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Simonds workers eligible for more medical benefits

By Joe Olenick

— The US Department of Labor is notifying all former Simonds Saw and Steel Co. Lockport employees who worked at the company's Ohio Street site about a new group of employees added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

The act provides compensation and medical benefits to workers who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry. Survivors of qualified workers may also be entitled to benefits.

Those who were added would be those who worked at least 250 workdays in the Lockport facility between Jan. 1, 1948, through Dec. 31, 1957.

A worker who is included in an SEC class of employees, and who is diagnosed with one of 22 specified cancers, may receive a presumption of causation under the EEOICPA.

On Jan. 6 the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services designated that all employees of the U.S. Department of Energy, its predecessor agencies, as well as their contractors and subcontractors who worked at the Simonds Saw and Steel Co. would be covered by the EEOICPA.

To date, more than \$10.4 million in compensation and medical benefits has been paid to 116 eligible Simonds Saw and Steel Co. claimants under the EEOICPA, while more than \$6.7 billion in compensation and medical benefits has been paid nationwide.

For additional information about the new SEC or to schedule an appointment for claim-filing assistance, people can contact the department's New York Resource Center toll-free at 800-941-3943.



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