



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Hostettler Statement on Administration's Compliance with Committee Oversight Regarding EEOICPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Immigration, Border Security, and Claims Subcommittee Chairman John N. Hostettler (R-Ind.) released the following statement today:

“Patrick Pizzella, the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management and the Chief Information Officer at the Department of Labor called yesterday morning to inform the Committee of the Department of Labor’s commitment to expeditiously satisfy the request made by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims for documents and communications regarding the Office of Workers Compensation’s administration of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

“The document request was spurred by the discovery of an OMB passback document to the Department of Labor during the budget process commending the Employment Standards Administration for identifying the potential for a large expansion of benefits under EEOICPA through the designation of Special Exposure Cohorts (SEC) then expressed an intent to convene an interagency work group to develop administrative procedure to contain growth in the cost of benefits provided by the program and listed five options for discussion. Those options appeared to be an attack on the independent system in place to render decisions on SEC designations. The revelations in the passback have incited the claimant community and many others who support the purpose of the program.

“Due to the commitment made yesterday by the Department of Labor, the Committee has deferred the scheduled vote on a motion to authorize the issuance of a subpoena. The Committee is hopeful that the Department keeps the promise that all materials requested will be provided within the next three weeks. Once the Department has complied to the Committee’s satisfaction with the request, the motion will be removed from the Committee’s agenda. The Committee looks forward to a renewed cooperation with the Department of Labor and the opportunity to provide this program for sick atomic weapons workers and their survivors with the thorough, needed, and appropriate oversight review of its administration.”

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