



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Centralized Radiation Project Presentation To

Veterans' Advisory Board On Dose Reconstruction

September 19-20, 2007

Jackson Regional Office

Department of Veterans Affairs

TIMELINE FOR CONSOLIDATION OF RADIATION CASES TO JACKSON VA REGIONAL OFFICE

- 07-14-07 - Received first notice from VA Central Office - Office of Field Operations (OFO) that Jackson would be receiving the Radiation Claims. The number of radiation claims identified at that time was 2732.
- 08-11-06 - Received a draft Business Plan from OFO
- 08-23-06 - Received amended Draft Business Plan from OFO
- 09-08-06 - Provided our Southern Area office with an Implementation Plan for review and processing of the Radiation Cases

- 09-20-06 - Radiation Conference Call with Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- 09-26-06 - Creation of original Spreadsheet to log and track all cases received.
- 09-28-06 - Conferred with the (Philadelphia Tiger Team) about procedures for requesting nationwide VA exams.
- 10-06-06 - Began Radiation Training for Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Specialist
- 10-16-06 - Received Fast Letter on Consolidation of Radiation Claims

- 10-18-06 - Received a PowerPoint presentation from Dr. Paul Blake with DTRA introducing the NTPR Program.

Received the first 5 Radiation cases from VA Regional Office at White River Junction.

- 11-16-06 - Radiation Congressional inquiries were assigned to VSRs in RAD Team

- 12-01-06 - Milestone - 2825 Radiation cases received

- 01-17-07 - Received claims list from DTRA to begin processing the Skin Cancer Cases

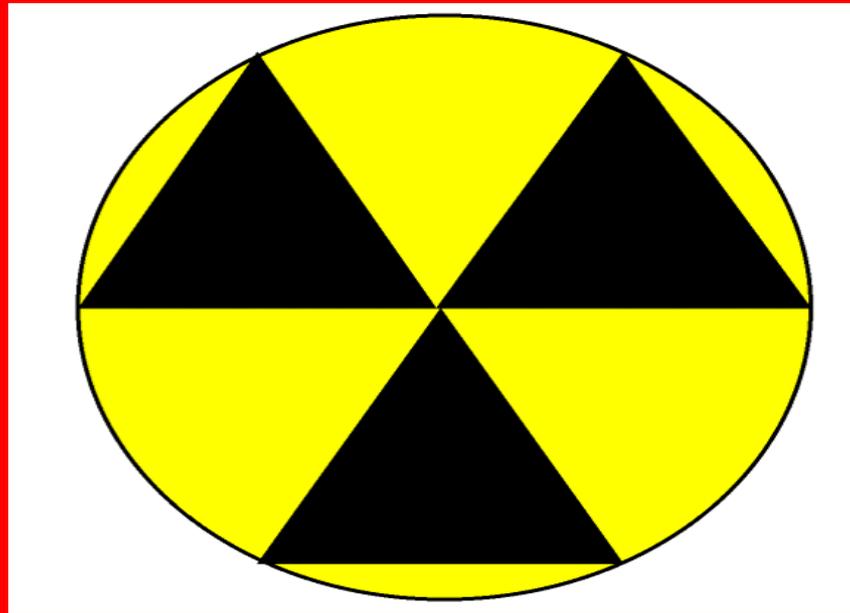
- 01- 25-07 - Received Instructional material for processing the Skin and Prostate Cancer Cases

•01-30-07 - Visit from Lt. Commander Ralph J. Marro, Deputy Program Manager, NTPR

•02-21-07 - Received list of 991 Re-Adjudication Radiation Claims Pending

•08-24-07 - Milestone - 4925 Radiation Cases received

RADIATION CASE



SPECIAL HANDLING

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PRESENTATION

A = ATOMIC OR ATMOSPHERIC CLAIMS BASED ON EXPOSURE TO IONIZING RADIATION

- MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO SERVED WITH THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION FORCES AT HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. (AUGUST 1945 TO JULY 1946)
- THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE U. S. ATMOSPHERIC NUCLEAR TESTING (1945 TO 1962)
- THOSE WHO WERE INTERNED AS POW'S (NEAR HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI) AT THE END OF WWII.

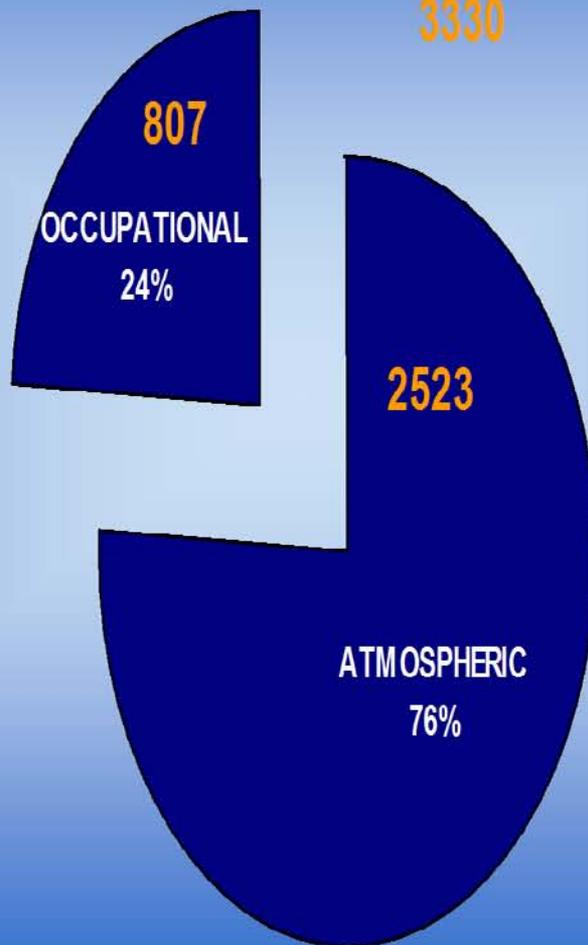
O = "OCCUPATIONAL" EXPOSURES ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC MILITARY DUTIES.

- PERFORMED SERVICE ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS WORK AS AN X-RAY OR DENTAL TECHNICIAN
- WORKED IN A REACTOR PLANT.
- WORKED IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE OR RADIOGRAPHY
- SERVED IN THE NUCLEAR NAVY
- MAINTAINED NUCLEAR WEAPONS
- PARTICIPATED IN CLEAN-UPS AFTER ACCIDENTS INVOLVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS
- RECEIVED X-RAY THERAPY DURING MILITARY SERVICE

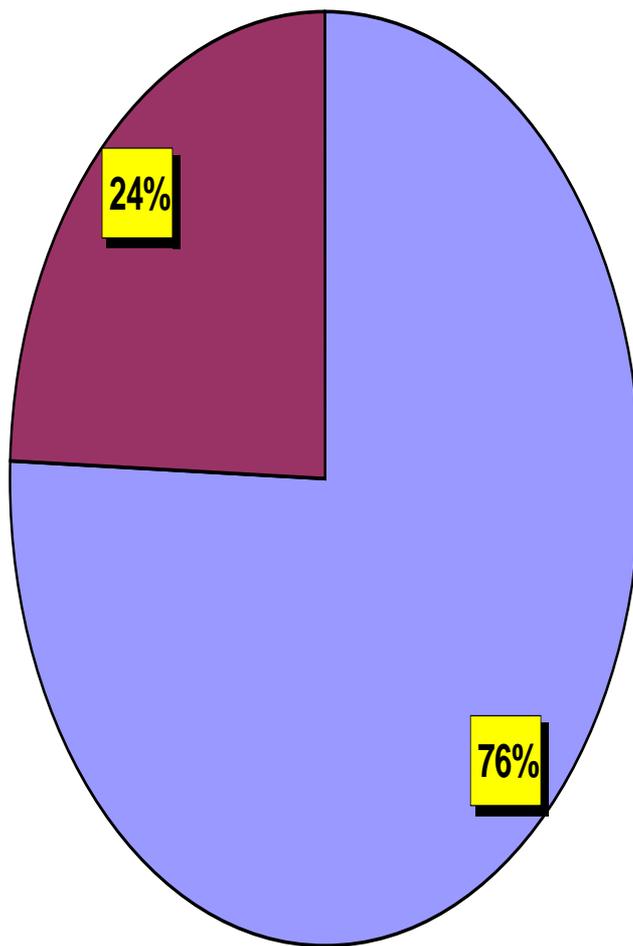
RADIATION CASES RECEIVED THROUGH 08-24-07							
Eastern Region		Central Region		Western Region		Southern Region	
Baltimore	56	Chicago	160	Albuquerque	56	Atlanta	100
Boston	52	Des Moines	74	Anchorage	10	Columbia	81
Buffalo	54	Fargo	17	Boise	32	Huntington	42
Cleveland	184	Houston	163	Cheyenne	10	Jackson	40
Detroit	106	Lincoln	66	Denver	118	Louisville	74
Hartford	23	Little Rock	74	Ft. Harrison	27	Montgomery	104
Indianapolis	71	Milwaukee	92	Honolulu	37	Nashville	167
Manchester	33	Muskogee	231	Los Angeles	84	Roanoke	58
New York	51	New Orleans	102	Manila	5	San Juan	37
Newark	39	Sioux Falls	29	Oakland	233	St. Petersburg	418
Philadelphia	111	St Louis	156	Phoenix	153	Washington	3
Pittsburgh	85	St Paul	98	Portland	91	Winston Salem	145
Providence	25	Waco	246	Reno	68		
Togus	46	Wichita	32	Salt Lake City	34		
White River Junction	12			San Diego	116		
Wilmington	4			Seattle	102		
Total	952	Total	1540	Total	1176	Total	1269
						GRAND TOTAL	4937

CLAIM TYPE BREAKOUT

TOTAL RETAINED FOR PROCESSING -
3330

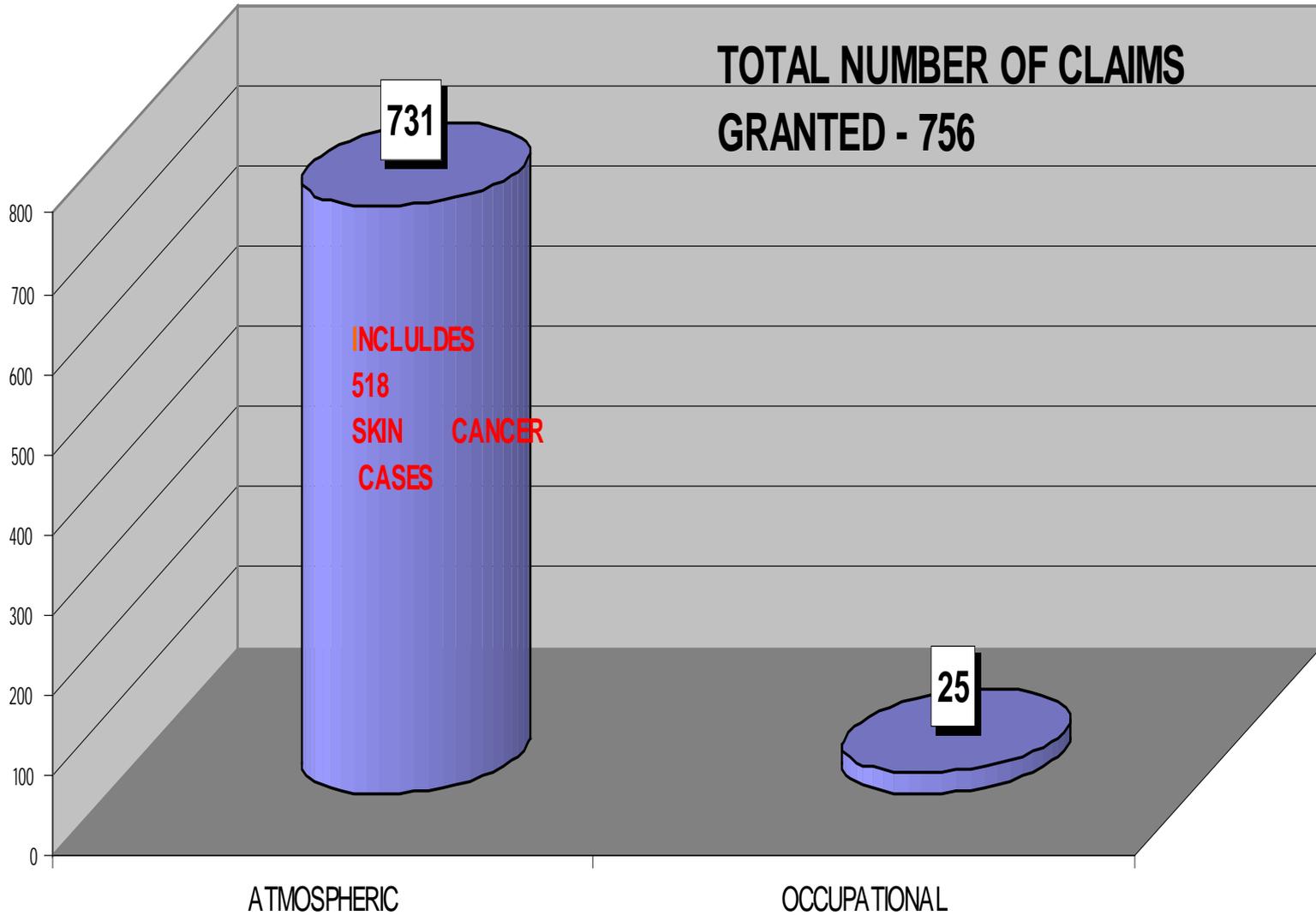


Received vs. Returned



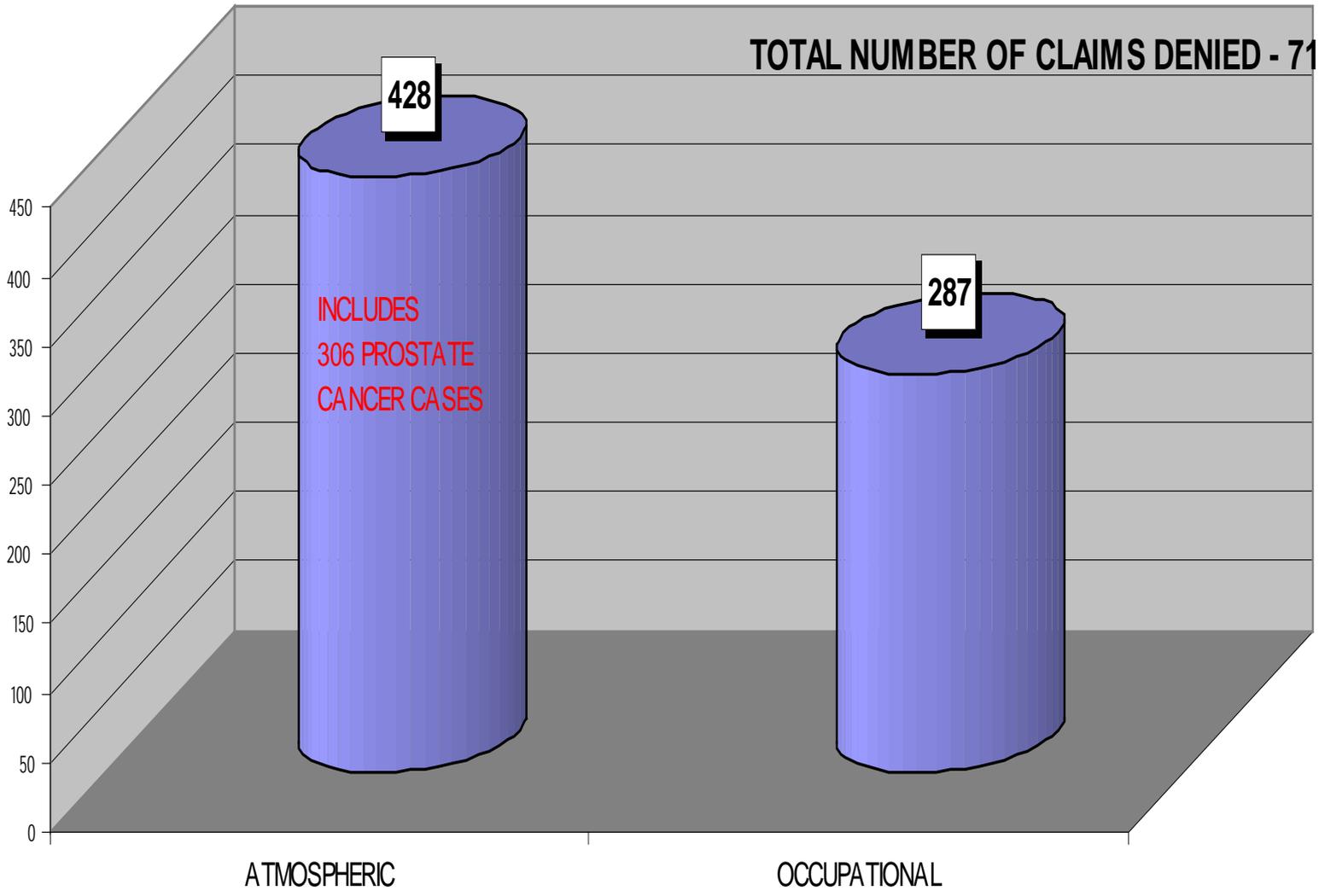
- TOTAL RADIATION CASES RECEIVED
- TOTAL CASES RETURNED - NOT RADIOGENIC/DECEASED

Service Connection Granted



RADIATION CLAIMS DENIED

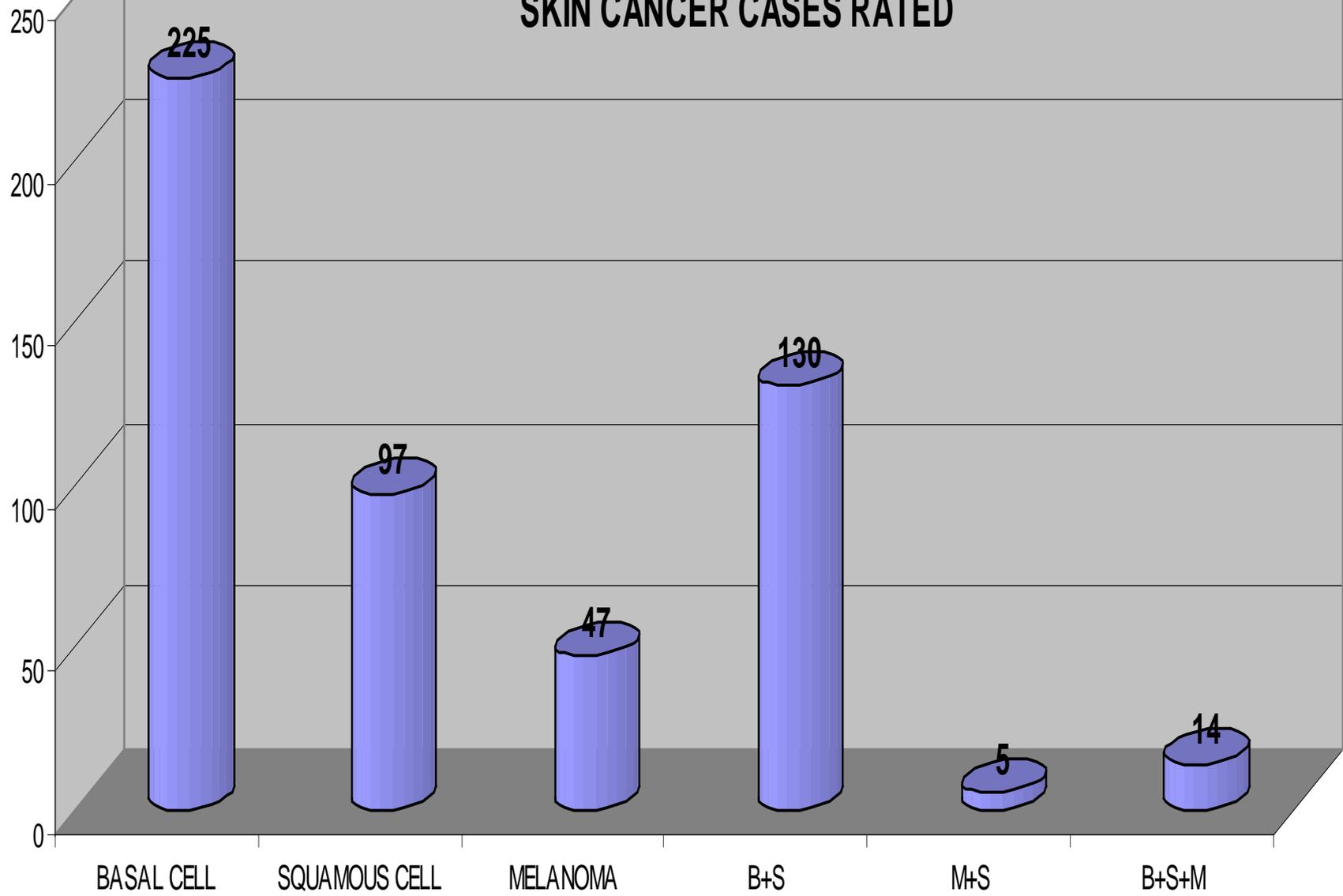
TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS DENIED - 715



ATMOSPHERIC

OCCUPATIONAL

SKIN CANCER CASES RATED

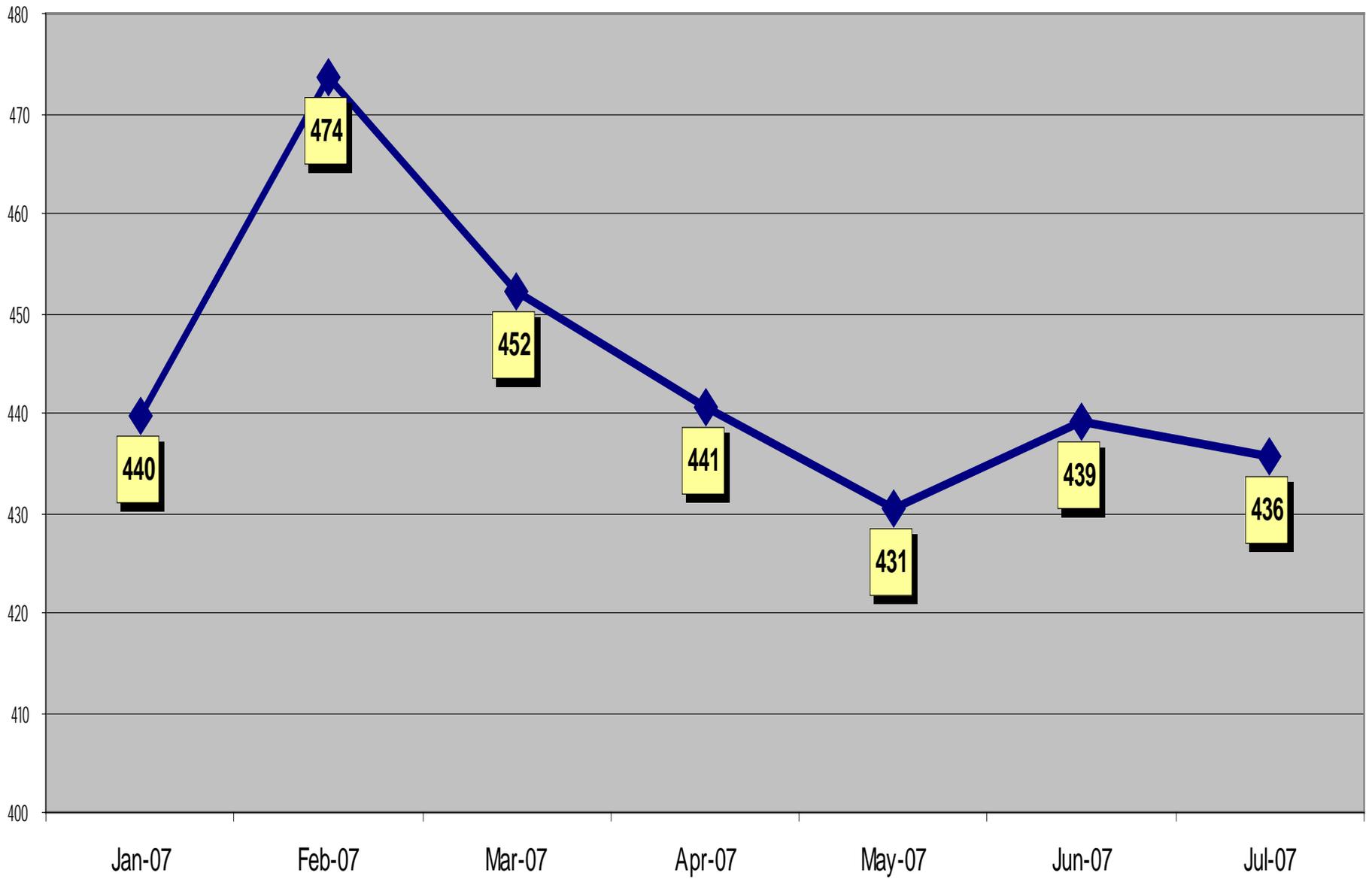


READJUDICATION CASES

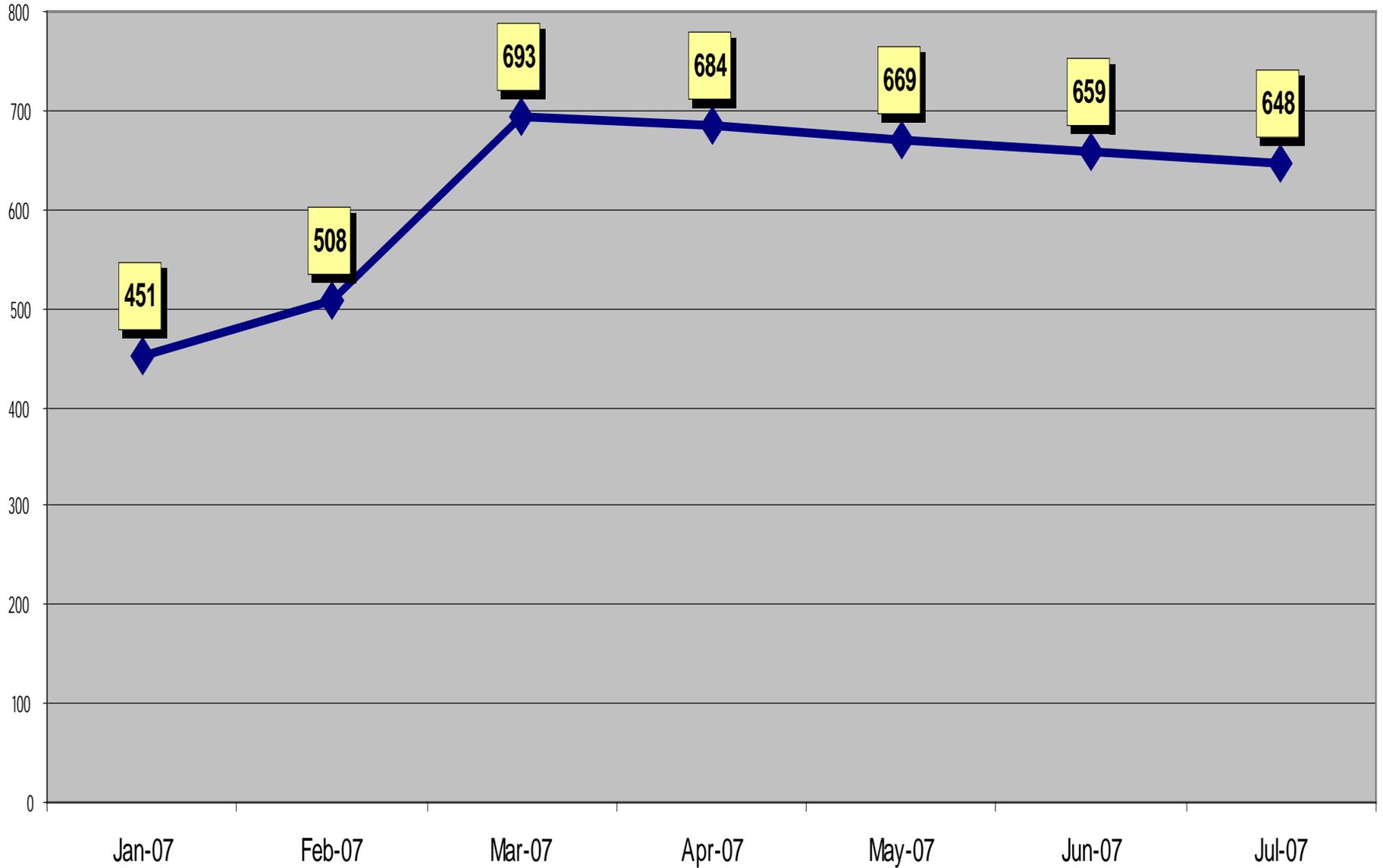
TOTAL READJUDICATION CASES - 991



AVERAGE DAYS PENDING



AVERAGE DAYS TO COMPLETE



OBSTICALS TO MEETING OUR INITIAL EXPECTATIONS FOR THE RADIATION PROJECT

- WHEN THE PROJECT WAS ACCEPTED, THE VBA CLAIMS TRACKING SYSTEM INDICATED ONLY 2700 RADIATION CLAIMS PENDING NATIONWIDE. OUR ORIGINAL PLANS WERE MADE BASED ON THAT NUMBER. WE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIALLY MORE CASES THAN WERE ORIGINALLY SHOWN AND CONTINUE TO RECEIVE APPROXIMATELY 30 - 40 NEW CASES PER MONTH.

- ONE OF THE PRIMARY MOVING FORCES BEHIND THE CENTRALIZATION OF THIS PROJECT WAS THE INCONSISTENT NATURE OF BOTH THE DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL PROCESSING OF RADIATION CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE FOUND THIS PROBLEM TO BE SOMEWHAT WORSE THAN EXPECTED, I.E., A MAJORITY OF THE CASES HAD BEEN INADEQUATELY DEVELOPED.

- THE SCHEDULING OF VA EXAMS NATIONWIDE HAS PRESENTED SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS. SOME VA REGIONAL OFFICES USE CONTRACT MEDICAL FACILITIES AND OTHER VAMCS ONLY SCHEDULE CERTAIN TYPES OF VA EXAMS. THIS CAUSES SOME UNEXPECTED DELAYS IN PROCESSING.

- OUR INFORMATION SHARING RELATIONSHIP WITH DTRA HAS DEMONSTRATED CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE DELAYS IN RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL CLAIMS FROM SEVERAL OF THE SERVICE DEPARTMENTS. WE CONTINUE TO EXPLORE WAYS TO IMPROVE THESE RELATIONSHIPS, BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.



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THE END

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