

FY 2024

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT**

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ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT

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**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION
PROGRAM ACT**

APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, [\$64,564,000] \$66,532,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed. (*Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2023.*)

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AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	FY 2022 Revised Enacted		FY 2023 Revised Enacted		FY 2024 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
A. Appropriation	207	\$63,428	206	\$64,564	207	\$66,532
Sequestration Reduction Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985	0	-\$5,265	0	-\$5,359	0	\$0
A.1. Subtotal Appropriation	207	\$58,163	206	\$59,205	207	\$66,532
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	\$872	0	\$1,268	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses: (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	207	\$80,175	208	\$81,316	209	\$83,377
Sequestration Reduction Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985	0	-\$6,655	0	-\$6,749	0	\$0
B. Gross Budget Authority	414	\$132,555	414	\$135,040	416	\$149,909
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	-\$872	0	-\$1,268	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	0	-\$73,520	0	-\$74,567	0	\$0
C. Budget Authority Before Committee	414	\$58,163	414	\$59,205	416	\$149,909
Unobligated balance available start-of year (Part B)	0	\$872	0	\$1,268	0	\$0
DOL Administrative Expenses (Part E) (Indefinite Authority)	0	\$73,520	0	\$74,567	0	\$0
D. Total Budgetary Resources (Appropriated and Indefinite)	414	\$132,555	414	\$135,040	416	\$149,909
Unobligated Balances Carrying Forward for Part B	4	-\$1,383	0	\$0	0	\$0
Unobligated Balances Expiring for Part E	-5	-\$1,386	0	\$0	0	\$0
E. Total, Estimated Obligations	413	\$129,786	414	\$135,040	416	\$149,909

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Net Change
Budget Authority			
General Funds	\$133,772	\$149,909	+\$16,137
Total	\$133,772	\$149,909	+\$16,137
 Full Time Equivalents			
General Funds	414	416	2
Total	414	416	2

Explanation of Change	FY 2024 Change							
	FY 2023 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Increases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Costs of pay adjustments	414	\$48,664	0	\$0	0	\$2,313	0	\$2,313
Personnel benefits	0	\$17,671	0	\$0	0	\$837	0	\$837
Employee health benefits	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Moving allowance	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Benefits for former personnel	0	\$147	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Travel and transportation of persons	0	\$143	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Transportation of things	0	\$16	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to GSA	0	\$1,886	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Rental payments to others	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0	\$304	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Printing and reproduction	0	\$130	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Advisory and assistance services	0	\$342	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0	\$29,174	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Working Capital Fund	0	\$11,861	0	\$0	0	\$897	0	\$897
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0	\$523	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0	\$19,336	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Research & Development Contracts	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	\$3	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0	\$2,812	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Supplies and materials	0	\$110	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Equipment	0	\$56	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0

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FY 2024 Change

Explanation of Change	FY 2023 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0	\$35	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Built-Ins Subtotal	414	+\$133,213	0	\$0	0	+\$4,047	0	+\$4,047
B. Programs:								
Mandatory Workload OWCP Part E	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$6,625	0	\$6,625
Mandatory Workload OWCP Part B	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$5,294	0	\$5,294
Mandatory Workload Ombudsman E	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$81	0	\$81
Mandatory Workload Ombudsman B	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$65	0	\$65
Mandatory Workload EAB	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$43	0	\$43
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	+\$12,108	0	+\$12,108
Total Increase	414	+\$133,213	0	\$0	0	+\$16,155	0	+\$16,155
Decreases:								
A. Built-Ins:								
To Provide For:								
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0	\$559	0	\$0	0	-\$18	0	-\$18
Built-Ins Subtotal	0	+\$559	0	\$0	0	-\$18	0	-\$18
B. Programs:								
Programs Subtotal			0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total Decrease	0	+\$559	0	\$0	0	-\$18	0	-\$18
Total Change	414	+\$133,772	0	\$0	0	+\$16,137	0	+\$16,137

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SUMMARY BUDGET AUTHORITY AND FTE BY ACTIVITY								
(Dollars in Thousands)								
	FY 2022 Revised Enacted		FY 2023 Revised Enacted		FY 2024 Request		Diff. FY24 Request / FY23 Revised Enacted	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act - Admin	413	\$131,684	414	\$133,772	416	\$149,909	2	\$16,137
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part B	211	\$58,163	206	\$59,205	207	\$66,532	1	\$7,327
OWCP	207	\$57,460	204	\$58,490	204	\$65,726	0	\$7,236
Ombudsman	4	\$703	2	\$715	3	\$806	1	\$91
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part E	202	\$73,521	208	\$74,567	209	\$83,377	1	\$8,810
Energy Advisory Board	1	\$476	1	\$480	1	\$532	0	\$52
OWCP	201	\$72,156	204	\$73,190	204	\$81,836	0	\$8,646
Ombudsman	0	\$889	3	\$897	4	\$1,009	1	\$112
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act - Benefits	0	\$1,818,647	0	\$1,983,040	0	\$2,108,985	0	\$125,945
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part B	0	\$1,348,637	0	\$1,482,430	0	\$1,589,907	0	\$107,477
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Part E	0	\$470,010	0	\$500,610	0	\$519,078	0	\$18,468
Total	413	\$1,950,331	414	\$2,116,812	416	\$2,258,894	2	\$142,082

NOTE: FY 2022 reflects actual FTE.

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BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS¹					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		FY 2022 Revised Enacted	FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Diff. FY24 Request / FY23 Revised Enacted
	Full-Time Equivalent				
	Full-time Permanent	414	414	416	2
	Total	414	414	416	2
	Average ES Salary	\$188,129	\$192,362	\$199,864	\$7,502
	Average GM/GS Grade	12/6	12/6	12/6	0
	Average GM/GS Salary	\$99,873	\$103,318	\$107,347	\$4,029
11.1	Full-time permanent	44,957	47,584	49,897	2,313
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	956	1,080	1,080	0
11.8	Special personal services payments	0	0	0	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	45,913	48,664	50,977	2,313
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	16,675	18,230	19,049	819
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	22	147	147	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	335	143	143	0
22.0	Transportation of things	7	16	16	0
23.0	Rent, Communications, and Utilities	0	0	0	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	3,726	1,886	1,886	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	240	304	304	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	55	130	130	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	342	342	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	25,192	29,174	32,196	3,022
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	34,850	31,720	41,703	9,983
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	3	3	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	4,416	2,812	2,812	0
26.0	Supplies and materials	117	110	110	0
31.0	Equipment	76	56	56	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	60	35	35	0
	Total	131,684	133,772	149,909	16,137
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	12,478	11,861	12,758	897
	DHS Services	553	523	523	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	21,819	17,040	26,126	9,086
	GSA Services	0	1,440	1,440	0
	Services by Other Government Departments	0	856	856	0

¹ The FY 2022 and FY 2023 levels reflect the post-sequestration amounts. The FY 2024 level reflects the pre-sequestration amount.

**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION
PROGRAM ACT
AUTHORIZING STATUTES**

Public Law / Act	Legislation	Statute No. / US Code	Expiration Date
Pub. L. 106-398	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (Part B administration and benefits)	42 U.S.C. § 7384e	Does not expire
Pub. L. 108-375	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (Part E administration)	42 U.S.C. § 7385s-13	Does not expire
Pub. L. 108-375	Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (Part E benefits)	42 U.S.C. § 7385s-14	Does not expire

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APPROPRIATION HISTORY					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
	Budget Estimates to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriations	FTE
2014					
Base Appropriation	\$129,218			\$116,555	505
2015					
Base Appropriation	\$130,835			\$118,601	499
2016					
Base Appropriation	\$133,446	\$58,552	\$58,552	\$121,563	490
2017					
Base Appropriation	\$136,640			\$124,205	476
2018					
Base Appropriation	\$138,840	\$59,846		\$126,482	446
2019					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$138,092		\$59,098	\$126,078	451
2020					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$138,840	\$59,846		\$126,900	435
2021					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$141,763			\$129,997	414
2022					
Base Appropriation...3/	\$143,603	\$63,428		\$131,684	414
2023					
Base Appropriation	\$145,880			\$133,772	414
2024					
Base Appropriation	\$149,909				416

^{1/} This bill was passed by the Senate. It was passed out of the House Subcommittee but was not reported out of the House Committee or by the full House.

^{2/} FTE for FY 2020 and FY 2021 reflect the Shared Services Realignment.

^{3/} This bill was passed by the House. It was not taken up by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee or the full Senate Appropriations Committee.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT

OVERVIEW

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), enacted in October 2000, provides lump sum compensation and medical care to claimants. OWCP provides benefits under Part B of EEOICPA to covered employees or survivors of employees of the Department of Energy (DOE), and private companies under contract with DOE, who have been diagnosed with a radiation-related cancer, beryllium-related disease, or chronic silicosis as a result of their work in producing or testing nuclear weapons. Part E of the EEOICPA covers contractors and subcontractors of DOE (or their survivors) who sustained any illness that is determined to be caused, contributed to, or aggravated by any toxic substances in the work environment. Benefits for uranium workers covered by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) are also provided.

EEOICPA's FY 2024 Request includes \$806,000 in Part B funds and \$1,009,000 in Part E funds for the Office of the Ombudsman for EEOICPA. The Office of the Ombudsman was created by Congress to address the concerns of claimants and potential claimants regarding their receipt of benefits under Part E of EEOICPA and was later expanded to Part B. By law, this office is required to be independent from the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) program office.

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BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE²				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	FY 2022 Revised Enacted	FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Diff. FY24 Request / FY23 Revised Enacted
Activity Appropriation (Part B)	58,163	59,205	66,532	7,327
FTE (Part B)	211	206	207	1
Activity Appropriation (Part E)	73,521	74,567	83,377	8,810
FTE (Part E)	202	208	209	1
Total Parts B and E	131,684	133,772	149,909	16,137
Total FTE Part B and E	413	414	416	2

NOTE: FY 2022 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2022 was 414.

Introduction

The mission of OWCP’s Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation program is to adjudicate and pay benefits for claims filed under Part B and Part E of EEOICPA. The work for this program is accomplished in four District Offices that develop evidence to determine diagnoses, employment and exposure information, and causation, and issue recommended decisions before a case is transferred to the Final Adjudication Branch (FAB); eleven resource centers that provide assistance to claimants in completing benefit applications for both Part B and E; and a Federal Adjudication Branch where final decisions are issued.

The Office of Management and Budget has designated OWCP, DEEOIC specifically, as a High-Impact Service Provider (HISP), which is a federal Department or Agency that provides transactional customer-facing services. Because of this designation, DEEOIC will continue to report its quarterly customer experience results, conduct the annual customer experience self-assessment, and identify its customer experience strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Part B authorizes a lump-sum payment of \$150,000 and medical benefits to DOE employees, contractors, or subcontractors who are seriously ill from exposure to beryllium, silica, or radiation due to working in the nuclear weapons industry. Part B also provides compensation for some employees’ survivors and supplemental lump-sum payments of up to \$50,000 to individuals already eligible for benefits for illnesses covered under Section 5 of the RECA, and, where applicable, their survivors.

Under Part E, OWCP provides compensation and medical benefits to covered DOE contractors who are determined to have contracted a covered illness through exposure at a DOE facility. Part E authorizes compensation benefits to DOE contractor employees based upon the degree of impairment and lost wages. Certain survivors of covered DOE contractors also receive compensation if the covered illness contributed to the employee’s death. Additionally, uranium workers eligible under Section 5 of the RECA may also receive compensation under Part E for

² The FY 2022 level reflects the post-sequestration amount. The FY 2023 and FY 2024 levels reflect the pre-sequestration amounts.

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illnesses due to toxic substance exposure at a uranium mine or mill covered under that Act. Benefits are paid from the Energy Compensation Fund for both EEOICPA and RECA benefits.

Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2019	\$53,956	228
2020	\$54,699	220
2021	\$57,319	207
2022	\$58,163	207
2023	\$59,205	206

FY 2024

Total resources at the FY 2024 Request level for OWCP’s Energy program are \$149,909,000 and 416 FTE. Part B funds are \$66,532,000 and 207 FTE, including \$806,000 and 3 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. Part E funds are \$83,377,000 and 209 FTE, including \$1,009,000 and 4 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman, and \$532,000 and 1 FTE for the operations of the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health. The FY 2024 administrative request at the pre-sequester level includes a total built-in increase of \$4,029,000 for inflationary costs of pay, benefits, and non-pay activities. These built-ins are necessary to prevent further staff erosion from pay raises and increased benefit costs.

At the Request level, DEEOIC will focus on the areas of emphasis in the President’s Immediate Priorities and the Secretary’s vision.

DEEOIC will continue to support the President’s priority of “Delivering Excellent, Equitable, and Secure Federal Services and Customer Experience” as well as the Secretary’s vision of “Supporting a Lifetime of Worker Empowerment” by making operations as effective and efficient as possible with specific focus on maintaining timely adjudication of claims, rendering quality decisions, building on prior-year Information Technology investments and improvements, directing resources towards customer experience, and advancing equity.

DEEOIC’s Customer Experience team will continue to identify ways to improve the program’s understanding of stakeholder feedback, and work to develop a future-state data collection and surveying toolset. DEEOIC will support these priorities by maintaining adequate staffing. DEEOIC will also maintain staff levels that are necessary to improve timeliness and quality of home health care management, including the centralization of medical benefit case adjudication activities, development of improved case management resources, and publication of clearer procedural guidance.

DEEOIC will continue its efforts to deliver services effectively and efficiently by reducing improper payments through the ongoing evaluation of medical bills and other payment-related issues using the Performance Management Branch Program Integrity team (Program Integrity Team). The Program Integrity Team identifies improper payment practices by providers; reviews

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whether payments made to claimants or providers were accurate, appropriate, and aligned with necessary treatments for approved conditions; works with providers to correct those practices; recoups overpayments; and makes referrals to the Office of Inspector General, when appropriate. Additionally, the Program Integrity Team provides applicable documentation and data to state and federal investigatory agencies, and provides professional technical support for their investigations, upon request.

DEEOIC will also continue to develop new customer experience surveys that will be available to stakeholders at various stages of the claims and benefit payment process to help us better understand our stakeholders needs and improve our service capabilities. Additionally, DEEOIC is continually working to improve and enhance its public facing website, increasing program transparency by proactively publishing information to the Public Reading Room, improving claimant and medical provider experience by developing customer centric web pages that specifically tailor information and processes to each appropriate audience, improving its 508 compliance for stakeholders with alternative audio or visual needs, and identifying the vital documents/information that should be available in languages other than English.

To advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) within our workforce, DEEOIC will continue implementing OWCP's Agency Equity Plan and focus efforts on equitable operations and administration by conducting demographic analysis, ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and promoting diverse hiring practices, particularly in communities most affected, including veterans. Through the hiring plan developed in the Spring of FY 2022, DEEOIC will continue utilizing Schedule A and Veterans Recruitment Appointment (VRA) candidate pools, and outreach to organizations like: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Career Development Coordinators, diversity-related professional associations, Society of Insurance Trainers & Educators, and the American Society for Training & Development. Additionally, the program will utilize tools such as the Workforce Recruitment Program database to expand job candidate pools by advertising announcements through communications and job fairs. Finally, DEEOIC will also include a performance element in all managers' and supervisors' Performance Management Plans that clearly delineates the agency's commitment to being a model employer and defines their roles and responsibilities in advancing DEIA within the organization.

DEEOIC will continue to develop ways to conduct outreach in traditionally low-income and other communities experiencing poverty near covered DOE facilities to ensure that the program informs potentially eligible individuals (or their survivors) of benefits available under the EEOICPA. DEEOIC's underserved communities are typically low-income, from rural populations, and American Indians and/or those residing on American Indian reservations. DEEOIC has developed a Customer Engagement Plan to increase equity of services to underserved communities throughout the country. As part of the program's Customer Engagement Plan the Resource Centers will continue to host a variety of outreach events, utilizing various platforms and mechanisms, to ensure information reaches communities without access to the Internet, and traditionally disenfranchised, tribal, and rural communities. This will include targeted outreach events, distribution of literature, attendance at community events, outreach to community organizations, and temporary satellite locations to offer their services directly to underserved/low-income census tract areas. At least 20 percent of outreach activities

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conducted by the individual Resource Centers each month will be in an identified underserved/low-income census tract area. Underserved/low-income areas will be prioritized based on need (poverty level and other demographic data). Additionally, DEEIOC will continue to support Navajo speaking contractors who will perform onsite outreach to the Navajo and surrounding native nations and tribes and will act as translators for callers who are more comfortable speaking Navajo than English. DEEOIC will host in-person outreach efforts to the identified underserved communities through Town Hall Events, which also include the opportunity to meet directly with the DEEOIC Director, Deputy Director, Claims Examiners and Medical Benefits Examiners for case and program status updates.

DEEOIC will continue to implement strategies to address and advance equity and will continue to provide Spanish language translations of critical information about the program on its public-facing website. Additionally, DEEOIC will offer some claimant forms in Spanish to better assist claim filings by Spanish language speakers. The Energy program is continuing its efforts in other areas to make the claims filing process more efficient and accessible to the population it serves. Additional updates will continue to be informed based on results from the equity assessments. These include targeted literature distribution, newspaper and radio ads, and work with partner agencies to address the needs of underserved populations. DEEOIC will improve claimant and medical provider experience by developing customer centric web pages that specifically tailor information and processes to each appropriate audience.

FY 2023

Total resources at the post sequestration FY 2023 Revised Enacted level for OWCP's Energy program are \$133,772,000 and 414 FTE. Of this total, Part B funds are \$59,205,000 and 206 FTE, including \$715,000 and 2 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman, and Part E funds are \$74,567,000 and 208 FTE, including \$897,000 and 3 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman, and \$480,000 and 1 FTE for the operations of the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health.

OWCP continues to support the President's priority of "Delivering Excellent, Equitable, and Secure Federal Services and Customer Experience" as well as the Secretary's vision of "Supporting a Lifetime of Worker Empowerment" by working to developing its workforce to improve the customer experience with Federal services. Additionally, DEEOIC is continually working to improve and enhance its public facing website, increasing program transparency by proactively publishing information to the Public Reading Room, improving claimant and medical provider experience by developing customer centric web pages that specifically tailor information and processes to each appropriate audience, and improving its 508 compliance for stakeholders with alternative audio or visual needs and identifying the vital documents/information that should be available in languages other than English.

DEEOIC continues to support the Secretary's vision of advancing equity by working to identify the most vulnerable workers by using the customer experience surveys to identify potential issues and trends in service quality and/or delivery. In FY 2023, DEEOIC will deploy surveys to inform improvement strategies that address equity, program access, and better engagement with traditionally underserved communities. Specifically, DEEOIC will continue to collect

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stakeholder feedback through its three on-going point-in-time customer experience (CX) Surveys, which include: (1) an automated phone survey following a customer call, (2) a web-based survey following the use of the Energy Document Portal (EDP), and (3) a web-based survey following stakeholder webinars. Additionally, DEEOIC will disseminate paper surveys to stakeholders at various points in the adjudication process. Results from these surveys are used to identify potential issues and trends in service quality and/or delivery.

DEEOIC continues to identify trends and communities to further the agency's outreach and engagement activities by continuing to work within the local communities (e.g., local community centers, church-organized events, medical centers, etc.) to conduct outreach to traditionally low-income and rural communities with limited access to internet, Native American, indigenous, tribal communities, and/or those residing on Native American reservations. Additionally, DEEOIC continues to co-lead, with DOL's Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Interagency Collaboration Group Supporting Members of Native American Nations and Tribes. DEEOIC will work in partnership with other members to plan and coordinate future outreach activities supporting Native American, indigenous, tribal communities and/or those residing on Native American reservations with the goal of increasing transparency, translation, and readability of federal information.

The DEEOIC Resource Centers (RCs), as well as program staff, are conducting targeted outreach events and advertise and distribute literature to underserved/low-income census tract areas. To track the effectiveness of outreach efforts, the RCs utilize methods to identify contacts and claims generated from each specific outreach activity by giving each activity a category and an event ID. The information will be entered into a database where reports can be generated and analyzed to determine the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

DEEOIC continues efforts to deliver services effectively and efficiently by reducing improper payments through the ongoing evaluation of medical bills and other payment-related issues. DEEOIC will conduct quality reviews and program integrity audits on various aspects of the development, adjudication and payment of claims. Additionally, DEEOIC will continue the development and implementation of the Ancillary Medical Services Module in ECS in order to improve efficiency and accuracy in adjudication of requests for post-approval authorization for medical equipment and services.

Finally, DEEOIC continues to work with the Joint Outreach Task Group, comprised of leadership from the Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, DOL, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and DOL Ombudsman offices, to educate the public about the program, provide updates regarding new Special Exposure Cohort classes, and other new initiatives, including issues related to the program's medical benefits and updates regarding new Special Exposure Cohort classes. DEEOIC continues to convene regional training workshops for Authorized Representatives. In addition, DEEOIC continues to work cooperatively with the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health to identify areas of needed policy improvements regarding the application of medical health science to the case adjudication process.

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FY 2022

Total resources at the post sequestration FY 2022 Revised Enacted level for OWCP's Energy program were \$131,684,000 and 414 FTE. Of this total, Part B funds are \$58,163,000 and 207 FTE, including \$703,000 and 3 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman. Part E funds are \$73,521,000 and 207 FTE, including \$889,000 and 2 FTE for the Office of the Ombudsman, and \$476,000 and 1 FTE, and other support costs for the operations of the Advisory Board on Toxic Substances and Worker Health.

DEEOIC continued its efforts to deliver services effectively and efficiently by reducing improper payments through the ongoing evaluation of medical bills and other payment-related issues. The program increased resources to improve timeliness and quality of home health care management, including the centralization of medical benefit case adjudication activities, development of improved case management resources, and publication of more clear procedural guidance. Throughout FY 2022, DEEOIC provided education to claimants and providers about available home health care benefits, processes and procedures, and the limitations imposed under the EEOICPA.

Additionally, DEEOIC is continually working to improve and enhance its public facing website, increasing program transparency by proactively publishing information to the Public Reading Room, improving claimant and medical provider experience by developing customer centric web pages that specifically tailor information and processes to each appropriate audience, and improving its 508 compliance for stakeholders with alternative audio or visual needs and identifying the vital documents/information that should be available in languages other than English. In coordination with the Office of Public Affairs, DEEOIC created a Social Media Kit, which has been released to the public website. Social Media Stakeholders will be able to use the toolkit to let their followers know about the EEOICPA program.

DEEOIC also introduced innovative, video-based training modules for staff in order to facilitate the sharing of best practices. Based on feedback from the Employee Engagement Team, DEEOIC continued to enhance soft skills training ensuring confidence that management and staff can perform claims management as efficiently as possible. Additionally, throughout FY 2022, the Performance Management Branch Program Integrity team continued to identify improper payment practices by providers. The Quality Assurance Team continued to assist program management and staff by conducting quality assurance reviews on an ongoing basis, supervisors conducted robust sampling of claims examiner case work throughout the year, and training and policy improvements were developed from ongoing analyses of these initiatives.

Finally, in the area of IT modernization and transforming the customer experience, the program continued to improve management reporting and tracking of various performance metrics utilizing low cost and integrated business intelligence tools, such as Microsoft Power BI, that works effectively with the Microsoft SQL server and the database used by the program. DEEOIC continued to expand the use of the Accountability Review Tracking System to provide an easily accessible and central way for managers at all levels to assess and report on the quality of work. DEEOIC continued the expansion of the Employees' Compensation Operations & Management Portal to allow employee claimant's authorized representatives access to their case

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files. DEEOIC continued development and implementation of the Ancillary Medical Services Module in the Energy Compensation System to improve efficiency and accuracy in adjudication of requests for authorization of post-approval for medical equipment and services.

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WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2022 Revised Enacted		FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program					
Strategic Goal 3 - Improve Administration of and Strengthen Worker Safety Net Programs					
Strategic Objective 3.1 - Ensure timely and accurate income support when work is unavailable by strengthening benefits programs and program administration.					
Performance Measure					
EE 10	Complete initial processing of Energy claims within 145 days of receipt	90.00%	93.00%	92.00%	92.00%
Quality Measures					
EE Qa	Percent of sampled Part B and Part E initial claims rated as being accurate	90.00%	95.14%	90.50%	91.00%
Workload Measures					
EE WL 1	Number of Initial Claims Received (Part B)	4,153[p]	3,555	4,218[p]	4,600[p]
EE WL 2	Number of Initial Claims Processed (Part B)	4,495[p]	3,629	4,203[p]	4,474[p]
EE WL 9	Number of Consequential Condition Claims Received (Part B and E)	13,149[p]	18,573	21,216[p]	20,789[p]
EE WL 12	Number of Threads - Medical Authorizations (Part B and E)	48,559[p]	41,052	45,157[p]	58,755[p]
Strategic Goal 3 - Improve Administration of and Strengthen Worker Safety Net Programs					
Strategic Objective 3.1 - Ensure timely and accurate income support when work is unavailable by strengthening benefits programs and program administration.					
Workload Measures					
EE WL 5	Number of Initial Claims Received (Part E)	4,360[p]	4,746	4,427[p]	4,550[p]

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WORKLOAD AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY					
		FY 2022 Revised Enacted		FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request
		Target	Result	Target	Target
EE WL 6	Number of Initial Claims Processed (Part E)	4,695[p]	4,598	4,579[p]	4,799[p]

Legend: (r) Revised (e) Estimate (base) Baseline -- Not Applicable TBD - To Be Determined [p] - Projection

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Workload and Performance Narrative

Performance Measures

Performance measures for this program are focused on shortening the time it takes to provide monetary and medical compensation benefits to which claimants may be entitled and ensuring that correct and appropriate decisions are made during the claim development and adjudication process. This is accomplished by promptly and accurately processing claims.

OWCP measures the total time from initial claim filing date to final decision. This provides a transparent view of claims processing time and ensures the program focuses on shortening the time it takes to provide monetary compensation and medical benefits. In FY 2024, the Energy program expects to complete initial processing of 92 percent of Energy claims within 145 days of receipt.

In FY 2022, the Energy program rated 95 percent of sampled Part B and Part E initial claims as being accurately processed. The program expects at least 91 percent of sampled Part B and Part E initial claims to be rated as being accurately processed in FY 2024.

Workload Measures

If current trends continue, OWCP expects to receive 4,600 initial Part B and 4,550 initial Part E claims and complete initial processing (development until a claim is closed, sent to another agency for action, or until a Recommended Decision is issued) on 4,474 Part B and 4,799 Part E claims in FY 2024.

In addition to new incoming claims, overall workload is increasingly attributable to the cumulative number of claims previously adjudicated by the program from inception to present. The annually increasing cumulative number of these approved claims increases the workload related to ongoing case management, which is reflected in the consequential condition claims and medical authorization threads measures. Consequential condition claims, which are additional medical conditions claimed as a result of previously accepted medical conditions, continue to increase. If current trends continue, OWCP expects 20,789 consequential claims in FY 2024, down from 21,216 projected in FY 2023.

Medical pre-authorization requests (referred to as Threads in reporting tables) refer to the electronic communication between OWCP and the medical bill contractor for granting approval of incoming medical benefit requests for accepted medical conditions (for example, home health care, durable medical equipment, and other treatments). Medical pre-authorization requires OWCP's review, determination, and oversight. The program will also continue to use the centralization of services to improve, monitor, and manage the provision of home health care services.

**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION
PROGRAM ACT PART B**

BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS³					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		FY 2022 Revised Enacted	FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Diff. FY24 Request / FY23 Revised Enacted
11.1	Full-time permanent	21,851	23,557	24,679	1,122
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	436	485	485	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	22,287	24,042	25,164	1,122
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	8,075	9,051	9,449	398
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	94	96	96	0
22.0	Transportation of things	0	14	14	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	984	527	527	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	137	204	204	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	31	89	89	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	4,310	6,637	7,960	1,323
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	18,359	16,396	20,880	4,484
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	3	3	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	3,705	1,993	1,993	0
26.0	Supplies and materials	75	76	76	0
31.0	Equipment	71	42	42	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	35	35	35	0
	Total	58,163	59,205	66,532	7,327
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	2,750	4,376	4,824	448
	DHS Services	156	145	145	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	15,453	10,435	14,471	4,036
	GSA Services	0	1,440	1,440	0

³ The FY 2022 and FY 2023 levels reflect the post-sequestration amounts. The FY 2024 level reflects the pre-sequestration amount.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT PART B

CHANGES IN FY 2024 (Dollars in Thousands)

Activity Changes

Built-In

To Provide For:

Costs of pay adjustments	\$1,122
Personnel benefits	407
Employee health benefits	0
Moving allowance	0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	-9
Benefits for former personnel	0
Travel and transportation of persons	0
Transportation of things	0
Rental payments to GSA	0
Rental payments to others	0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0
Printing and reproduction	0
Advisory and assistance services	0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0
Working Capital Fund	448
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0
Research & Development Contracts	0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Supplies and materials	0
Equipment	0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0

Built-Ins Subtotal **\$1,968**

Net Program **\$5,359**

Direct FTE **0**

	Estimate	FTE
Base	\$61,173	206
Program Increase	\$5,359	0
Program Decrease	\$0	0

**ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION
PROGRAM ACT PART E**

BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS⁴					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		FY 2022 Revised Enacted	FY 2023 Revised Enacted	FY 2024 Request	Diff. FY24 Request / FY23 Revised Enacted
11.1	Full-time permanent	23,106	24,027	25,218	1,191
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	520	595	595	0
11.8	Special personal services payments	0	0	0	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	23,626	24,622	25,813	1,191
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	8,600	9,179	9,600	421
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	22	147	147	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	241	47	47	0
22.0	Transportation of things	7	2	2	0
23.0	Rent, Communications, and Utilities	0	0	0	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	2,742	1,359	1,359	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	103	100	100	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	24	41	41	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	342	342	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	20,882	22,537	24,236	1,699
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	16,491	15,324	20,823	5,499
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	0	0	0	0
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	711	819	819	0
26.0	Supplies and materials	42	34	34	0
31.0	Equipment	5	14	14	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	25	0	0	0
	Total	73,521	74,567	83,377	8,810
	1/Other goods and services from Federal sources				
	Working Capital Fund	9,728	7,485	7,934	449
	DHS Services	397	378	378	0
	Services by DOL Agencies	6,366	6,605	11,655	5,050
	Services by Other Government Departments	0	856	856	0

⁴ The FY 2022 and FY 2023 levels reflect the post-sequestration amounts. The FY 2024 level reflects the pre-sequestration amount.

ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM ACT PART E

CHANGES IN FY 2024 (Dollars in Thousands)

Activity Changes

Built-In

To Provide For:

Costs of pay adjustments	\$1,191
Personnel benefits	430
Employee health benefits	0
Moving allowance	0
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	-9
Benefits for former personnel	0
Travel and transportation of persons	0
Transportation of things	0
Rental payments to GSA	0
Rental payments to others	0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	0
Printing and reproduction	0
Advisory and assistance services	0
Other services from non-Federal sources	0
Working Capital Fund	449
Other Federal sources (DHS Charges)	0
Other goods and services from Federal sources	0
Research & Development Contracts	0
Operation and maintenance of facilities	0
Operation and maintenance of equipment	0
Supplies and materials	0
Equipment	0
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0
Insurance claims and indemnities	0

Built-Ins Subtotal **\$2,061**

Net Program **\$6,749**

Direct FTE **0**

	Estimate	FTE
Base	\$76,628	208
Program Increase	\$6,749	0
Program Decrease	\$0	0