



March 10, 2020

Rachel D. Pond,  
Director  
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Frances Perkins Office Building  
200 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Subject: Center for Disease Control COVID-19 Advisory for People at Risk for Serious Illness

Dear Ms. Pond:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued an [advisory](#) and recommendations for people who are a high risk to develop serious illness if they contract the COVID-19 virus. The workers approved by the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) are in the high-risk group due to the illnesses they developed from exposure to toxic substances at the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons facilities. Some of the covered conditions are lung cancer, chronic beryllium disease, asthma, and asbestos-related diseases.

The CDC recommends that this population

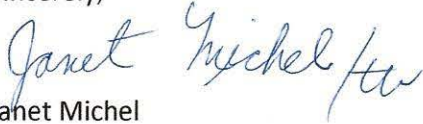
*Contact your healthcare provider to ask about obtaining extra necessary medications to have on hand in case there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in your community and you need to stay home for a prolonged period of time.*

The Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups (ANWAG) is aware that it is not DEEOIC's policy to provide more than a thirty-day supply of medications for covered conditions in certain circumstances. ANWAG urges you to,

*Issue an emergency Final Circular which will enable this vulnerable population to order an additional 30 to 60-day supply of the medications currently covered and paid for by DEEOIC. The process should only require a doctor's prescription. A Letter of Medical Necessity should not be necessary and would place an unnecessary burden on the workers and their providers and will prolong the delivery of these medicines into the homes of the sick workers.*

ANWAG wishes to stress the need for DEEOIC to act quickly on this matter. We look forward to your earliest response.

Sincerely,



Janet Michel  
Founding Member  
Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups  
2106 Holderwood Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37922  
865-966-5918  
[jrmichel@tds.net](mailto:jrmichel@tds.net)

Cosigners:

Deb Jerison  
Director  
Energy Employees Claimant Assistance Project

Terrie Barrie  
Founding Member  
Alliance of Nuclear Worker Advocacy Groups

Cc: Julia Hearthway, Director, Office of Workers Compensation Programs  
Malcolm Nelson, Ombudsman  
Steven Markowitz, MD. Dr.Ph, Chair, Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health