



THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE EEOICPA

LAS VEGAS - FEBRUARY 28, 2023

PAHRUMP - MARCH 1, 2023

EEOICPA and THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

History:

- October 2000 – Congress enacted the EEOICPA
- October 2004 - Congress passed legislation creating the Office of the Ombudsman for the EEOICPA.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- The Office of the Ombudsman is an independent office within the U.S. Department of Labor.
- That means the Office of the Ombudsman is separate from the Energy Program that makes decisions on your EEOICPA claims.
- All communication with the Office of the Ombudsman is **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Office of the Ombudsman



- ▶ Amanda M. Fallon – Ombudsman
- ▶ Kim Holt – Policy Analyst
- ▶ Steve Levin – Policy Analyst
- ▶ Tonya Fields – Policy Analyst
- ▶ Curtis Johnson – Policy Analyst

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

■ Duties:

1. Provide information on the benefits available and the process to obtain those benefits under the EEOICPA.
2. Provide guidance and assistance to claimants.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN



3. Submit an annual report to Congress detailing:
 - a) The number and types of complaints, grievances and requests for assistance received during the year and;
 - b) An assessment of the most common difficulties encountered by claimants during the year.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- **Limitations – the Office cannot:**
 1. Rule or make decisions on claims.
 2. “Make” DEEOIC reverse or change a decision.
 3. Make Congress revise the EEOICPA.
 4. Take DEEOIC to court
 5. Lobby Congress
 6. Act as an advocate

OMBUDSMAN ASSISTANCE

- **When the Office receives complaints, grievances, and requests for assistance:**
 1. We respond to claimants, attorneys, lay representatives, congressional staff and others.
 2. We explain, review and discuss the EEOICPA claims and benefits processes.
 3. We answer questions and provide assistance to individuals encountering difficulties with their claims.
 4. We discuss, in a general way, your concerns in our annual report to Congress.

OMBUDSMAN ASSISTANCE



- **Outreach efforts and initiatives include:**
 1. Sponsoring town hall meetings.
 2. Participating in Energy Program sponsored town hall meetings and events.
 3. Offering opportunities for individuals to speak one-on-one with Ombudsman staff.
 4. Coordinating efforts with the Joint Outreach Task Group (JOTG).

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

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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.

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

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:



- ▶ File a claim (Form EE-1) for new illnesses as they arise, including for illnesses like skin cancer.
- ▶ 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.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

- ▶ The Energy Program may have your claim reviewed by a specialist (CMC, IH, Toxicologist) and you should be provided a copy of the expert's report with your Recommended Decision.
- ▶ You can request a copy of any specialist report from your claims examiner at any time, even before your Recommended Decision has been sent to you. Your request must be in writing.
- ▶ You can also request a copy of your claim file or any documents from your claim file at any time. You must send a written request to the Energy Program.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

- ▶ If your claim is accepted for medical benefits, you can:
 - ❑ Find enrolled providers online from the Energy Program homepage by clicking the Provider Search option in the Claimant How to Guide.
https://www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/energy/regs/compliance/claimant_medprovider_resources/claimant_resources
 - ❑ File for a consequential illness/injury if your accepted covered illness or treatment for your accepted covered illness causes a new illness or injury. Must write “consequential condition” next to the name of the illness/injury on Form EE-1.

OMBUDSMAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Mail: U.S. Department of Labor
Office of the Ombudsman
200 Constitution Ave., NW,
Room N-2454
Washington, D.C. 20210

Toll Free: 1-877-662-8363

Email: ombudsman@dol.gov

Website: www.dol.gov/agencies/ombudsman