

# THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE EEOICPA



JOINT OUTREACH TASK GROUP  
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO – APRIL 10, 2024

# HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

October 2004 – Congress passed legislation creating the Office of the Ombudsman for the EEOICPA.



Image of Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

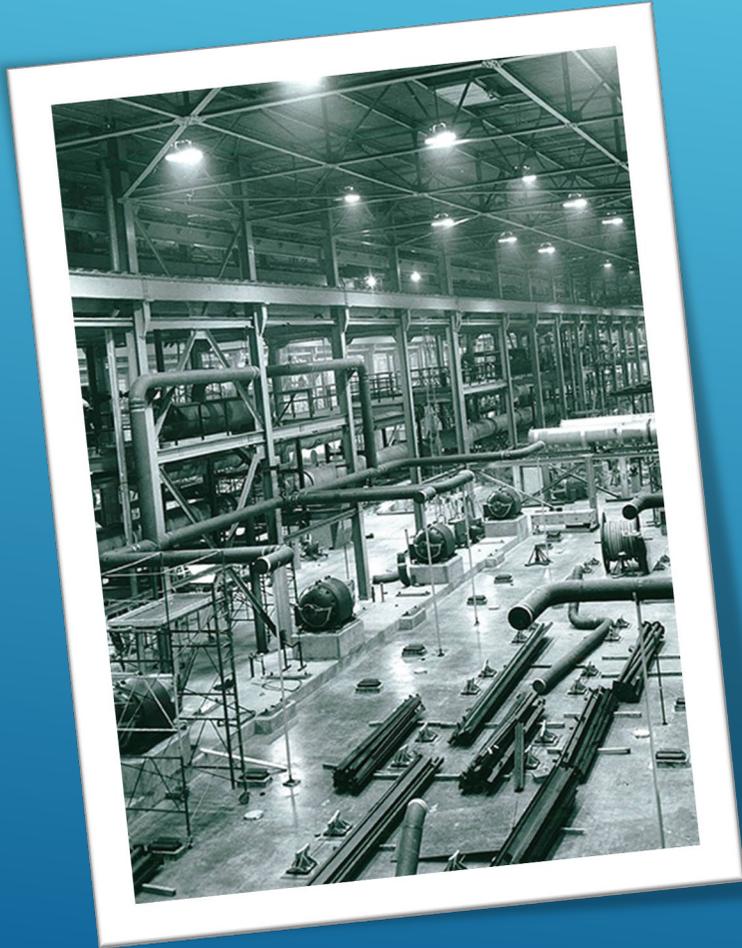
- The Office of the Ombudsman is an **INDEPENDENT OFFICE** within the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).
- The Office of the Ombudsman is **SEPARATE** from the DOL Energy Program that makes decisions on your EEOICPA claims.
- All communication with the Office of the Ombudsman is **CONFIDENTIAL**.

# DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- Provide information on the benefits available under the EEOICPA.
- Providing guidance and assistance to claimants, be it general information about the program or case specific.
- Submits an annual report to Congress which includes:
  - a) The number and types of complaints, grievances and requests for assistance received during the year.
  - b) An assessment of the most common difficulties encountered by claimants during the year.
  - c) Recommendations for the improvement of the EEOICPA program.

## THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE DOES NOT:

- **Make decisions on claims.**
- **Serve as an Authorized Representative or advocate.**
- **Ask Congress to change the law.**



# HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We assist claimants, attorneys, lay representatives, health care providers, congressional staff and others.
- We explain, review, and discuss the EEOICPA claim development and benefit processes.
- We answer questions and provide assistance to individuals encountering difficulties with their claims.

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# HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

- We are available to speak to individuals on a one-on-one basis and we communicate with individuals by email.
- We participate in outreach efforts to provide information to the public about the program.
- We identify and discuss EEOICPA concerns in our annual report to Congress.

# USEFUL INFORMATION

Current and former DOE/DOE contractor employees may use the Claim for Benefits (Form EE-1) for the following reasons:

- To file an initial claim.
- To file a claim for new illnesses as they are diagnosed (e.g., additional cancers, or respiratory issues).
- If a claim is accepted for medical benefits, then the EE-1 form can be used to file a claim for a consequential condition.
- A consequential condition occurs when a covered illness or treatment for that covered illness, results in a new illness or injury. **You must write “Consequential Condition” on the EE-1 form when filing for the new illness or injury.**

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# USEFUL INFORMATION

- If an employee's claim is accepted for medical benefits under Part E of the Act, they can, using Form EN-11A (Impairment Benefits Response form), file a claim for impairment benefits.
- A claim for impairment benefits may be filed every two years, or possibly sooner, if you have a newly accepted primary or consequential medical condition.
- Using Form EE-2, a survivor of an employee may file a claim for benefits based on the employee's illness.

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

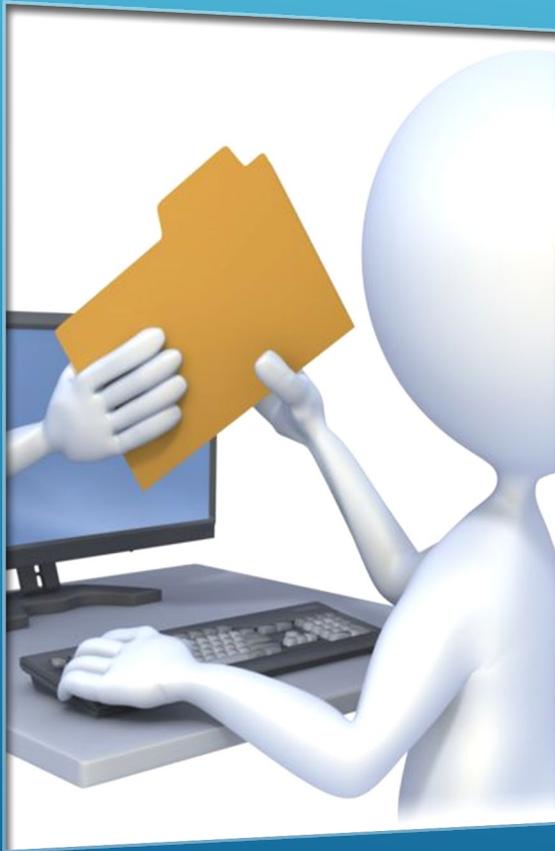


- **Make sure you have reported any/all potentially covered employment to the Energy Program. Review your Occupational History Interview for completeness and accuracy. If you remember additional information, send it in writing to your Claims Examiner.**
- **You may request a copy of your claim file at any time, even before the recommended decision is issued. You may also request a copy of any *part* of your claim file such as your employment and exposure records. The request must be in writing.**

# Policy Updates

- **The employment criteria for acceptance of hearing loss claims has been modified. An employee with any ten (10) year period of consecutive employment is potentially covered as long as they meet the toxic exposure and noise criteria.**
- **The medical criteria for acceptance of beryllium sensitivity has been updated. A claim for beryllium sensitivity will be accepted under Part B based on evidence of three (3) borderline beryllium blood test results (BeLPT/BeLTT) over a period of 3 consecutive years.**

# WAYS TO ELECTRONICALLY REVIEW YOUR FILE AND SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION



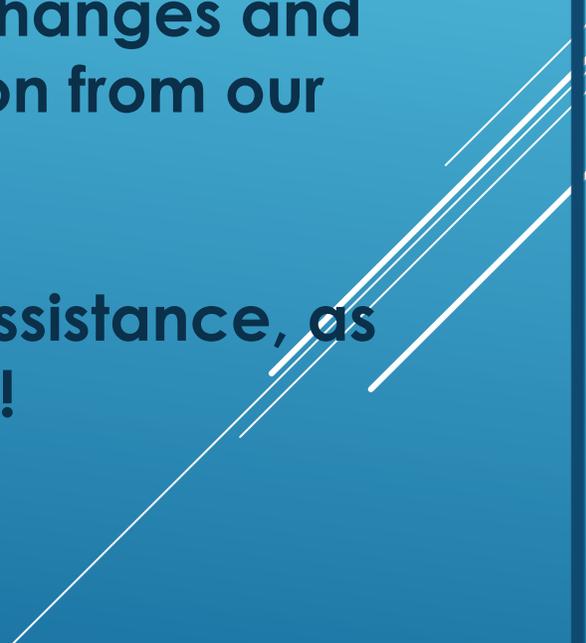
- **Electronic Document Portal (EDP)**-allows claimants and authorized representatives to submit documents into the case file.
- **Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal (ECOMP)**-allows claimants and authorized representatives to review certain documents in the case file.
- **Medical Bill Processing Portal** (for claimants and health care providers)
- **Pharmacy Bill Processing Portal** (for claimants and pharmacy providers)

# **YOUR OPINION AND FEEDBACK MATTERS**

**The Department of Labor and Congress are interested in what you have to say.**

**The Energy program is constantly making program changes and updates. You can ask us questions or seek information from our office at any time.**

**If you have complaints, grievances, or requests for assistance, as well as good things to say, we want to hear from you!**

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# OFFICE of the OMBUDSMAN TEAM

**Amanda Fallon, Ombuds**

**Curtis Johnson, Program Analyst**

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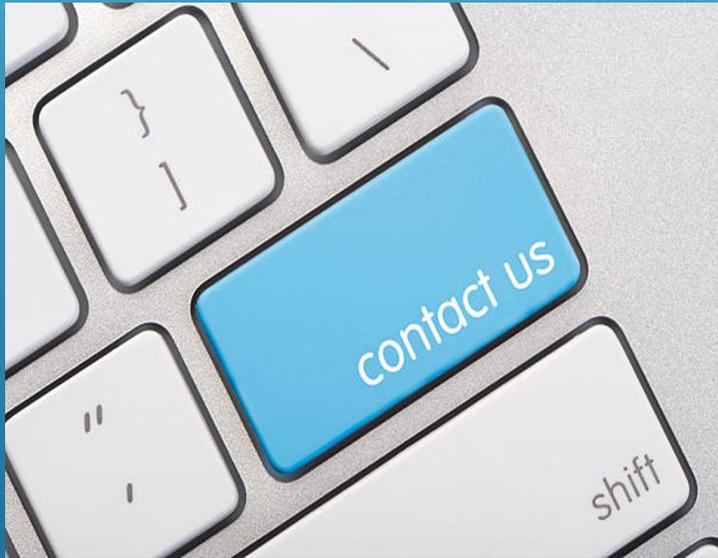
**Betty Jo Fortune, Program Analyst**

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# OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION



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