



## WORKERS' SPOTLIGHT

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### UPDATING THE SITE EXPOSURE MATRICES



In 2013, the Department of Labor (DOL) will be working with selected Department of Energy (DOE) sites to update the EEOICPA Site Exposure Matrices (SEM). DOL created the original SEM database in 2006 and 2007, working closely with DOE sites to gather the data. Many of the current DOE EEOICPA site contacts were involved in this original effort, so will know that the original projects were quite extensive. The creation of the initial SEM involved the identification and review of thousands of boxes of records, detailed interviews with site experts, roundtable meetings with former workers, and a yearlong effort to review the final product to make the full version of the SEM available to the public.

Recently, DOL approached DOE-HSS about facilitating an update of the SEM database. DOL is primarily interested in two things:

1. Information on new site activities that have taken place since 2006. This would include new buildings, projects, initiatives, hazards, remediation efforts, etc.

2. Records that would fill in existing gaps in the historical information already in the SEM. Given the complexity of the operations at the DOE sites over the last 60 years, DOL will never be able to make the SEM 100% complete, but they have identified certain gaps in the historical information in SEM that they will be revisiting. DOL will also be relying on the DOE sites to help identify those gaps where possible and locate records that will address the issue.

We do not anticipate that the update process proposed by DOL will be nearly as exhaustive as the initial effort. In early 2013 we will be working with DOL and the Oak Ridge National Lab to conduct a pilot project for the SEM update. This pilot will provide us with more detailed information on what DOL needs, so we can provide other sites with a better idea of what to expect. We will be contacting sites in the spring to initiate additional projects.

### A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Greg Lewis

As we look forward to 2013 and gear up for what we hope will be another successful year, I would like to pause and reflect on a few of the noteworthy accomplishments from 2012. Of course the Secure Electronic Records Transfer (SERT) system for EEOICPA, and the expansion of the Early Lung Cancer Detection (ELCD) program for the Former Worker Program (FWP) were two of the most significant accomplishments, but there were many more.

Due to the hard work of the DOE and contractor site staff, we were able to respond to over 16,000 records requests on behalf of EEOICPA claimants. The FWP was able to screen over 8,000 individuals. We facilitated EEOICPA research in one form or another at almost every major DOE site and there were successful outreach events held near many DOE sites resulting in screening exams and EEOICPA claims. In addition there were smaller success stories like a screening exam identifying a potentially

serious condition and the FWP staff helping an individual get to the right place for immediate treatment, or a site EEOICPA staff using their knowledge of the site to find a vital record that helped a person's claim.

It is satisfying to look back on our accomplishments and know that we were able to help many people who are facing a difficult situation, either finding out about a possible illness, or fighting for compensation for themselves or a loved one.

Even when we find a disease in  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE *cont.*

the early stages, or find records that lead to compensation, the individual and their family have to deal with the illness. The staff members working on both the FWP and the EEOICPA programs keep that in mind every day and although the process is not always easy, we hope the people we serve feel our compassion for their situation.

I also want to offer a sincere thank you to all who worked on both programs this year. Your efforts keep these programs going and we appreciate all that you do. We hope you are able to enjoy the holidays with your loved ones and are looking forward to the coming year.

## Calendar of Events January



- |    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 2  | 7:15 am  | X-10 Retiree Meeting<br>Shoney's, 204 South Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN   |
|    | 9:00 am  | Inspector Group<br>Shoney's, Oak Ridge, TN  |
| 3  | 9:00 am  | Asbestos Retirees Meeting<br>Shoney's, Lake City, TN  |
|    | 11:00    | Guards Meeting<br>Shorney's, 204 South Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, TN  |
|    | 6:00pm   | Meeting for the Alliance of Grandfathered Retirees and Employees<br>USW Union Hall, 133 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, TN |
| 8  | 9:00 am  | Plant and Equipment Meeting<br>Shoney's, 1100 US 321, Lenior City, TN   |
| 9  | 9:00 am  | Guards Meeting<br>Shoney's, Oak Ridge, TN   |
|    | 4:30 pm  | ATLC Council Meeting<br>ATLC Union Hall, 109 Viking Road, Oak Ridge, TN   |
| 15 | 12:00 pm | Machinist Local 480 Meeting<br>Local 480 Hall, 101 E Lincoln Road, Oak Ridge, TN                                    |
|    | 5:00 pm  | Gage Lab<br>Gondolier Restaurant, 792 Briarcliff Ave, Oak Ridge, TN   |
| 16 | 2:00 pm  | Coalition of Oak Ridge Retirees<br>Oak Ridge Senior Center, 728 Emory Valley Road, Oak Ridge, TN                    |
| 17 | 11:30 am | Mound Retiree Luncheon<br>8870 Kingsridge Drive, Miamisburg, OH   |

For a complete list of calendar events, visit:  
[http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events\\_calendars.html](http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html)

## PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN MEDICINE AND RESEARCH

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) held their *2012 Advancing Ethical Research Conference: Guided by Principles in an Era of Change* in San Diego, California, December 4-6. The conference was co-sponsored by PRIM&R and Boston University in collaboration with the Association of American Medical Colleges. PRIM&R's mission is to advance the highest ethical standards in the conduct of biomedical and social science/behavioral research. They accomplish this mission through education, membership services, professional certification, and public policy initiatives. The PRIM&R conference provided a venue for research professionals to come together to exchange ideas, discuss best practices, and confer with one another about the complex ethical issues raised by research with human subjects.

This year's conference was attended by nearly 3,000 individuals from hospitals, universities, the Federal government, industry, and other research institutions. Among the attendees was the Program Manager for the HSS-funded Former Worker Medical Screening Program, who also serves as a member of the Management Team overseeing the Central DOE Institutional Review Board. Attendees acquired information, learned new strategies, and developed essential skill sets through a series of 14 plenary sessions, as well as via their participation in over 130 highly practical workshops and didactic sessions.

Next year's conference is scheduled for November 7-9, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts. Additional information regarding PRIM&R may be found on their website at:  
<http://www.primr.org/>.

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