



January 8, 2020

Eugene Scalia,
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Office Building
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Subject: Expanded Roles for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program's Ombudsman and the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health

Dear Secretary Scalia:

The Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups (ANWAG) wishes to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

ANWAG is a national advocacy group that has continually monitored the implementation of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000, as amended (EEOICPA). Some of the founding advocates were, in fact, responsible for getting the EEOICPA enacted in the year 2000. This landmark legislation was intended to correct decades-old injustices perpetrated on our nuclear weapons workers; to ensure that these workers, who were unknowingly exposed to highly toxic substances at Department of Energy (DOE) facilities, would receive fair compensation for the illnesses they incurred.

We are confident that you are aware of the expanded responsibilities to the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health (ABTSWH) and EEOICPA Ombudsman provided by the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

ABTSWH has requested that DOL provide a support contractor to assist with their review of the program. We are pleased that Ms. Julia Hearthway, Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Program committed on December 18, 2019 to,

Confer with the Board's Chair to explore options for providing contractor support in fulfilling its legislative mandate.

In light of the fact that both of the two terms of ABTSWH members requested this support, it is ANWAG's position that it is imperative that ABTSWH's request be expedited and that DOL immediately confers with ABTSWH's Chair so that a Request for Proposal is issued in an expeditious manner.

NDAA also expands the responsibilities of the Office of the Ombudsman to provide guidance and assistance to EEOICPA claimants. ANWAG feels that it is quite possible that the Office of the

Ombudsman may now require more resources so that this office can comply with the additional services the law now requires. We respectfully urge you to consult with the Ombudsman to determine the budgetary needs of this office in order to comply with the legislative directive.

ANWAG appreciates the past relationship with the DOL personnel responsible for administering EEOICPA and we look forward to the continued exchange of ideas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terrie Barrie".

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