



Richland Operations Office and Office of River Protection Workers' Compensation Program

May 29, 2014

The Department of Energy is committed to the health and well-being of all the workers associated with its missions and sites. DOE's role is to provide workers' compensation program oversight and program funding. DOE's Richland Operations Office has a contract with a Third Party Administrator for the daily management of Hanford workers' compensation claims. Many self-insured employers, more than 350 in Washington State, use such Administrators for claims management. The only difference between DOE's self-insurance program and any other self-insured employer is that claim payments are federally funded.

The Claims Process

- The Third Party Administrator for workers' compensation administers claims filed by Hanford workers per the Revised Code of Washington Title 51.
- The Administrator communicates with workers, medical providers, contractor representatives and the self-insurance section of Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) to ensure comprehensive handling of each claim.

The claims approval or denial authority rests solely with L&I, not the Third Party Administrator, DOE, or contractors. A claim allowance or denial is most often based on medical opinion provided by an off-site medical provider.

Any worker, regardless of employer, who disagrees with a coverage determination, has the right to appeal the decision to the Washington State Board of Industrial Insurance for further review.

As a member of the Washington State self-insurance community, DOE is required to follow all Washington State rules and regulations that govern the L&I process.

Workers are notified of their right to file a workers' compensation claim every time they are evaluated at the Hanford medical provider, with a workers' compensation advisory form at the clinic, and by their specific contractor's Workers' Compensation Representative.

The self-insurance section at L&I provides daily oversight of DOE's self-insurance program, and DOE is subject to audits by L&I's self-insurance program compliance department as well.

Online resources

www.injuredworker.lni.wa.gov – General information about workers' compensation

www.claiminfo.lni.wa.gov – Secure site for claim status updates

www.ReturntoWorkHelp.Lni.wa.gov – Early return-to-work program

Or call Hanford Site Workers' Compensation at (509) 376-1525 or the Administrator at (509) 420-7290