

Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP)



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Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (EHSS)

U.S. Department of Energy

A Basic Overview of the

Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP)

OVERVIEW

This pamphlet has been developed by the Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (EHSS) as part of its outreach and awareness campaign to advance the Department of Energy (DOE) mission. Specifically, it provides important information to inform former and current DOE Federal, contractor, and subcontractor employees about potentially lifesaving benefits and services offered under the DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP).

FWP was established following the issuance of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (PL 102-484), which called for DOE to assist workers with determining whether they had health issues related to their work at a DOE facility. FWP offers free medical screening to workers for potential adverse health effects related to occupational exposures, such as beryllium, asbestos, silica, welding fumes, lead, cadmium, chromium, and solvents. The medical screening exams are administered by third party providers through cooperative agreements with DOE. This is to ensure objective evaluation of workers' health in relation to their prior workplace exposures by independent physicians with expertise in occupational medicine.

A critical goal of FWP is to reach out to as many of the estimated 600,000 former employees who have worked in the DOE complex, or for its predecessor Agencies, during the past 60-plus years. One strategy that DOE relies on to accomplish this goal is by making the screening examinations conveniently available to workers regardless of where they currently reside.

EHSS manages and administers the FWP, as well as DOE's support to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, which is administered by the Department of Labor. These are two of the most important programs within EHSS and have the unwavering commitment and support of DOE's senior leadership. The Department views these programs as a moral commitment to repay the huge debt that the country owes the former and current workers for their efforts to strengthen the national defense, advance basic science and technology, and promote the energy security of the United States.

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What is the Former Worker Medical Screening Program?

The Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) is a congressionally mandated activity that was established to check for potential adverse health effects related to occupational exposures such as beryllium, asbestos, silica, welding fumes, lead, cadmium, chromium, and solvents.

FWP was established following the issuance of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (PL 102-484), which called for the Department of Energy (DOE) to assist workers with determining whether they had health issues related to their prior work with DOE.

Medical screening efforts were initiated in 1996. Medical screening is a strategy used to identify diseases or conditions in a select population at an early stage, often before signs and symptoms develop, and to refer individuals with suspicious findings to their personal physician or a specialist for diagnosis and treatment.

The components of the screening examination are based on an individual's work and exposure history. The screening exam may include a physical exam, chest x-ray, breathing test, hearing exam, basic blood work, and urinalysis, as well as specialized blood and urine tests for certain at-risk individuals.

How does DOE Implement the Former Worker Medical Screening Program?

The FWP program is managed and coordinated by the Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security (EHSS) within DOE. The medical screening exams are offered by third-party providers from universities, labor unions, and commercial organizations with expertise in administration of medical screening programs.

Screening locations have been established throughout the country to make it convenient for the workers to obtain services close to their residence. This arrangement makes certain that workers receive an independent evaluation of their health in relation to their prior workplace exposures by qualified physicians with expertise in occupational medicine.

The unique characteristics of FWP include the sheer size of the program infrastructure, vast nationwide geographic coverage of the program, the large number of potential program participants requiring medical screening, and the program's diverse stakeholders. These challenging factors necessitate DOE instituting robust program management, stringent quality assurance, and proactive performance monitoring of program implementation.

How does DOE Implement the Former Worker Medical Screening Program? (Continued)

To provide effective implementation of FWP, EHSS performs several key functions, including:

- Establishing program-wide policies and procedures, including provisions to ensure confidentiality and privacy of program participants;
- Developing program implementation guides, including medical protocols and reporting of results, to ensure consistency on the level, quality, and delivery of services provided;
- Providing program management, fiscal oversight, and performance monitoring of seven separate projects held by consortia of universities, unions, and commercial organizations with expertise in administration of medical programs;
- Securing and establishing the necessary infrastructure to meet the medical screening needs and demands of the program participants in a timely fashion;
- Interfacing and coordinating with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including worker representatives, labor unions, worker advocates, DOE Institutional Review Boards (IRB), DOE Program Offices, local and State entities and elected officials, and congressional representatives;
- Facilitating communication within and outside of the program to share lessons learned and program-related developments. A key outcome of this process is improved workplace hazard control practices to prevent or reduce negative health effects for current and future workers;
- Publishing and disseminating deidentified program information using the DOE Comprehensive Epidemiologic Data Resource, which is a web-based public-use repository for DOE-sponsored public health and environmental-related activities, to allow outside researchers access to FWP data:
- Proactively reaching out to DOE Program Offices to identify former workers and ensure current workers are provided FWP program information as they retire/terminate from the site; and
- Complementing the Department of Labor's (DOL) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program as the FWP offers former DOE workers medical evaluations that are conducted by expert occupational medicine physicians, providing both the workers and the DOL claims examiners with objective information for decision-making about the appropriateness of compensation.

Who is Eligible to Participate in the Former Worker Medical Screening Program?

Any former DOE Federal, contractor, and subcontractor worker who has worked with hazardous substances is encouraged to enroll. Examples of hazardous substances include:

- Asbestos;
- Beryllium;
- Radioactive substances; and
- Metal welding fumes.

There are approximately 600,000 former workers believed to have worked within the DOE complex, or for its predecessor Agencies, during the past 60-plus years, who are eligible to participate in the program.



Department of Energy, Hanford Site

What are the Benefits of Participation in the Former Worker Medical Screening Program?

FWP offers former DOE workers with the opportunity to obtain an independent, objective assessment of their health in relation to their prior workplace exposures by a physician with expertise in occupational medicine. The exam is free and affords workers the opportunity to be screened for work-related diseases, which if caught early, may be treated.

The screening exam is comprehensive and uniquely designed to provide workers with an evaluation of their health related to potential occupational exposures, as well as a general assessment of their overall health. Workers who participate in the medical screening program are eligible for a rescreening exam 3 years after their initial examination. Participants will be notified by their screening program when they are eligible for a rescreen examination.

The exams are delivered by a nationwide network of medical clinics; therefore, workers can be served in close proximity to where they live. The components of the screening examination may include a physical exam, chest x-ray, breathing test, hearing test, basic blood work, and urinalysis, as well as specialized blood and urine tests depending on the individual's work and exposure history. This screening is designed to test for a number of conditions, such as:

- Chronic respiratory diseases;
- Hearing loss;
- Liver and kidney problems; and
- Some forms of cancer.

Exam results, including any incidental findings discovered during the screening exam, that pose a potential concern are reported to the participant through a results letter. The results letter also includes recommendations for further evaluation and follow up. Participants may also request a copy of their results be sent to their personal physician. Most participants of FWP have been reassured that they have not experienced any adverse health conditions due to occupational exposures. However, participants with findings that are consistent with a potential occupationally related disease are referred to the DOL for possible compensation under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). EEOICPA provides compensation to former workers for illnesses that may be related to their employment at a DOE facility.

DOL's Resource Centers are available around the United States to assist workers with applying for claims under EEOICPA. The 11 Resource Centers help employees and their families file for benefits under EEOICPA. To view a map of the locations and the regions they service, please visit:

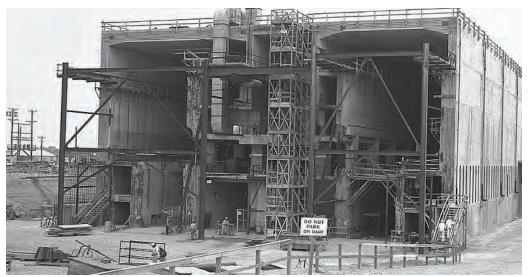
http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/ResourceMeetings/ResourceCenters.htm

What are the Benefits of Participation in the Former Worker Medical Screening Program? (Continued)

If you receive a medical screening exam through FWP and a potentially work-related condition is identified, or if you currently believe you have an occupational illness caused by your work at a DOE facility, please contact DOL or one of its Resource Centers.

You may contact the Resource Center near you through one of the toll-free numbers:

Location	Phone Number
Livermore, California	(866) 606-6302
Westminster, Colorado	(866) 540-4977
Idaho Falls, Idaho	(800) 861-8608
Paducah, Kentucky	(866) 534-0599
Las Vegas, Nevada	(866) 697-0841
Espanola, New Mexico	(866) 272-3622
Amherst, New York	(800) 941-3943
Portsmouth, Ohio	(866) 363-6993
North Augusta, South Carolina	(866) 666-4606
Oak Ridge, Tennessee	(866) 481-0411
Richland, Washington	(888) 654-0014



Department of Energy, Savannah River Site - H Canyon circa 1950s Under Construction

What Type of Medical Screening is Offered by the Former Worker Medical Screening Program?

The FWP uses a customized medical screening protocol that was developed by a team of independent physicians specializing in occupational medicine. The components of the protocol include tests targeted to screen for selected adverse health effects specific to the exposures encountered by workers at DOE facilities.

The medical screening protocol provides a list of the hazards, the organs targeted by the hazard, potential health outcomes, screening tests, and tests offered during rescreen exams within the FWP. The protocol can be viewed online at:

http://www.energy.gov/ehss/downloads/former-worker-program- medical-protocol

If you do not have access to a computer, a copy can be requested by calling (301) 903-1613.



Department of Energy, Savannah River Site - Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Under Construction

What type of Medical Screening is Performed to Detect Beryllium Sensitization?

A Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Test (BeLPT) is offered to participants who were exposed to beryllium during their work for DOE. BeLPT is a blood test used to detect how an individual's lymphocytes (disease-fighting white blood cells) react to beryllium. If these lymphocytes react to the beryllium in a specific way, the test is considered "abnormal." If they do not react to beryllium, the test is "normal." Experts believe that BeLPT shows "abnormal" results in individuals who have become "sensitized" or "allergic" to beryllium.

At present, it is unclear what this sensitization means. Studies have shown it to be an early sign of chronic beryllium disease (CBD) in some individuals. In others, sensitization might simply mean that the person was exposed to beryllium and that his or her body has reacted. It might also mean that an individual is more likely than others to develop CBD. Employees are being offered BeLPT because doctors believe it is useful in detecting cases of CBD early or cases that might otherwise be missed or diagnosed as another type of lung problem.

At the same time that a blood sample is taken for BeLPT, additional tests may be offered including:

- Chest x-rays;
- Breathing tests called pulmonary function studies; and
- Physical examination.

If you have an abnormal BeLPT, FWP will refer you to DOL for more information on filing a claim under EEOICPA. We encourage you to work with your personal physician to determine follow-up testing to check for CBD.

Where can I Receive Medical Screening?

The medical screening is provided by a vast network of resources throughout the country, including major U.S. universities and medical schools, national health care delivery systems, major labor unions, and local health care facilities.

Screening clinics are located in the vicinity of most major DOE sites. In addition, DOE offers access to a large nationwide system of health clinics that are centrally coordinated to serve former workers who no longer live in close proximity to their former site.

Table 1 provides a listing of available resources that can be contacted by former workers to receive medical screening.

Table 1: Listing of Available Medical Screening Providers

State	DOE Site ¹	Worker Population/Medical Screening Program Provider	Local Office Location and Phone
Alaska	Amchitka Island	All workers, primarily construction CPWR – The Center for Construction Research & Training (CPWR) [The Building Trades National Medical Screening Program] (BTMed)]	(800) 866-9663
California	Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	All workers Queens College (QC) [Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP)]	(866) 460-0628
	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	All workers QC/WHPP	(866) 460-0628
	Sandia National Laboratories (Livermore, CA)	All workers QC/WHPP	(866) 460-0628
Colorado	Rocky Flats	Production workers Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) [National Supplemental Screening Program (NSSP)]	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	Labor's Community Agency, AFL-CIO 7510 W. Mississippi Ave. Suite 230 Lakewood, CO 80226 Phone: (303)744-6169, Ext. 11 or (800) 866-9663
Florida	Pinellas	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(800) 866-9663
Idaho	Argonne National Laboratory- West (now Idaho National Laboratory)	Production workers United Steelworkers (USW)/WHPP	1055 Austin Ave. Idaho Falls, ID 83404 (208) 522-4748 or (888) 241-1199

¹ Sites listed are primary sites served, but multiple small sites are also served by CPWR, through the BTMed, for construction workers and by ORAU, through the NSSP, for production workers.

Table 1: Listing of Available Medical Screening Providers (Continued)

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State	DOE Site ¹	Worker Population/Medical Screening Program Provider	Local Office Location and Phone
Idaho (Continued)	Argonne National Laboratory-West (now Idaho National Laboratory) (Continued)	Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	456 N. Arthur Ave. Pocatello, ID 83204 (208) 233-4611 or (800) 866-9663
	Idaho National Laboratory	Production workers USW/WHPP	1055 Austin Ave. Idaho Falls, ID 83404 208) 522-4748 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	456 N. Arthur Ave. Pocatello, ID 83204 (208) 233-4611 or (800) 866-9663
Illinois	Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory	All workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
	Argonne National Laboratory	All workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
F A	Iowa Army Ammunition Plant	All Line 1/Division B workers University of Iowa (U of I)	(866) 282-5818
	Ames Laboratory	All workers U of I	(866) 282-5818
Kentucky	Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant	Production workers USW/WHPP	2525 Cairo Road Paducah, KY 42001 (270) 442-3789, (270) 566-4489 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	1930 North 13th Street Paducah, KY 42001 (270) 443-2850 or (888) 464-0009
Missouri	Kansas City Plant	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	Roofers Union Local 20 6321 Blue Ridge Blvd. Raytown, MO 64133 Phone: (816) 313-6916 or (800) 866-9663
	Mallinckrodt & Weldon Spring	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(208) 233-4611 or (800) 866-9663

Table 1: Listing of Available Medical Screening Providers (Continued)

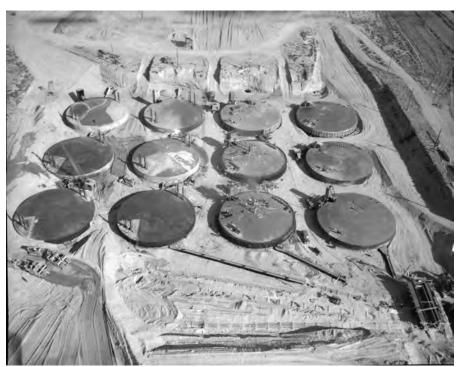
V. C.			
State	DOE Site ¹	Worker Population/Medical Screening Program Provider	Local Office Location and Phone
Nevada	Nevada National Security Site and Other DOE Locations in Las Vegas	All workers QC/WHPP	(877) 771-7977
New Jersey	Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory	All workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
New Mexico Los Alamos National	Los Alamos	All workers Johns Hopkins University (JHU)	Espanola Medical Arts Building 600 Fairview Ln., Ste. F Espanola, NM 87532 (877) 500-8615 or (505)-753-0193
	Sandia National Laboratories	All workers JHU	(877) 500-8615
	Waste Isolation Pilot Project	Production workers USW/WHPP	(888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	800) 866-9663
National	Brookhaven National Laboratory	Production workers QC/WHPP	(888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	300 Motor Parkway Suite 200, Hauppauge, NY 11788 (631) 813-2725 or (888) 464-0009
Battelle King A W. Jeff	Ashtabula	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(888) 464-0009 or (513) 681-0864
	Battelle Labs – King Ave. & W. Jefferson	Production Workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(888) 464-0009 or (513) 681-0864
	Brush Luckey	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	866) 812-6703
		Construction Workers CPWR/BTMed	888) 464-0009 or (513) 681-0864

Table 1: Listing of Available Medical Screening Providers (Continued)

State	DOE Site ¹	Worker Population/Medical Screening Program Provider	Local Office Location and Phone
Ohio (Continued)	Fernald	Production workers Fernald Settlement Fund and QC/WHPP	1150 Harrison Ave. Suite 106 (513) 367-1333 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	1550 Chase Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45223 (513) 681-0864 or (888) 464-0009
	Mound	Production workers USW/WHPP	113 East Central Ave. W. Carrollton, OH 45449 (937) 866-6802 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(888) 464-0009 or (513) 681-0864
	Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant	Production workers USW/WHPP	USW Local 689 PO Box 467 2288 Wakefield Mound Rd. Piketon, Ohio 45661 (740) 289-2405 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	1236 Gallia St. Portsmouth, OH 45662 (888) 464-0009 or (740) 353-8808
Pennsylvania	National Energy Technology Laboratory	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	(888) 464-0009 or (513) 681-0864
	Savannah River Site	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	1250 A Reynolds St. Augusta, GA 30901 (706) 722-7272 or (800) 866-9663 or (800) 595-6729
Tennessee	Oak Ridge (K-25)	Production workers USW/WHPP	133 Raleigh Road Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 481-3394 or 3395 or (888) 241-1199
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	708 South Illinois Avenue, Suite E103 Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (888) 464-0009 or (865) 481-0009

Table 1: Listing of Available Medical Screening Providers (Continued)

State	DOE Site ¹	Worker Population/Medical Screening Program Provider	Local Office Location and Phone
Tennessee (Continued) Oak Ridge (Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Y-12)	Production workers QC/WHPP	109 Viking Rd. Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-8471 or (800) 906-2019	
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	708 South Illinois Ave., Suite E103 Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (888) 464-0009 or (865) 481-0009
Texas	Pantex	All workers Drexel University	(888) 378-8939
Washington	Hanford	Production workers ORAU/NSSP	(866) 812-6703
		Construction workers CPWR/BTMed	3021 W. Clearwater Ave., Suite 204 Kennewick, WA 99336 (509) 783-6830 or (800) 866-9663



Hanford Tanks circa 1944 Under Construction

How is My Privacy Protected?

DOE is required by the Privacy Act of 1974 as amended at title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a to ensure that individually identifiable information is properly protected when disclosed as a routine use to DOE program award recipients.

The individual programs that hold cooperative agreements with DOE and its contractors are mandated to comply with the Privacy Act and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules. All personal information gathered from you for this program will be kept strictly confidential. FWP and the entities that support the program will not release any personal or identifying information about you without your consent, except when required by law.

Other individuals who may require access to your records include:

- Staff or physicians associated with the DOE-funded organizations providing medical screening services to former DOE workers;
- Medical staff at the local health clinic providing medical exams; and
- Medical specialists who provide for additional medical treatment or tests.

Data files without any information that can identify you may be used by the DOE-funded organizations conducting the medical screening or other researchers to better understand the types of risks that you and other workers have been exposed to, or to determine how well this program has met its objectives. Statistical analysis or research using data from this program may be published or presented at scientific meetings, but you will not be identified personally.

In addition to the privacy rights, the rights and welfare of any participant in former worker medical screening or research performed under DOE authorities is of prime importance to the Department. All such activities must comply with Federal regulations and DOE requirements that address the protection of human subjects, including review and approval by applicable IRBs. DOE policy regarding the protection of human subjects is established in the Federal Policy adopted by DOE June 18, 1991, as title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), part 745, "Protection of Human Subjects."

(http://humansubjects.energy.gov/worker-studies/files/cfrtext.pdf) and expressed in DOE Order 443.1B, "Protection of Human Subjects."

https://www.directives.doe.gov/directives-documents/400-series/0443.1-BOrder-b.

For more information about DOE Human Subjects Protection Program, please visit: http://humansubjects.energy.gov.

Where Can I Receive Additional Information and Assistance?

There are several ways for you to receive additional information and assistance. Specifically, you can directly contact:

- Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support, AU-14, Office of Health and Safety, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585
 - Ms. Mary Fields, FWP Program Manager, <u>mary.fields@hq.doe.gov</u>, (301) 903-1613.
- Medical Screening Providers (points of contact listed in Table 1).
- Web-based resources, provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Available Web Resources and Information Sources

Source/Material	Url/Web Address
FWP Web site	http://www.energy.gov/ehss/services/worker-health-and-safety/former-worker-medical-screening-program
FWP Annual Report	http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/2013-former-worker-medical-screening-program-annual-report
FWP Medical Protocol	http://www.energy.gov/ehss/downloads/former-worker-program-medical-protocol
DOE CBD Awareness Web site	https://ehss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/fwsp/advocacy/cbd/
Outreach Event Calendar for DOE Workers	http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/joint-outreach-task-group- jotg-upcoming-events
DOL Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP)	http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/index.htm
NIOSH Office of Compensation Analysis and Support	http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas/
DOL Office of the Ombudsman for EEOICPA	http://www.dol.gov/eeombd/
Checklist for Individuals with an Abnormal BeLPT	http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/checklist-individuals-abnormal-belpt
Medical Facilities with Experience Evaluating CBD	http://energy.gov/ehss/downloads/former-workers-medical-facilities-experience-evaluating-chronic-beryllium-disease
DOE Human Subjects Protection Program	http://humansubjects.energy.gov/
Beryllium Screening - Informed Choice Document	http://humansubjects.energy.gov/doe-resources/files/guidance-informed-choice-be-test.pdf
CBD Information-National Jewish Health	http://www.nationaljewish.org/healthinfo/conditions/beryllium-disease/index.aspx

Table 2: Available Web Resources and Information Sources (Continued)

Source/Material	Url/Web Address
Beryllium Information Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE)	http://orise.orau.gov/worker-health-studies/capabilities/beryllium-exposure-studies-testing/default.aspx
Building Trades National Medical Screening Program	http://www.btmed.org/default.cfm
Medical Exam Program for Former Workers at LANL	http://www.jhsph.edu/LANLFW/index.html
Former Worker Medical Screening Program for Burlington Atomic Energy Commission Plant and Ames Laboratory	http://cph.uiowa.edu/lowaFWP/
Worker Health Protection Program	http://www.worker-health.org/
National Supplemental Screening Program	http://www.orau.org/nssp/



Department of Energy, Savannah River Site

Points of Contact

For additional information or assistance, please contact:

■ Patricia R. Worthington, PhD Director, Office of Health and Safety, AU-10 Office of Health, Safety and Security Phone: (301) 903-5926 pat.worthington@hg.doe.gov

Gregory Lewis

Director, Office of Worker Screening and Compensation Support, AU-14 Office of Health and Safety Phone: (202) 586-2407 gregory.lewis@hq.doe.gov