



# **Veterans Benefits Administration**

---

## **Radiation Claims Processing**

Bradley Flohr, Assistant Director for Policy

Gail Berry, Asst. Veterans Service Center Manager, Jackson, MS

March 23, 2012

VBDR Meeting, San Antonio, TX

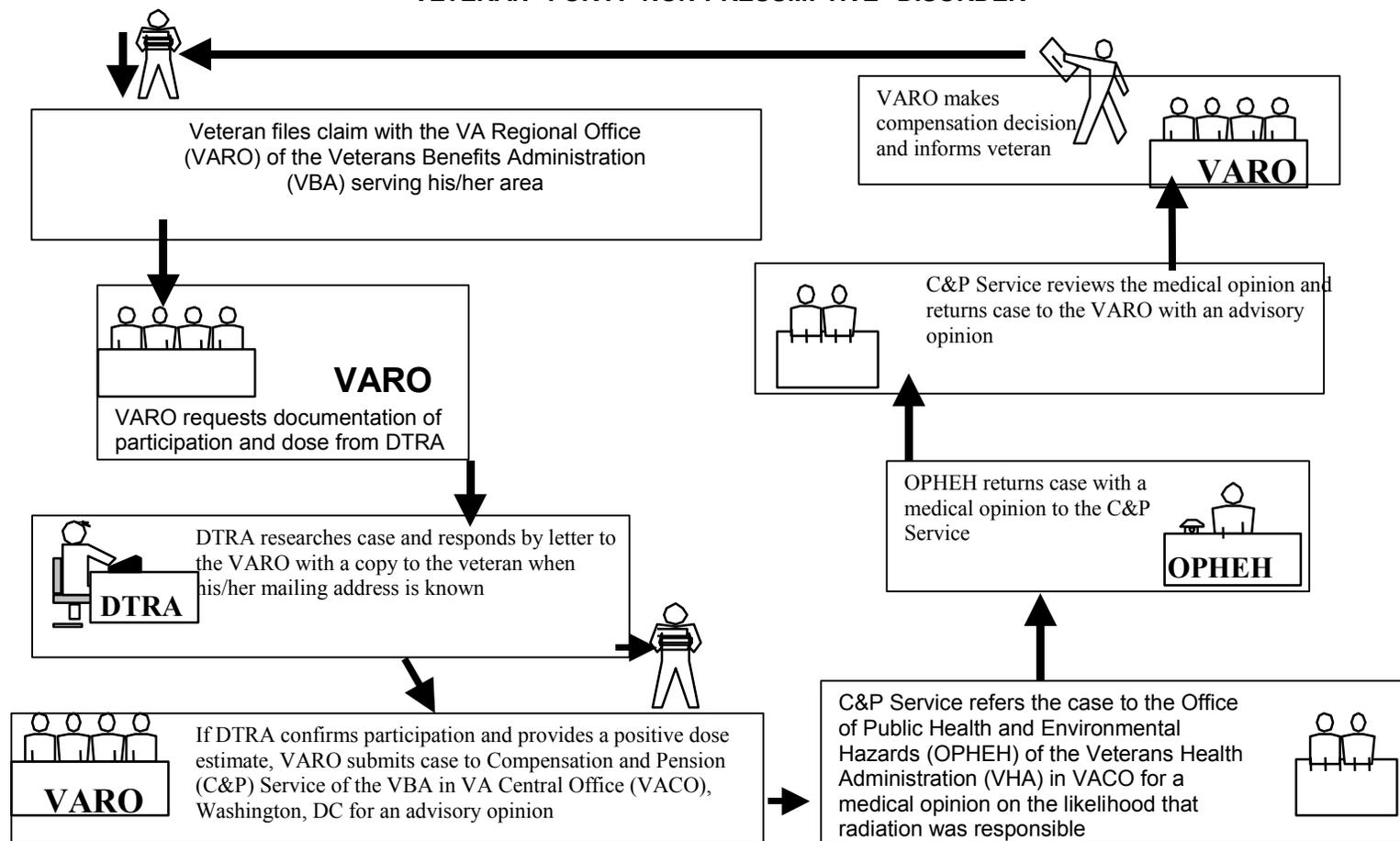
# Briefing Objectives

---

---

- Explain VA Benefits in Brief
- Explain VA's Radiation Claims Process
- Describe VA Central Office Role
- Describe Radiation Claims Process in the Jackson Regional Office

**FLOW DIAGRAM FOR ADJUDICATION OF A VA RADIATION CLAIM FROM AN "ATOMIC VETERAN" FOR A "NON-PRESUMPTIVE" DISORDER**



# Jackson RO Claims Review (3/12/12)

▪ Claims files accepted for adjudication	7,715
▪ Pending initial review	167
▪ Pending development initiation	21
▪ Development	531
▪ Pending DTRA response	92
▪ Ready to rate	179
▪ Total granted	2,210
▪ Total denied	4,453

# C&P Service Radiation Claims Process

## FY11 to Date

# Agenda Overview

- Specific Topics for Update and Discussion
- Workload
  - Caseload
  - Production
- Technical Performance
  - QA Trends and observations

# Topics for Update and Discussion

---

- Staffing assigned to processing radiation claims
- Radiation receipts FY11-FY12
- Radiation Completions
- Atmospheric skin grants/denials
- Status of pending inventory
- Snapshot of pending claims
- Timeliness of claims processing – expectations

# Radiation Priorities - 2012 Priorities/Goals

- **Reduce Radiation Inventory and claims over 125 Days**
  - Work Special Issue Claims (Homeless, POW, Hardship, Terminal) as first priority.
  - Work oldest cases pending over 500 days and fast moving cases to maximize production
- **Improve Quality and meet strategic goal of 98% Rating quality by 2015**
  - Local Quality Review Program
  - Ad-Hoc Results of Quality review analysis of Radiation Claims (Last review performed November/December 2010)
- **Continue Process Improvements**

# VBA Stakeholder - “Hot Topics”

---

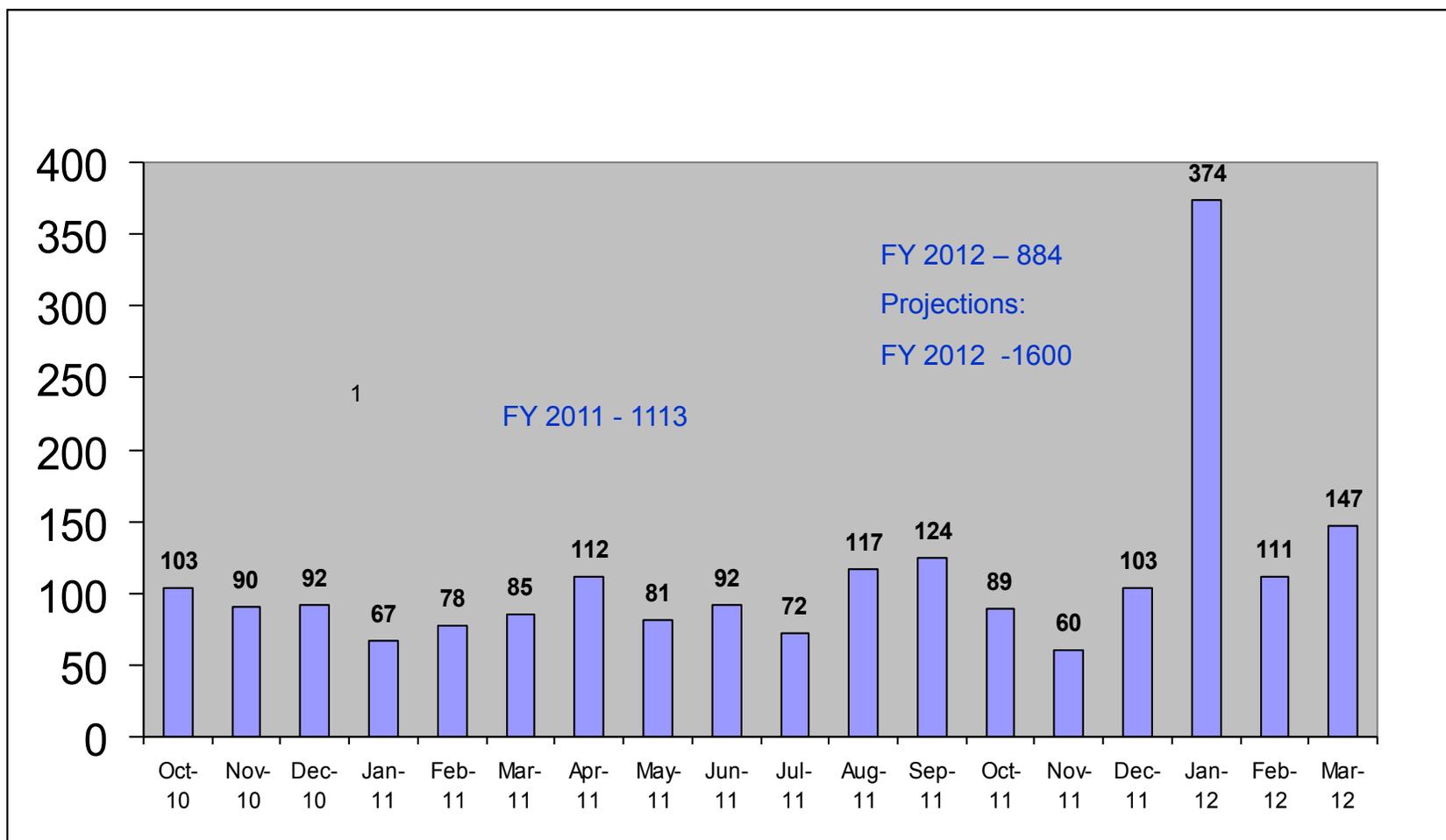
- **Expedited Posterior Subcapsular Cataracts Based on Radiation Exposure under 38 CFR 3.311**
- Under Secretary for Benefits designated Jackson Regional Office authority to assume responsibility for the decision-making process for on-site participants in atmospheric nuclear test on 08-19-11.
  
- **Increased Output**
- Accelerate production for expedited processes
- Reduce backlog earlier

# Regional Office Radiation Staffing

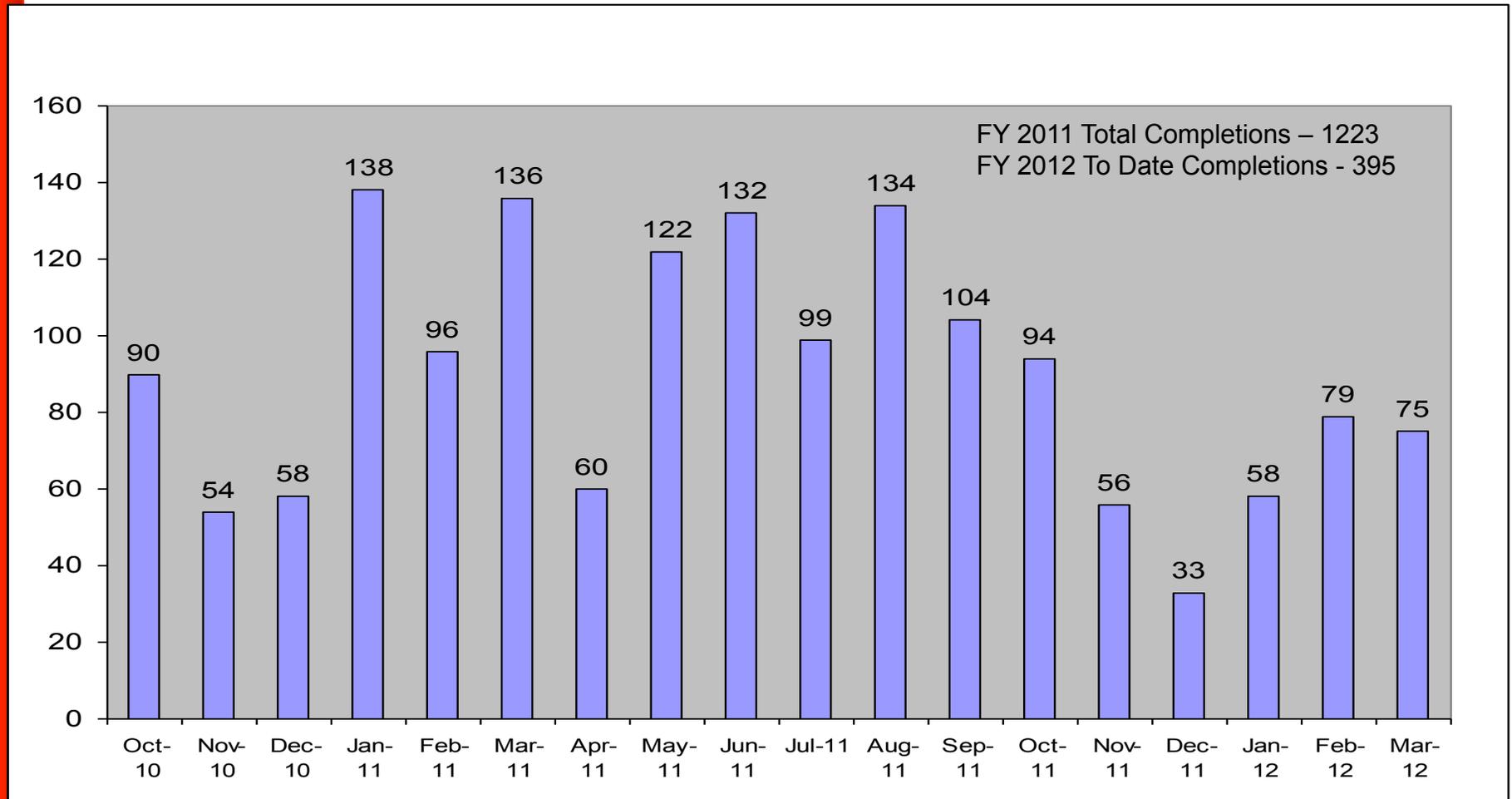
## JACKSON RADIATION PROJECT

Position	FTE Assigned March 2012	FTE Projected Additional Consolidation began 01-04-12	Net Result
AVSCM	1	1	0
RVSR	2	2	0
Senior VSR	1	1	0
VSR	8	11	-3
Claims Assistant	1	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-3</b>

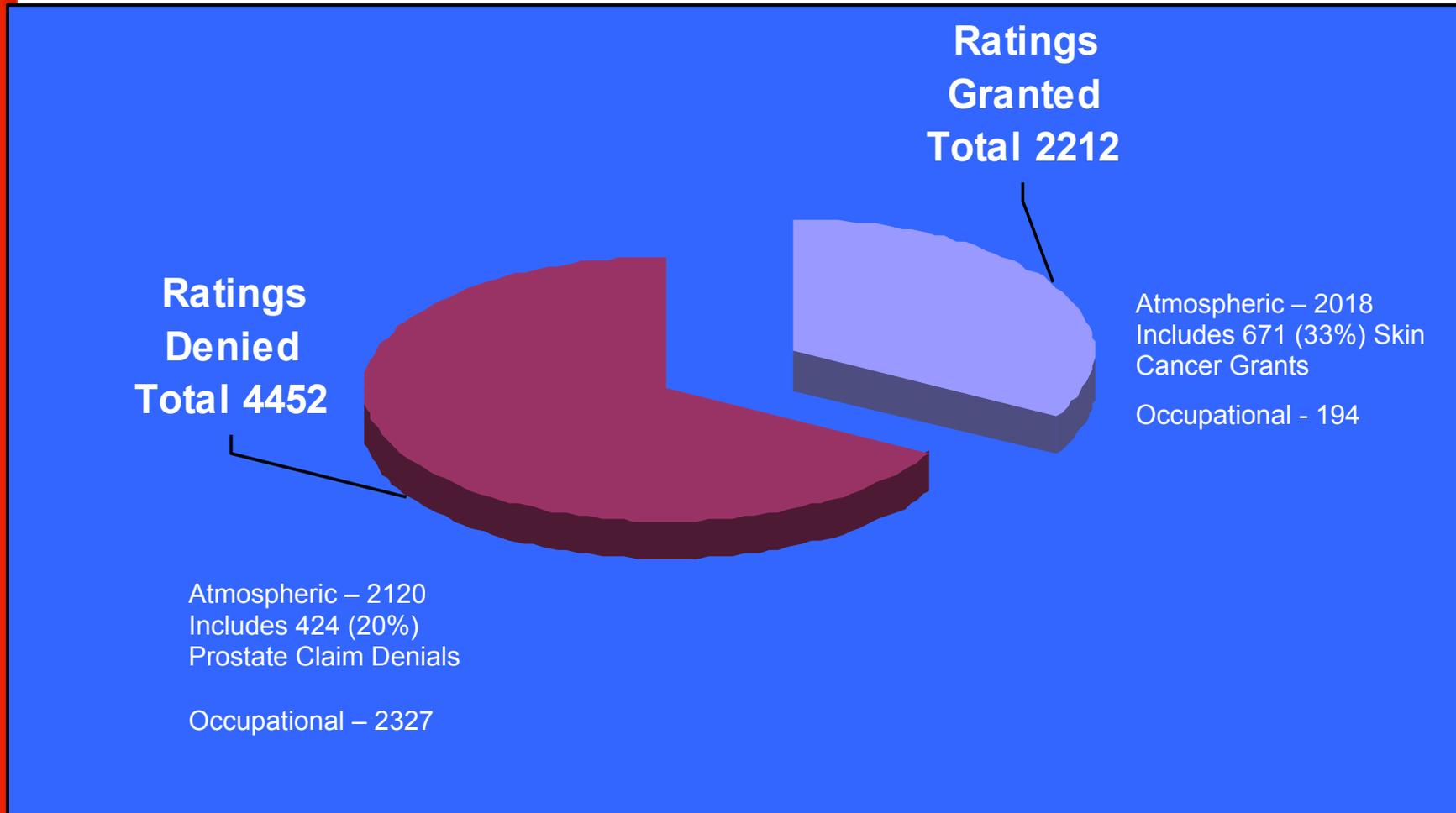
# Radiation Claim Receipts FY 2011 – FY 2012



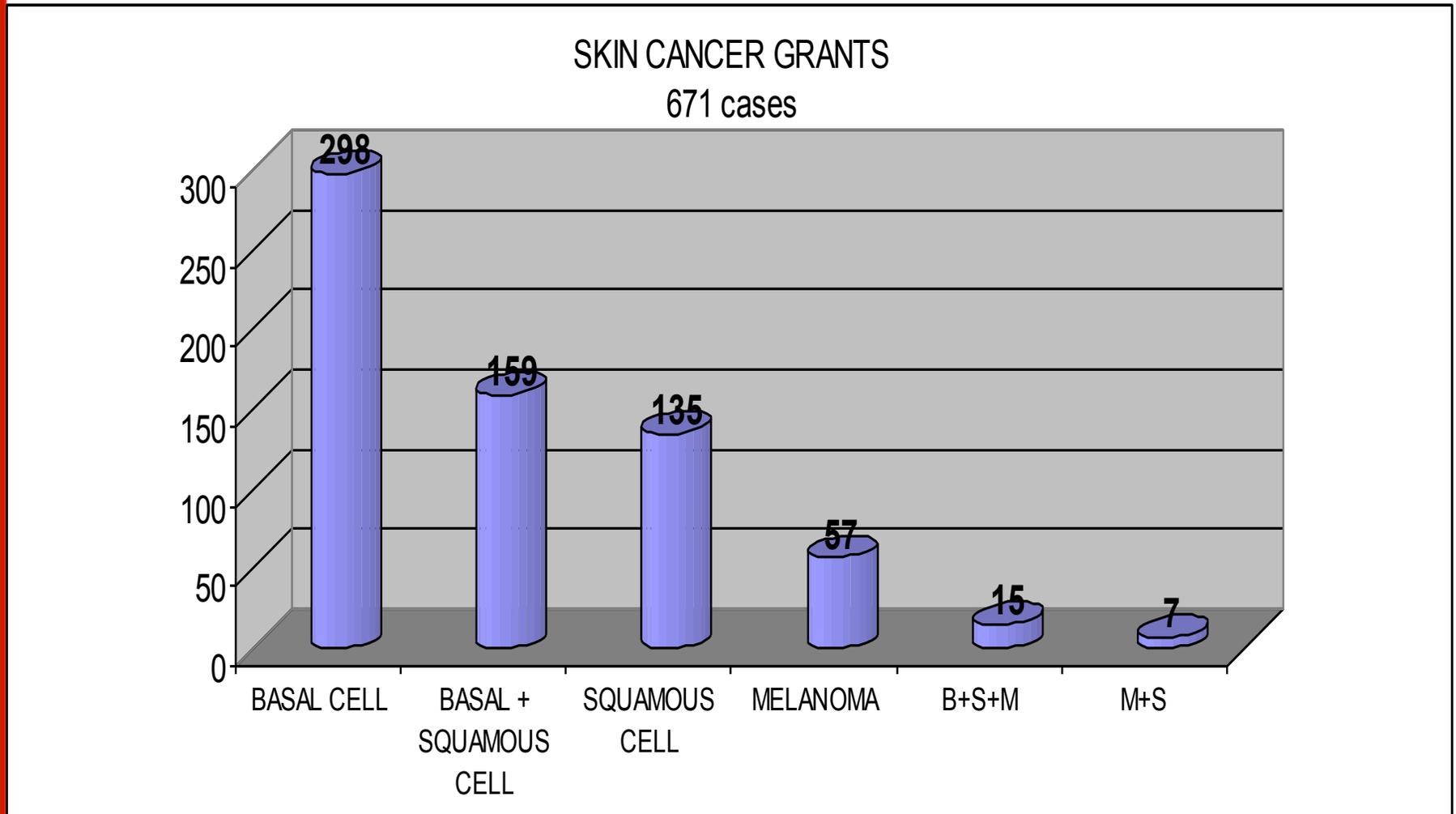
# Radiation Completions FY 2011 – FY 2012



# Total Radiation Completions (Grant/Denial)

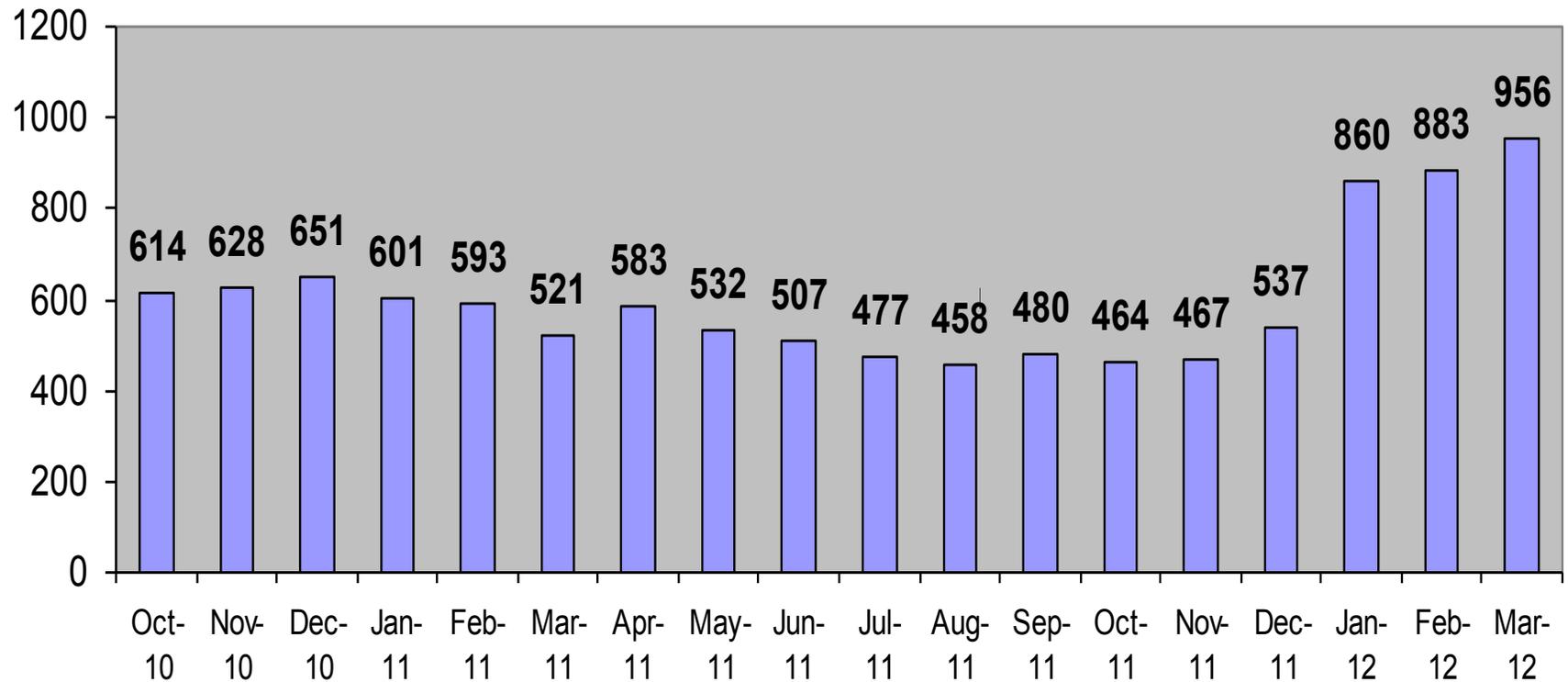


# Atmospheric Skin Cancer Cases Granted

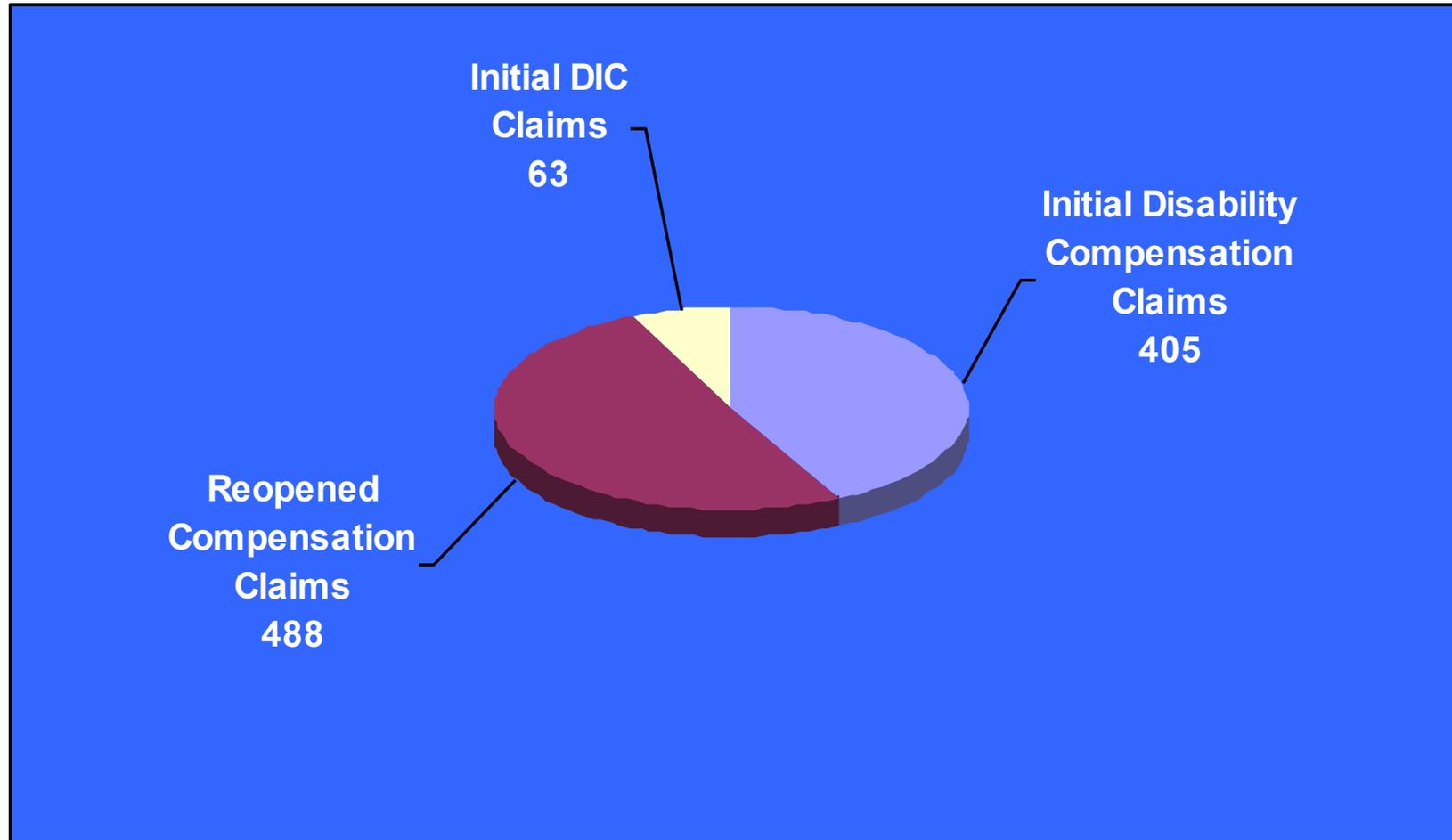


# Pending Radiation Inventory

Radiation Inventory FY 2011 - FY 2012



# Pending Caseload By Claim Type (956 Cases)

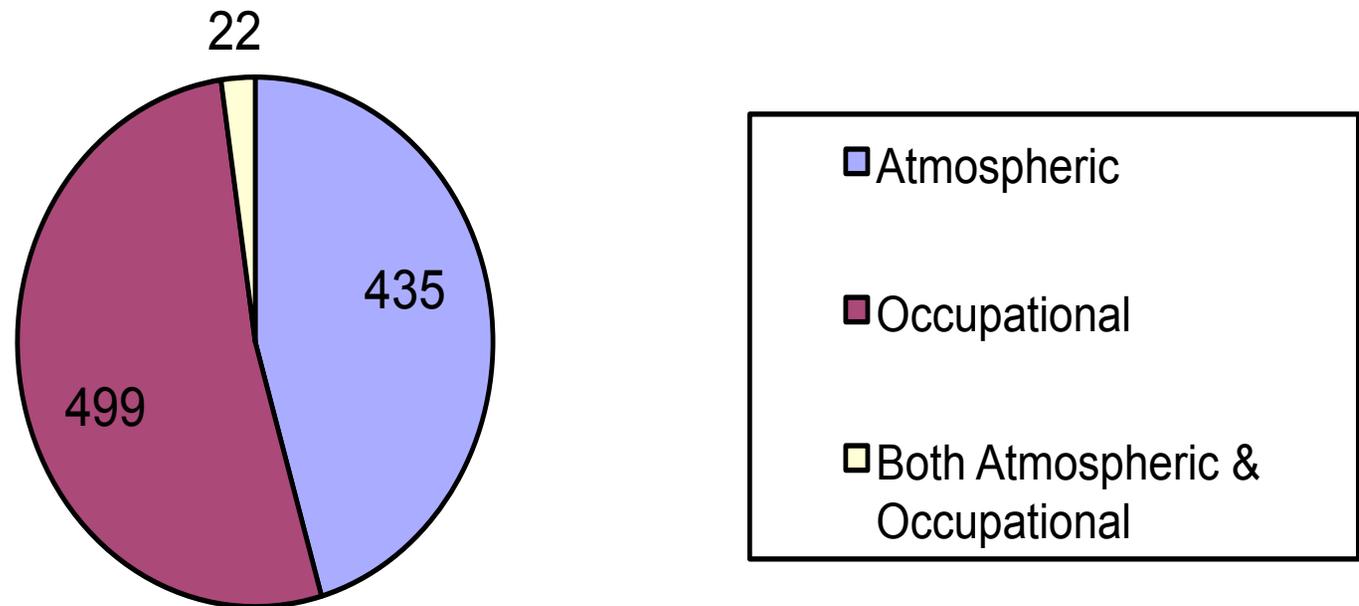


# Status of Pending Cases

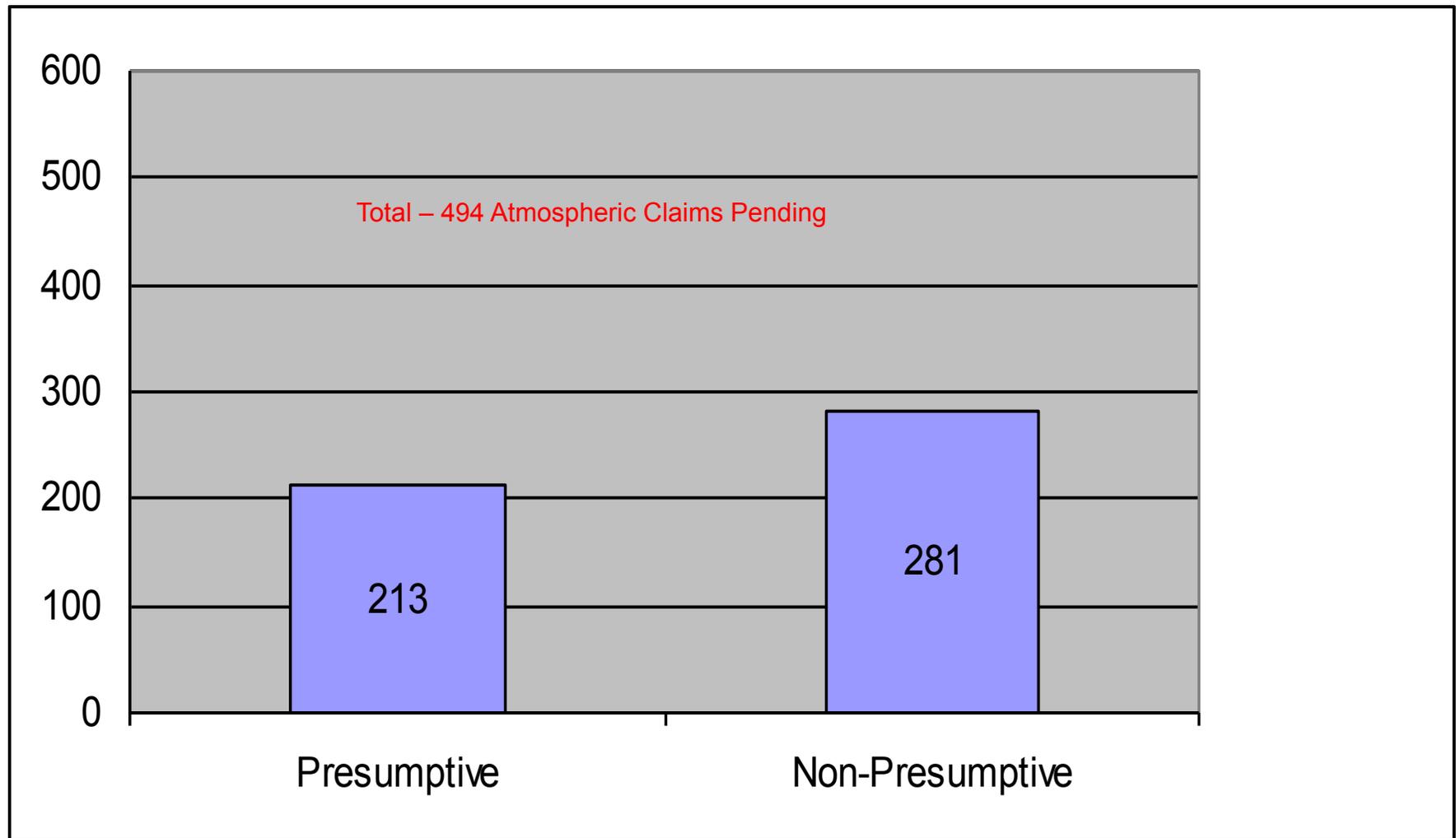
Awaiting Evidence from Veteran/Third Party	505
Pending Review (Incoming)	175
Ready For Decision	162
DTRA Open	93
Initial Development Pending	21
Total	956

# Pending Claims for Processing by Type

## Pending Claims Type Breakout



# Pending Atmospheric Cases – Presumptive vs. Non Presumptive Cases



# Questions and Discussion