

## Radiation Related Disabilities

This project involves the review of claims for service connection for disabilities veterans believe are related to their exposure to radiation while serving at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, or in the occupation forces at Hiroshima or Nagasaki. A list of radiation claims VA had previously adjudicated was developed to determine which claims may have been previously denied, based on inaccurate radiation doses, and require reconsideration.

### Facts

The National Research Council (NRC) reviewed the accuracy of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's radiation dose reconstruction process. These doses are used by VA to adjudicate claims for radiation related disabilities under 38 CFR § 3.311. The NRC report of May 8, 2003, found that the upper bound (highest) radiation doses provided by DTRA for atmospheric nuclear weapons tests and Hiroshima and Nagasaki occupation forces were inaccurate. The NRC report noted that a small number of claims may have been successful if more accurate radiation doses had been provided.

### Claims for Review

A list of 11,351 cases requiring review was placed on C&P Service's web page on October 17, 2003. Also, approximately 4,300 cases at Federal Records Centers (FRC) were identified as potentially requiring readjudication. These cases were screened to determine which required recall and review by regional offices. Of the 4,300 cases, only 110 cases required review. These 110 cases were added to the list on the C&P Service Website.

### Status of Review

<b>2005</b>	<b>JUNE</b>	<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>
Total Population for Review	11,351	11,351	11,351
Folders at RO Pending Review	0	0	0
FRC Folders Pending Review	2	2	0
Total Requiring Readjudication	1,252	1,248	1,250
Total Pending Readjudication	1,069	1,062	1,062
Total Completed Readjudication	183	186	188
• Claims Granted - Total & (§ 3.309/§ 3.311)	127 & (117/10)	126 & (117/9)	126 & (117/9)
• Total Claims Denied	56	60	62

7/29/05