



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE RECENTLY PASSED BILL TO EXPAND RECA

The DOJ is not set up to receive or process claims yet and they haven't provided any guidance on the claims process. **PLEASE BE PATIENT.** There will be enough money to pay claims once the process begins. Our Congressional delegation is working to get the process started as soon as possible. There are organizations/attorneys from New Mexico and out of State who are soliciting people to file claims with them. They use all sorts of tactics to get people to believe their services are necessary and often guarantee results. Please do not fall for this. If an entity files a RECA claim on your behalf they will charge a fee. They receive the check, deduct their fee, and then pay you.

There will be Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program (RESEP) clinics in our State that will assist people with claims. The claims process is not necessarily difficult and we'll be looking to State and local government for funds to train people in the application process to assist people when needed. We'll also be looking to government agencies to cooperate in locating necessary documentation for the application process. **PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER YOUR RECORDS TO ANYONE THAT YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT.** If you want to know what's happening with the application process and when the application process will begin go to our website for updates. We know that the program will pay many claims and as an example if only 1000 people are enrolled that will deliver 100 million dollars to claimants. We believe that tens of thousands of people will be able to eventually apply and be approved. **PLEASE STANDBY.**

What does the expansion of RECA do?

- The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act program has been re-authorized and extended through Dec 31, 2028
- Downwinders who lived in New Mexico for one year from 1944 through Nov. 1962 will be eligible and family members can apply on behalf of a deceased loved one
- There are 19 cancers that are covered by the expansion. A list of cancers will be provided soon
- Compensation for downwinders will be increased to \$100,000
- Downwind coverage would be expanded to cover the entire state of New Mexico
- Coverage for uranium miners and workers would be expanded:
 - To workers through Dec 31, 1990
 - To core drillers and remediation workers
 - To cover additional kidney disease for uranium miners
 - To Allow for combined work histories

What does this mean?

This is the biggest expansion of RECA in the history of the program and it wouldn't have happened without the tireless advocacy of Senator Lujan, Representative Leger Fernandez, Senator Heinrich, Representative Stansbury and Representative Vasques.

However, the bill is NOT PERFECT. While it is a significant win, it still leaves out many impacted communities, including the remaining parts of Nevada and Arizona, Montana, Colorado, and Guam.

In Pursuit of Justice for All Those Who Were Damaged



The 2-year extension will likely not be adequate time to get all the people in New Mexico who qualify enrolled and this bill does not have health care benefits for Downwinders.

This is an important first step because it reinstates the program keeping it operational so people can continue to apply for benefits and get the help they need. And it shows that expansion is possible and provides an opportunity to address concerns raised about the cost of expansion.

We are grateful for the win and consider this a big step in the right direction. We look forward to the day that claims are successfully filed and the people of New Mexico begin to see the benefit of the expansion of RECA. Stay tuned for updates and many thanks to all of you who have stood together with us in this fight!