Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

NOV 0 7 2001

Emily A. Spieler
Chairman
Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Chairman Spieler:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 2001, to Secretary Abraham, enclosing the Worker Advocacy Advisory Committee's (WAAC) recommendations for implementation of Subtitle D of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA). The Secretary has asked that I respond to your letter directly.

We appreciate having the benefit of the Committee's hard work and recommendations. As you mentioned, you and the WAAC have previously expressed these recommendations to us verbally at the Advisory Committee meetings. It is certainly beneficial to have them all organized and set forth in a single written document. To date, we have already taken steps to implement a number of them. As we continue with the rulemaking process, and in building our program and staffing the Office of Worker Advocacy, we will continue to consider them. We also appreciate the WAAC comments on the Proposed Rule providing guidelines for physicians panel determinations under EEOICPA. We will seriously consider them in the context of final rulemaking.

I also want to acknowledge receipt of your cover letter to me wherein you requested that we share a copy of your recommendations with the EEOICPA officials at the U.S. Department of Labor. We have followed up on this request, forwarding copies to Shelby Hallmark and Peter Turcic.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Cary
Acting Assistant Secretary
Office of Environment, Safety and Health

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