

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 994

To amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. PEARCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Radiation Exposure
5 Compensation Act Amendments of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

2 Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
4 of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provi-
5 sion of law, the reference shall be considered to be made
6 to a section or other provision of the Radiation Exposure
7 Compensation Act (Public Law 101–426; 42 U.S.C. 2210
8 note).

9 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF FUND.**

10 Section 3(d) is amended—

11 (1) by striking the first sentence and inserting
12 “The Fund shall terminate 19 years after the date
13 of the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Com-
14 pensation Act Amendments of 2015.”; and

15 (2) by striking “22-year” and inserting “19-
16 year”.

17 **SEC. 4. CLAIMS RELATING TO ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.**

18 (a) LEUKEMIA CLAIMS RELATING TO TRINITY TEST
19 IN NEW MEXICO AND TESTS IN THE PACIFIC.—Section
20 4(a)(1)(A) is amended—

21 (1) in clause (i)—

22 (A) in subclause (II)—

23 (i) by striking “in the affected area”
24 and inserting “in an affected area”; and

25 (ii) by striking “or” after the semi-
26 colon;

1 (B) by redesignating subclause (III) as
2 subclause (V); and

3 (C) by inserting after subclause (II) the
4 following:

5 “(III) was physically present in
6 an affected area for the period begin-
7 ning on June 30, 1945, and ending on
8 July 31, 1945; or

9 “(IV) was physically present in
10 an affected area—

11 “(aa) for a period of at least
12 1 year during the period begin-
13 ning on June 30, 1946, and end-
14 ing on August 19, 1958; or

15 “(bb) for the period begin-
16 ning on April 25, 1962, and end-
17 ing on November 5, 1962; or”;
18 and

19 (2) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “physical pres-
20 ence described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i)
21 or onsite participation described in clause (i)(III)”
22 and inserting “physical presence described in sub-
23 clause (I), (II), (III), or (IV) of clause (i) or onsite
24 participation described in clause (i)(V)”.

1 (b) AMOUNTS FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO LEU-
2 KEMIA.—Section 4(a)(1) is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “an
4 amount” and inserting “the amount”; and

5 (2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(B) AMOUNT.—If the conditions de-
8 scribed in subparagraph (C) are met, an indi-
9 vidual who is described in subparagraph (A)(i)
10 shall receive \$150,000.”.

11 (c) SPECIFIED DISEASES CLAIMS RELATING TO
12 TRINITY TEST IN NEW MEXICO AND TESTS IN THE PA-
13 CIFIC.—Section 4(a)(2) is amended—

14 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “in the af-
15 fected area” and inserting “in an affected area”;

16 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

17 (A) by striking “in the affected area” and
18 inserting “in an affected area”; and

19 (B) by striking “or” at the end;

20 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
21 paragraph (E); and

22 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(C) was physically present in an affected
2 area for the period beginning on June 30,
3 1945, and ending on July 31, 1945;

4 “(D) was physically present in an affected
5 area—

6 “(i) for a period of at least 2 years
7 during the period beginning on June 30,
8 1946, and ending on August 19, 1958; or

9 “(ii) for the period beginning on April
10 25, 1962, and ending on November 5,
11 1962; or”.

12 (d) AMOUNTS FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO SPECIFIED
13 DISEASES.—Section 4(a)(2) is amended in the matter fol-
14 lowing subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subsection
15 (c) of this section) by striking “\$50,000 (in the case of
16 an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B)) or
17 \$75,000 (in the case of an individual described in subpara-
18 graph (C)),” and inserting “\$150,000”.

19 (e) MEDICAL BENEFITS.—Section 4(a) is amended
20 by adding at the end the following:

21 “(5) MEDICAL BENEFITS.—An individual re-
22 ceiving a payment under this section shall be eligible
23 to receive medical benefits in the same manner and
24 to the same extent as an individual eligible to receive
25 medical benefits under section 3629 of the Energy

1 Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Pro-
2 gram Act (as enacted into law by Public Law 106-
3 398; 114 Stat. 165A-507).”.

4 (f) DOWNWIND STATES.—Section 4(b)(1) is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 “(1) ‘affected area’ means—

7 “(A) except as provided under subpara-
8 graphs (B) and (C), Arizona, Colorado, Idaho,
9 Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah;

10 “(B) with respect to a claim by an indi-
11 vidual under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(III) or
12 (2)(C), only New Mexico; and

13 “(C) with respect to a claim by an indi-
14 vidual under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(IV) or
15 (2)(D), only Guam.”.

16 **SEC. 5. CLAIMS RELATING TO URANIUM MINING.**

17 (a) EMPLOYEES OF MINES AND MILLS.—Section
18 5(a)(1)(A)(i) is amended—

19 (1) by inserting “(I)” after “(i)”;

20 (2) by striking “December 31, 1971; and” and
21 inserting “December 31, 1990; or”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(II) was employed as a core driller in
24 a State referred to in subclause (I) during

1 the period described in such subclause;
2 and”.

3 (b) MINERS.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(ii)(I) is amended
4 by inserting “or renal cancer or any other chronic renal
5 disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue in-
6 jury” after “nonmalignant respiratory disease”.

7 (c) MILLERS, CORE DRILLERS, AND ORE TRANS-
8 PORTERS.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(ii)(II) is amended—

9 (1) by inserting “, core driller,” after “was a
10 miller”;

11 (2) by inserting “(I)” after “clause (i)”; and

12 (3) by striking all that follows “nonmalignant
13 respiratory disease” and inserting “or renal cancer
14 or any other chronic renal disease, including nephri-
15 tis and kidney tubal tissue injury; or”.

16 (d) COMBINED WORK HISTORIES.—Section
17 5(a)(1)(A)(ii) is further amended—

18 (1) by striking “or” at the end of subclause (I);

19 and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(III)(aa) does not meet the condi-
22 tions of subclause (I) or (II);

23 “(bb) worked, during the period de-
24 scribed in clause (i)(I), in two or more of

1 the following positions: miner, miller, core
2 driller, and ore transporter;

3 “(cc) meets the requirements of para-
4 graph (4) or (5), or both; and

5 “(dd) submits written medical docu-
6 mentation that the individual developed
7 lung cancer or a nonmalignant respiratory
8 disease or renal cancer or any other chron-
9 ic renal disease, including nephritis and
10 kidney tubal tissue injury after exposure to
11 radiation through work in one or more of
12 the positions referred to in item (aa).”.

13 (e) DATES OF OPERATION OF URANIUM MINE.—Sec-
14 tion 5(a)(2)(A) is amended by striking “December 31,
15 1971” and inserting “December 31, 1990”.

16 (f) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO COMBINED WORK
17 HISTORIES.—Section 5(a) is amended by adding at the
18 end the following:

19 “(4) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO COMBINED
20 WORK HISTORIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AT LEAST
21 ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE.—An individual meets
22 the requirements of this paragraph if the individual
23 worked in one or more of the positions referred to
24 in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)(III)(bb) for a period of at

1 least one year during the period described in para-
2 graph (1)(A)(i)(I).

3 “(5) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO COMBINED
4 WORK HISTORIES FOR MINERS.—An individual
5 meets the requirements of this paragraph if the indi-
6 vidual, during the period described in paragraph
7 (1)(A)(i)(I), worked as a miner and was exposed to
8 such number of working level months that the Attor-
9 ney General determines, when combined with the ex-
10 posure of such individual to radiation through work
11 as a miller, core driller, or ore transporter during
12 the period described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), re-
13 sults in such individual being exposed to a total level
14 of radiation that is greater or equal to the level of
15 exposure of an individual described in paragraph
16 (4).”.

17 (g) DEFINITION OF CORE DRILLER.—Section 5(b) is
18 amended—

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
20 (7);

21 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
22 graph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(9) the term ‘core driller’ means any indi-
25 vidual employed to engage in the act or process of

1 obtaining cylindrical rock samples of uranium or va-
2 nadium by means of a borehole drilling machine for
3 the purpose of mining uranium or vanadium.”.

4 **SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF USE OF AFFIDAVITS IN DETERMINA-**
5 **TION OF CLAIMS; REGULATIONS.**

6 (a) AFFIDAVITS.—Section 6(b) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following:

8 “(3) AFFIDAVITS.—

9 “(A) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.—For pur-
10 poses of this Act, the Attorney General shall ac-
11 cept a written affidavit or declaration as evi-
12 dence to substantiate the employment history of
13 an individual as a miner, miller, core driller, or
14 ore transporter if the affidavit—

15 “(i) is provided in addition to other
16 material that may be used to substantiate
17 the employment history of the individual;

18 “(ii) attests to the employment history
19 of the individual;

20 “(iii) is made subject to penalty for
21 perjury; and

22 “(iv) is made by a person other than
23 the individual filing the claim.

24 “(B) PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN AFFECTED
25 AREA.—For purposes of this Act, the Attorney

1 General shall accept a written affidavit or dec-
2 laration as evidence to substantiate an individ-
3 ual's physical presence in an affected area dur-
4 ing a period described in section 4(a)(1)(A)(i)
5 or section 4(a)(2) if the affidavit—

6 “(i) is provided in addition to other
7 material that may be used to substantiate
8 the individual's presence in an affected
9 area during that time period;

10 “(ii) attests to the individual's pres-
11 ence in an affected area during that pe-
12 riod;

13 “(iii) is made subject to penalty for
14 perjury; and

15 “(iv) is made by a person other than
16 the individual filing the claim.

17 “(C) PARTICIPATION AT TESTING SITE.—

18 For purposes of this Act, the Attorney General
19 shall accept a written affidavit or declaration as
20 evidence to substantiate an individual's partici-
21 pation onsite in a test involving the atmospheric
22 detonation of a nuclear device if the affidavit—

23 “(i) is provided in addition to other
24 material that may be used to substantiate
25 the individual's participation onsite in a

1 test involving the atmospheric detonation
2 of a nuclear device;

3 “(ii) attests to the individual’s partici-
4 pation onsite in a test involving the atmos-
5 pheric detonation of a nuclear device;

6 “(iii) is made subject to penalty for
7 perjury; and

8 “(iv) is made by a person other than
9 the individual filing the claim.”.

10 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 Section 6 is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking “section
13 4(a)(2)(C)” and inserting “section 4(a)(2)(E)”;

14 (2) in subsection (c)(2)—

15 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
17 “subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B)
18 of section 4” and inserting “subsection
19 (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), or
20 (a)(2)(D) of section 4”; and

21 (ii) in clause (i), by striking “sub-
22 section (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B) of
23 section 4” and inserting “subsection
24 (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), or
25 (a)(2)(D) of section 4”; and

1 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sec-
2 tion 4(a)(2)(C)” and inserting “section
3 4(a)(2)(E)”; and

4 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection
5 (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B) of section 4” and in-
6 serting “subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), or
7 (a)(2)(C) of section 4”.

8 (c) REGULATIONS.—Section 6(k) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following: “Not later than 180 days
10 after the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure
11 Compensation Act Amendments of 2015, the Attorney
12 General shall issue revised regulations to carry out this
13 Act.”.

14 **SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON CLAIMS.**

15 (a) EXTENSION OF FILING TIME.—Section 8(a) is
16 amended—

17 (1) by striking “22 years” and inserting “19
18 years”; and

19 (2) by striking “2000” and inserting “2015”.

20 (b) RESUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS.—Section 8(b) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 “(b) RESUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS.—

23 “(1) DENIED CLAIMS.—After the date of enact-
24 ment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
25 Amendments of 2015, any claimant who has been

1 denied compensation under this Act may resubmit a
2 claim for consideration by the Attorney General in
3 accordance with this Act not more than three times.
4 Any resubmittal made before the date of the enact-
5 ment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
6 Amendments of 2015 shall not be applied to the lim-
7 itation under the preceding sentence.

8 “(2) PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—After the date of en-
10 actment of the Radiation Exposure Compensa-
11 tion Act Amendments of 2015, any claimant
12 who received compensation under this Act may
13 submit a request to the Attorney General for
14 additional compensation and benefits. Such re-
15 quest shall contain—

16 “(i) the claimant’s name, Social Secu-
17 rity number, and date of birth;

18 “(ii) the amount of award received
19 under this Act before the date of enact-
20 ment of the Radiation Exposure Com-
21 pensation Act Amendments of 2015;

22 “(iii) any additional benefits and com-
23 pensation sought through such request;
24 and

1 “(iv) any additional information re-
2 quired by the Attorney General.

3 “(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.—If the
4 claimant received compensation under this Act
5 before the date of enactment of the Radiation
6 Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of
7 2015 and submits a request under subpara-
8 graph (A), the Attorney General shall—

9 “(i) pay the claimant the amount that
10 is equal to any excess of—

11 “(I) the amount the claimant is
12 eligible to receive under this Act (as
13 amended by the Radiation Exposure
14 Compensation Act Amendments of
15 2015); minus

16 “(II) the aggregate amount paid
17 to the claimant under this Act before
18 the date of enactment of the Radi-
19 ation Exposure Compensation Act
20 Amendments of 2015; and

21 “(ii) in any case in which the claimant
22 was compensated under section 4, provide
23 the claimant with medical benefits under
24 section 4(a)(5).”.

1 **SEC. 8. ATTORNEY FEES.**

2 Section 9(b)(1) is amended by striking “2 percent”
3 and inserting “10 percent”.

4 **SEC. 9. GRANT PROGRAM ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPACTS**
5 **OF URANIUM MINING AND MILLING.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 (1) the term “institution of higher education”
8 has the meaning given such term under section 101
9 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
10 1001);

11 (2) the term “program” means the grant pro-
12 gram established under subsection (b); and

13 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
14 of Health and Human Services.

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
16 a grant program relating to the epidemiological impacts
17 of uranium mining and milling. Grants awarded under the
18 program shall be used for the study of the epidemiological
19 impacts of uranium mining and milling among non-occu-
20 pationally exposed individuals, including family members
21 of uranium miners and millers.

22 (c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
23 ister the program through the National Institute of Envi-
24 ronmental Health Sciences.

25 (d) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.—Any institution
26 of higher education or nonprofit private entity shall be eli-

1 gible to apply for a grant. To apply for a grant an eligible
2 institution or entity shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
3 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing or
4 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
5 reasonably require.

6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

9 **SEC. 10. ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS**
10 **COMPENSATION PROGRAM.**

11 (a) COVERED EMPLOYEES WITH CANCER.—Section
12 3621(9) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness
13 Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384l(9))
14 is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting
15 the following:

16 “(A) An individual with a specified cancer
17 who is a member of the Special Exposure Co-
18 hort, if and only if—

19 “(i) that individual contracted that
20 specified cancer after beginning employ-
21 ment at a Department of Energy facility
22 (in the case of a Department of Energy
23 employee or Department of Energy con-
24 tractor employee) or at an atomic weapons

1 employer facility (in the case of an atomic
2 weapons employee); or

3 “(ii) that individual—

4 “(I) contracted that specified
5 cancer after beginning employment in
6 a uranium mine or uranium mill de-
7 scribed under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) of
8 the Radiation Exposure Compensation
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) (including
10 any individual who was employed in
11 core drilling or the transport of ura-
12 nium ore or vanadium-uranium ore
13 from such mine or mill) located in
14 Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyo-
15 ming, South Dakota, Washington,
16 Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon,
17 Texas, or any State the Attorney Gen-
18 eral makes a determination under sec-
19 tion 5(a)(2) of that Act for inclusion
20 of eligibility under section 5(a)(1) of
21 that Act; and

22 “(II) was employed in a uranium
23 mine or uranium mill described under
24 subclause (I) (including any individual
25 who was employed in core drilling or

1 the transport of uranium ore or vana-
2 dium-uranium ore from such mine or
3 mill) at any time during the period
4 beginning on January 1, 1942, and
5 ending on December 31, 1990.”.

6 (b) MEMBERS OF SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT.—
7 Section 3626 of the Energy Employees Occupational Ill-
8 ness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C.
9 7384q) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1)
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(1) The Advisory Board on Radiation and
13 Worker Health under section 3624 shall advise the
14 President whether there is a class of employees—

15 “(A) at any Department of Energy facility
16 who likely were exposed to radiation at that fa-
17 cility but for whom it is not feasible to estimate
18 with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose they
19 received; and

20 “(B) employed in a uranium mine or ura-
21 nium mill described under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i)
22 of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) (including any individual
24 who was employed in core drilling or the trans-
25 port of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore

1 from such mine or mill) located in Colorado,
2 New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota,
3 Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Or-
4 egon, Texas, and any State the Attorney Gen-
5 eral makes a determination under section
6 5(a)(2) of that Act for inclusion of eligibility
7 under section 5(a)(1) of that Act, at any time
8 during the period beginning on January 1,
9 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990, who
10 likely were exposed to radiation at that mine or
11 mill but for whom it is not feasible to estimate
12 with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose they
13 received.”; and

14 (2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the
15 following:

16 “(b) DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

17 “(1) Subject to the provisions of section
18 3621(14)(C), the members of a class of employees at
19 a Department of Energy facility, or at an atomic
20 weapons employer facility, may be treated as mem-
21 bers of the Special Exposure Cohort for purposes of
22 the compensation program if the President, upon
23 recommendation of the Advisory Board on Radiation
24 and Worker Health, determines that—

1 “(A) it is not feasible to estimate with suf-
2 ficient accuracy the radiation dose that the
3 class received; and

4 “(B) there is a reasonable likelihood that
5 such radiation dose may have endangered the
6 health of members of the class.

7 “(2) Subject to the provisions of section
8 3621(14)(C), the members of a class of employees
9 employed in a uranium mine or uranium mill de-
10 scribed under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Radiation
11 Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note)
12 (including any individual who was employed in core
13 drilling or the transport of uranium ore or vana-
14 dium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) located in
15 Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South
16 Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota,
17 Oregon, Texas, and any State the Attorney General
18 makes a determination under section 5(a)(2) of that
19 Act for inclusion of eligibility under section 5(a)(1)
20 of that Act, at any time during the period beginning
21 on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31,
22 1990, may be treated as members of the Special Ex-
23 posure Cohort for purposes of the compensation pro-
24 gram if the President, upon recommendation of the

1 Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health,
2 determines that—

3 “(A) it is not feasible to estimate with suf-
4 ficient accuracy the radiation dose that the
5 class received; and

6 “(B) there is a reasonable likelihood that
7 such radiation dose may have endangered the
8 health of members of the class.”.

○