

that will be accepted as proof that a claimant satisfies such eligibility criteria. Section 5 of the Act provides for a payment of \$100,000 to “millers” who contracted primary lung cancer, one of a limited number of nonmalignant respiratory diseases, primary renal cancer, or chronic renal disease, following employment for at least one year as a uranium mill worker in specified states during the period beginning January 1, 1942, and ending December 31, 1971.

§ 79.51 Definitions.

(a) *Chronic renal disease* means the chronic, progressive, and irreversible destruction of the nephron. It is exhibited by diminution of renal function.

(b) *Cor pulmonale* means heart disease, including hypertrophy of the right ventricle, due to pulmonary hypertension secondary to fibrosis of the lung.

(c) *Designated time period* means the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1971.

(d) *Employment for at least one year* means employment for a total of at least one year (12 consecutive or cumulative months).

(e) *Fibrosis of the lung or pulmonary fibrosis* means chronic inflammation and scarring of the pulmonary interstitium and alveoli with collagen deposition and progressive thickening.

(f) *Kidney tubal (tubular) tissue injury* means structural or functional damage to the kidney tubules that results in renal disease and dysfunction.

(g) *Miller or uranium mill worker* means a person who operated or otherwise worked in a uranium mill.

(h) *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certified “B” reader* means a physician who is certified as such by NIOSH. A list of certified “B” readers is available from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program upon request.

(i) *Nephritis* means an inflammatory process of the kidneys resulting in chronic renal dysfunction.

(j) *Nonmalignant respiratory disease* means fibrosis of the lung, pulmonary fibrosis, cor pulmonale related to fibrosis of the lung, silicosis, and pneumoconiosis.

(k) *Pneumoconiosis* means a chronic lung disease resulting from inhalation

and deposition in the lung of particulate matter, and the tissue reaction to the presence of the particulate matter. For purposes of this subpart, the claimant’s exposure to the particulate matter that led to the disease must have occurred during employment in a uranium mill.

(l) *Primary lung cancer* means any physiological condition of the lung, trachea, or bronchus that is recognized under that name or nomenclature by the National Cancer Institute. The term includes in situ lung cancers.

(m) *Readily available documentation* means documents in the possession, custody, or control of the claimant or an immediate family member.

(n) *Primary renal cancer* means any physiological condition of the kidneys that is recognized under that name or nomenclature by the National Cancer Institute.

(o) *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.

(p) *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.

(q) *Uranium mill* means any milling operation involving the processing of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore, including carbonate plants and acid leach plants. The term applies to ore-buying stations where ore was weighed and sampled prior to delivery to a mill for processing; “upgrader” or “concentrator” facilities located at the mill or at a remote location where uranium or vanadium-uranium ore was processed prior to delivery to a mill; and pilot plants where uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore was processed.

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(r) *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.

(s) *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 § 79.55, 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 relationship 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.

§ 79.52 Criteria for eligibility for claims by uranium millers.

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

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

(b) The claimant was so employed for at least one year (12 consecutive or cumulative months) during the period be-

ginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1971; and

(c) The claimant contracted primary lung cancer, a nonmalignant respiratory disease, primary renal cancer, or chronic renal disease (including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury) following at least one year of such employment.

§ 79.53 Proof of employment as a miller.

(a) The Department will accept, as proof of employment for the time period indicated, 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

(4) Records of federally supported, health-related studies of uranium workers.

(b) The Program will presume that the employment history for the time period indicated in records listed in paragraph (a) of this section is correct. If the claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary wishes to contest the accuracy of such records, then the claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary may provide one or more of the records identified in paragraph (c) of this section, and the Assistant Director will determine whether the employment history indicated in the records listed in paragraph (a) is correct.

(c) If the sources in paragraph (a) of this section do not contain information regarding the claimant’s uranium mill employment history, do not contain sufficient information to establish employment for at least one year in a uranium mill during the specified time period to qualify under § 79.52(b), or if a claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary wishes to contest the accuracy of such records, then the claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary may submit records from any of the following sources, which the Assistant Director shall consider (in addition to any