

# THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE EEOICPA



LEARN ABOUT RESOURCES FOR  
UNDERSTANDING THE ENERGY EMPLOYEES  
OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION  
PROGRAM ACT (EEOICPA)

Webinar- June 25, 2024



Image of Kansas City Plant

# HISTORY OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

**October 2004 – Congress passed legislation creating the Office of the Ombudsman for the EEOICPA.**



**WHO ARE WE?**

- The Office of the Ombudsman is an **INDEPENDENT OFFICE** within the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).
- The Office of the Ombudsman is **SEPARATE** from the DOL Energy Program that makes decisions on your EEOICPA claims.
- All communication with the Office of the Ombudsman is **CONFIDENTIAL**.

# DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN



- **We provide information on the benefits available under the EEOICPA, which includes:**
  - explaining, reviewing, and discussing EEOICPA claim development and benefit processes.**
  - providing guidance and assistance to claimants, be it general information about the program or case specific.**

**-Assisting claimants, attorneys, lay representatives, health care providers, congressional staff and others.**

**-Answering questions and providing assistance to individuals encountering difficulties with their claims.**

- **We participate in outreach efforts to provide information to the public about the program.**
  - During outreach events, we are available to speak to individuals on a one-on-one basis.**
  - In the office, we communicate with individuals by phone, mail, fax, and email.**



- **We submit an annual report to Congress which includes:**

**The number and types of complaints, grievances and requests for assistance received during the year.**

**An assessment of the most common difficulties encountered by claimants during the year.**

**Recommendations for the improvement of the EEOICPA program.**



**USEFUL INFORMATION**

- **Current and former DOE/DOE contractor employees may use the *Claim for Benefits (Form EE-1)* for the following reasons:**
  - **To file an *initial claim*.**
  - **To file a *claim for new illnesses* as they are diagnosed (e.g., additional cancers, or respiratory issues).**



- **Make sure you have reported any/all *potentially covered employment* to the Energy Program.**
- **Review your Occupational History Interview for completeness and accuracy. If you remember additional information, send it in writing to your Claims Examiner.**

- If a claim is accepted for medical benefits, then the EE-1 form can be used to file a claim for a consequential condition.

A consequential condition occurs when a covered illness or treatment for that covered illness, results in a new illness or injury. ***You must write “Consequential Condition” on the EE-1 form when filing for the new illness or injury.***

- If an employee's claim is accepted for medical benefits under Part E of the Act, they can, *using Form EN-11A (Impairment Benefits Response form), file a claim for impairment benefits.*

A claim for impairment benefits may be *filed every two years, or possibly sooner*, if you have a newly accepted primary or consequential medical condition.

You may request **a copy of your claim file** at any time, even before the recommended decision is issued.

You may also request a copy of any *part* of your claim file such as your employment and exposure records. The request **must be in writing**.



## THE OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE DOES NOT:

- **Make decisions on claims.**
- **Serve as an Authorized Representative or advocate.**
- **Ask Congress to change the law.**



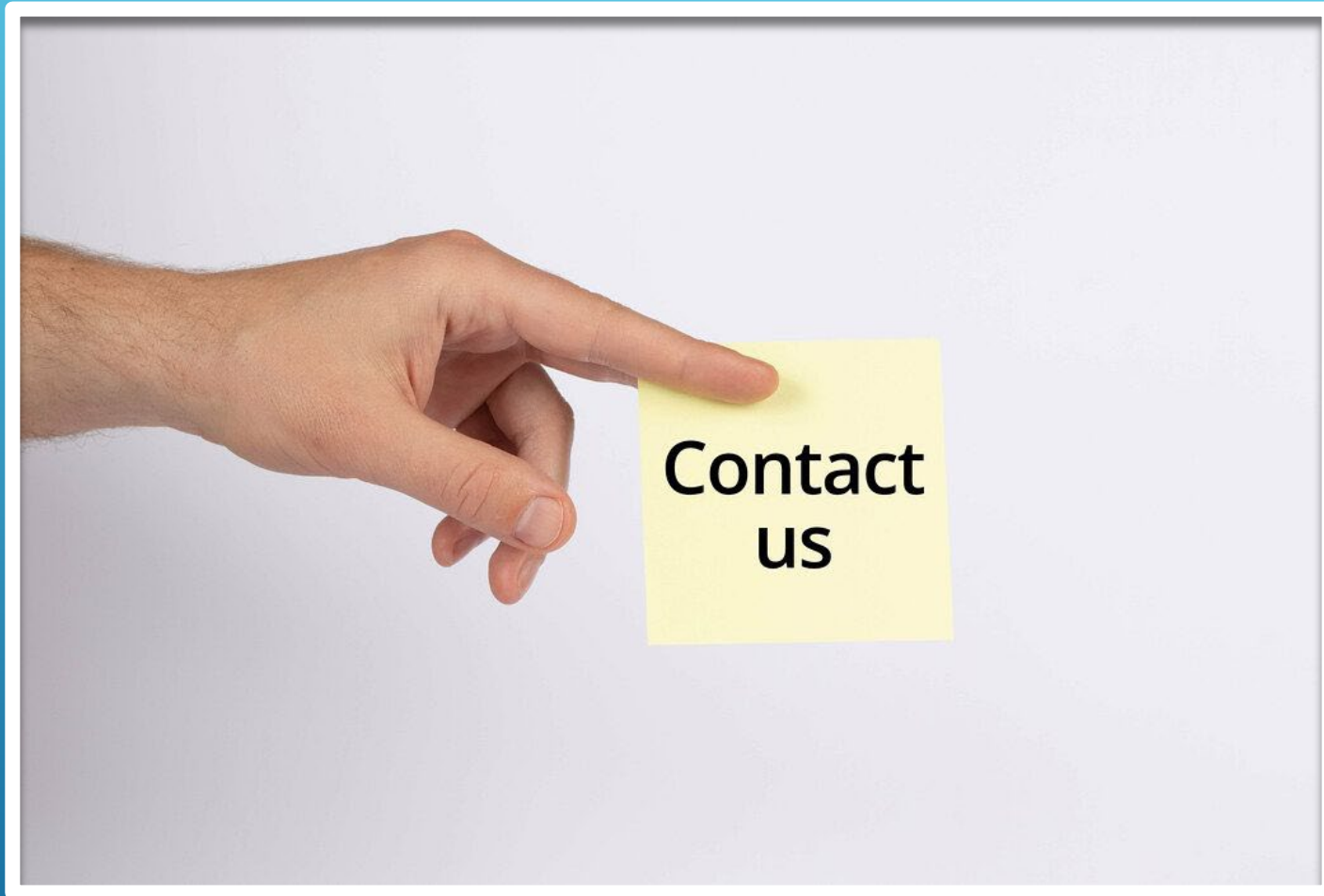


**YOUR OPINION  
AND  
FEEDBACK MATTERS**

**The Department of Labor and Congress are interested in what you have to say.**

**The Energy program is constantly making program changes and updates. You can ask us questions or seek information from our office at any time.**

**If you have complaints, grievances, or requests for assistance, as well as good things to say, we want to hear from you!**



# OFFICE of the OMBUDSMAN TEAM

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