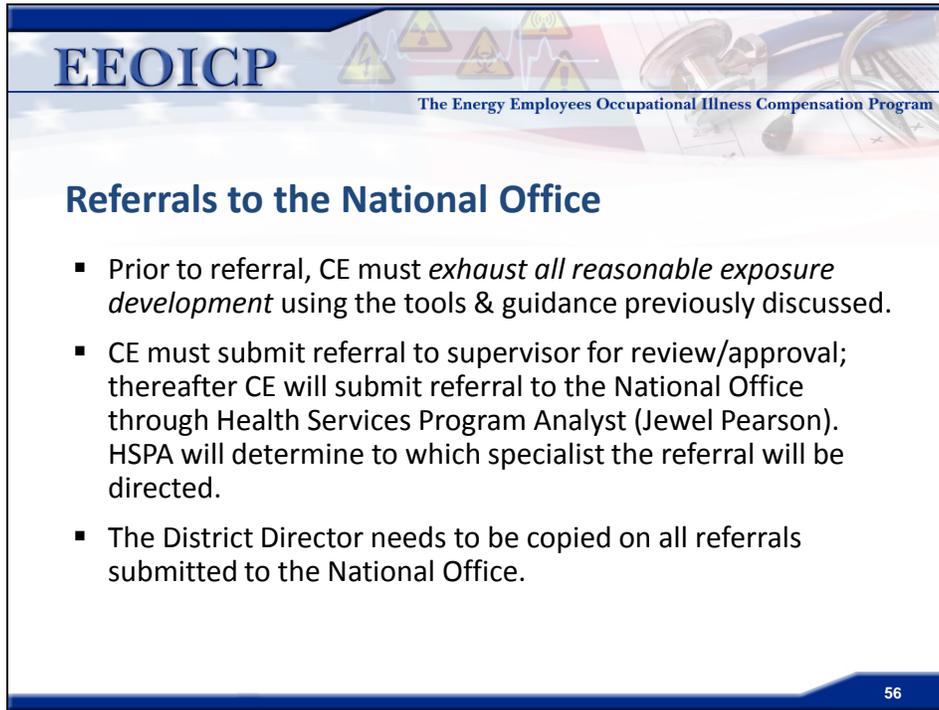
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Referrals to the National Office



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### Referrals to the National Office

- Prior to referral, CE must *exhaust all reasonable exposure development* using the tools & guidance previously discussed.
- CE must submit referral to supervisor for review/approval; thereafter CE will submit referral to the National Office through Health Services Program Analyst (Jewel Pearson). HSPA will determine to which specialist the referral will be directed.
- The District Director needs to be copied on all referrals submitted to the National Office.

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**Your Notes**

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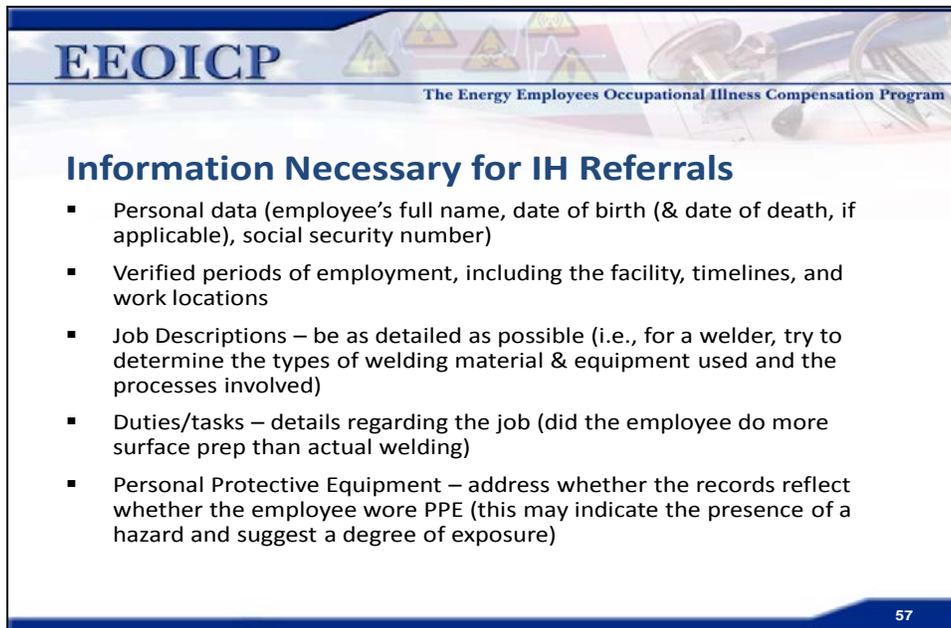
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## Information Necessary for IH Referrals

All of the following information is necessary for the IH to evaluate the potential route of exposure, frequency and duration:



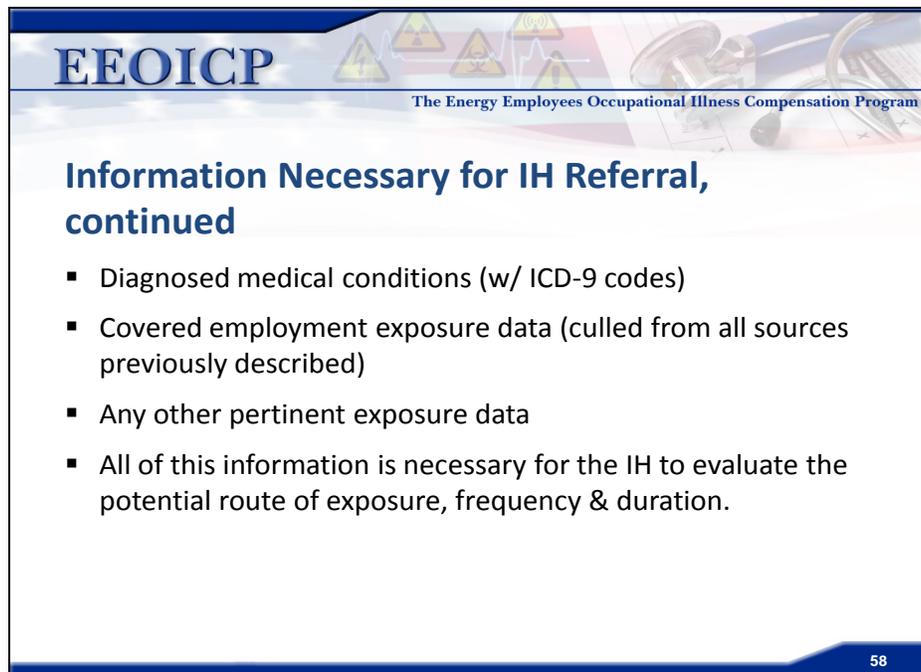
The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a collage of hazard symbols and industrial equipment. The main content is a bulleted list of information needed for referrals.

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### Information Necessary for IH Referrals

- Personal data (employee's full name, date of birth (& date of death, if applicable), social security number)
- Verified periods of employment, including the facility, timelines, and work locations
- Job Descriptions – be as detailed as possible (i.e., for a welder, try to determine the types of welding material & equipment used and the processes involved)
- Duties/tasks – details regarding the job (did the employee do more surface prep than actual welding)
- Personal Protective Equipment – address whether the records reflect whether the employee wore PPE (this may indicate the presence of a hazard and suggest a degree of exposure)

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The slide features a blue header with the EEOICP logo and the text "The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program". The background includes a collage of hazard symbols and industrial equipment. The main content is a bulleted list of information needed for referrals, continuing from the previous slide.

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### Information Necessary for IH Referral, continued

- Diagnosed medical conditions (w/ ICD-9 codes)
- Covered employment exposure data (culled from all sources previously described)
- Any other pertinent exposure data
- All of this information is necessary for the IH to evaluate the potential route of exposure, frequency & duration.

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## Conclusion

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### Conclusion

- The CE establishes exposure based on a cumulative collection and review of all the available evidence.
- The next step after establishing exposure is addressing the impact of that exposure.
- In other words, was work related exposure during covered employment “at least as likely as not” a significant factor in causing, contributing to, or aggravating the employee’s illness or death (“causation”).

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### Questions



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Exposure Questions:

<b>1. True or False? SEM can be used as the sole basis for a denial.</b>
<b>Answer:</b>
<b>2. True or False? SEM can be used to accept a claim in limited circumstances.</b>
<b>Answer:</b>
<b>3. True or False? Exposure by itself is not enough to establish causation (be prepared to explain your answer).</b>
<b>Answer:</b>
<b>4. Multiple Choice - Exposure is a function of:</b>  a. Route  b. Duration  c. Frequency
<b>Answer:</b>
<b>5. Multiple Choice - The purpose of the OHQ is used to:</b>  a. Identify all exposures.  b. Obtain specific information about the employee's health and work history.  c. Verify employment
<b>Answer:</b>

**6. MULTIPLE CHOICE: Probative evidence can consist of:**

- a. SEM, DAR, & OHQ
- b. Anything submitted by the claimant, including internet articles
- c. DOE Site Profiles, records from FWP, & DOE physician panels.

**Answer:**

**7. How can a worker be exposed?**

**Answer:**

**8. What are some reasons the employee may not have been monitored for exposures?**

**9. Does the lack of monitoring records mean that an employee did not sustain significant exposure?**


**10. If a condition is known to arise from occupational exposures (based on the SEM), but exposures have not been established (based on a review of the DOE records and SEM), then should the claim be denied?**

Answer:


## Questions & answers

Participants  
Guide

**Exposure Questions**  
**Use Questions & Answers PowerPoint with Animation schemes which reveal answers after each question.**

11. True or False? SEM can be used as the sole basis for a denial.
Answer: <b>False. SEM should never be used as the sole basis to deny a claim.</b>
12. True or False? SEM can be used to accept a claim in limited circumstances.
Answer: <b>True, see procedural guidance - PM 2-0700 8.</b>
13. True or False? Exposure by itself is not enough to establish causation (be prepared to explain your answer).
Answer: <b>True! Any substance can be toxic depending on the dose; remember our water analogy (wet vs. drowning).</b>
14. Multiple Choice - Exposure is a function of:  a. Route  b. Duration  c. Frequency
Answer: <b>All of the above!</b>
15. Multiple Choice - The purpose of the OHQ is used to:  a. Identify all exposures.  b. Obtain specific information about the employee's health and work history.  c. Verify employment
Answer: <b>B.</b>

16. MULTIPLE CHOICE: Probative evidence can consist of:

- a. SEM, DAR, & OHQ
- b. Anything submitted by the claimant, including internet articles
- c. DOE Site Profiles, records from FWP, & DOE physician panels.

Answer: **A & C**

17. How can a worker be exposed?

Answer:

- **Inhalation (breathing)**
- **Absorption (through the skin, eyes, mucous membranes)**
- **Ingestion**
- **Injection (e.g., being cut with contaminated material)**

18. What are some reasons the employee may not have been monitored for exposures?

Answer:

**Based on his labor category, it is possible that monitoring was determined not to be necessary, or the potential exposures were comparatively light.**

19. Does the lack of monitoring records mean that an employee did not sustain significant exposure?

**Answer: No, the absence of these records only means the employee wasn't monitored. But we know, (referring back to slides 28 - 30), although numerous employees were not monitored for exposures (based on their labor categories), significant exposures could have occurred. For instance, bystander exposures to asbestos or welding/soldering fumes could cause chronic respiratory conditions. The key is to evaluate whether the condition is one known to arise from occupational exposures.**

20. If a condition is known to arise from occupational exposures (based on the SEM), but exposures have not been established (based on a review of the DOE records and SEM), then should the claim be denied?

**Answer: Some situations may require a referral to industrial hygienist to determine the route, duration, and frequency of exposures.**

## Acronym list

Acronym	Meaning
AADEP	American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians
AAW	Average Annual Wage
ABIME	American Board of Independent Medical Examiners
ACS	Affiliated Computer Services (current medical bill pay contractor)
ADL	Activities of Daily Living
ADP	Automated Data Processing
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AMA's Guides	American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment
ANRSD	Amended NIOSH Referral Summary Document
ARLD	Asbestos Related Lung Disease
AWE	Atomic Weapons Employer
BAL	Bronchoalveolar Lavage
Be	Beryllium
BeS	Beryllium Sensitivity
BOTA	Branch of Outreach and Technical Assistance
BPA	Bill Pay Agent
CAT	Computerized Axial Tomography
CATI	Computer Assisted Telephone Interview - held by NIOSH for DRs
CBD	Chronic Beryllium Disease
CE	Claims Examiner
CE2	Claims Examiner who can work on cases assigned to the Final Adjudication Branch
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLL	Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
CMC	Contract Medical Consultant
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPT	Current Procedure Terminology
CPWR	Center to Protect Workers Rights
CT	Computed Tomography
DAR	Document Acquisition Request
DD	District Director
DEEOIC	Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation

Acronym	Meaning
DME	Durable Medical Equipment
DMS	District Medical Scheduler
DO	District Office
DoD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DR	Dose Reconstruction
DRG	Diagnosis Related Group
ECS	Energy Compensation System
EE-1	Employee Claim for Benefits form
EE-2	Survivor Claim for Benefits form
EE-3	Employment History
EE-4	Employment History Affidavit
EEOICPA	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (the Act)
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer
ERDA	Energy Research and Development Administration (pre DOE)
FAB	Final Adjudication Branch
FAB DO	FAB District Office
FO	Fiscal Officer
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FTR	Federal Travel Regulations
FWP	Former Worker Program
GTR	Government Travel Regulations
HHA	Home Health Aide
HHS	Health and Human Services
HP	Health Physicist
HR	FAB Hearing Representative
ICD-9	International Coding of Diseases
IH	Industrial Hygienist
IM	Intramuscular
IREP	Interactive RadioEpidemiological Program
IREP-EE	IREP-EE- Enterprise Edition used for POCs between 45 and 50%

Acronym	Meaning
IV	Intravenous
LPN	Licensed Practical Nurse
LPT	Lymphocyte Proliferation Test (Same as BeLPT)
LTT	Lymphocyte Transformation Test (Same as BeLTT)
MMI	Maximum medical improvement
NDC	National Drug Code
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NO	National Office
NRSD	NIOSH Referral Summary Document
OCAS	NIOSH's Office of Compensation Analysis and Support
OCAS-1	NIOSH form to be signed by claimant after DR
OHQ	Occupational History Questionnaire
ORISE	Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education
OWCP	Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
PA	Privacy Act
PCA	Payee Change Assistant
PEP	Program Evaluation Plan
PER	Program Evaluation Report
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
PM	Procedure Manual
PoC	Probability of Causation
POC	Point of Contact
POV	Privately Owned Vehicle
RC	Resource Center
RD	Recommended Decision
RECA	Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
SEC	Special Exposure Cohort
SEM	Site Exposure Matrices
SIR	ACS's "Stored Information Retrieval" system where bills are stored.
SOAF	Statement of Accepted Facts
SOL	Solicitor of Labor
SSA	Social Security Administration
SWC	State Workers' Compensation
TAs	Technical Assistants

Acronym	Meaning
WCA	Workers Compensation Assistants

## Evaluation Form

We value your opinion. Please rate the following:

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Organization of subject matter				
Explanation of key concepts				
Presenter's knowledge of subject				
Presentation was clear and understandable				
Appropriate pace for training				
Relevance of training material				
Correct level of detail				
Exercise content was appropriate				
Examples were clear and helpful				

Which topics were most beneficial to you?


Which topics were least beneficial to you?



