

(k) *Silicosis* means a pneumoconiosis due to the inhalation of the dust of stone, sand, flint, or other materials containing silicon dioxide, characterized by the formation of pulmonary fibrotic changes.

(l) *Specified state* means Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, or Texas. Additional states may be included, provided:

(1) A uranium mine was operated in such state at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1971;

(2) The state submits an application to the Assistant Director (specified in §79.70(a)) to include such state; and

(3) The Assistant Director makes a determination to include such state.

(m) *Uranium mine* means any underground excavation, including "dog holes," as well as open-pit, strip, rim, surface, or other aboveground mines, where uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore was mined or otherwise extracted.

(n) *Working level* means the concentration of the short half-life daughters of radon that will release (1.3×10^5) million electron volts of alpha energy per liter of air.

(o) *Working level month of radiation* means radiation exposure at the level of one working level every work day for a month, or an equivalent cumulative exposure over a greater or lesser amount of time.

(p) *Written diagnosis by a physician* means a written determination of the nature of a disease made from a study of the signs and symptoms of a disease that is based on a physical examination of the patient, medical imaging or a chemical, microscopic, microbiologic, immunologic or pathologic study of physiologic and functional tests, secretions, discharges, blood, or tissue. For purposes of satisfying the requirement of a "written diagnosis by a physician" for living claimants specified in §79.46, a physician submitting a written diagnosis of a nonmalignant respiratory disease must be employed by the Indian Health Service or the Department of Veterans Affairs or be board certified, and must have a documented, ongoing physician-patient re-

lationship with the claimant. An "ongoing physician-patient relationship" can include referrals made to specialists from a primary care provider for purposes of diagnosis or treatment. "Board certification" requires, in addition to physician licensing, the successful completion of a residency training program and passage of a Board exam in a relevant field or specialty. Relevant specialties include: family practice, internal medicine, pathology, preventive medicine, radiology, surgery, and thoracic surgery (and including subspecialties such as cardiovascular disease, medical oncology, pulmonary disease) as listed by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

§79.42 Criteria for eligibility for claims by miners.

To establish eligibility for compensation under this subpart, a claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary must establish each of the following:

(a) The claimant was employed as a miner in a specified state;

(b) The claimant was so employed at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1971;

(c) The claimant was exposed during the course of his or her mining employment to 40 or more working level months of radiation or worked for at least one year in a uranium mine or mines during the period identified in paragraph (b) of this section; and

(d) The claimant contracted lung cancer or a nonmalignant respiratory disease following such exposure.

§79.43 Proof of employment as a miner.

(a) The Department will accept, as proof of employment for a designated time period, information contained in any of the following records:

(1) Records created by or gathered by the Public Health Service (PHS) in the course of any health studies of uranium workers during or including the period 1942-1990;

(2) Records of a uranium worker census performed by the PHS at various times during the period 1942-1990;

(3) Records of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), or any of its successor agencies; and