UNION POWER
BAC Members Work on the Largest Nuclear Plant in the U.S.
Hundreds of thousands of construction workers unwittingly put themselves at risk while working on Department of Energy (DOE) or Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) nuclear sites involved in nuclear weapons research or production. Although safety and health precautions are greatly improved since the Cold War, today's workers can still encounter hazardous materials in dust and residue and during demolition and remediation work. Workers on these sites were (and are) exposed to hazards such as radiation, asbestos, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, silica, and solvents that can cause cancers and other serious health problems, even those which are fatal.

Those who performed work on DOE or AEC nuclear sites are eligible to receive free medical screenings through the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed). The screening program helps identify workers' job-related health problems that may have gone untreated or undiagnosed in the years since the hazardous exposures occurred. A national network of BTMed outreach offices across the country covers screenings for DOE/AEC sites (see map).

The BTMed program is entirely voluntary and without cost for BAC members. It is coordinated by CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training and supported by North America's Building Trades Unions. Participation will not only benefit participants themselves, but future workers by helping to identify trends in groupings of information that may be important to their health and well-being. Since DOE began funding the program in 1996, over 28,000 workers have enrolled in BTMed program.

**How Free Screening Program Works**

The BTMed program consists of three steps in this order: participation agreement, a work history interview and a medical exam. In step one, workers who are interested should call 1-800-866-9663 to enroll. In step two, a specially-trained worker conducts a work history interview to determine what exposures to hazardous material(s) the worker may have had. In step three, the worker receives a free medical screening examination to test for illnesses that may have resulted from exposure risks, as well as other health problems. Following the exam, the worker receives a letter indicating any medical findings and which of those findings could be work-related. If a compensable illness is discovered, the worker may file a claim with the Department of Labor under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. More information on the EEOICPA can be found at: [www.dol.gov/owcp/energy](http://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy).

BAC members who have worked at one of the covered DOE/AEC sites listed on the map, please visit [www.btmed.org](http://www.btmed.org) or contact BTMed at 1-800-866-9663.