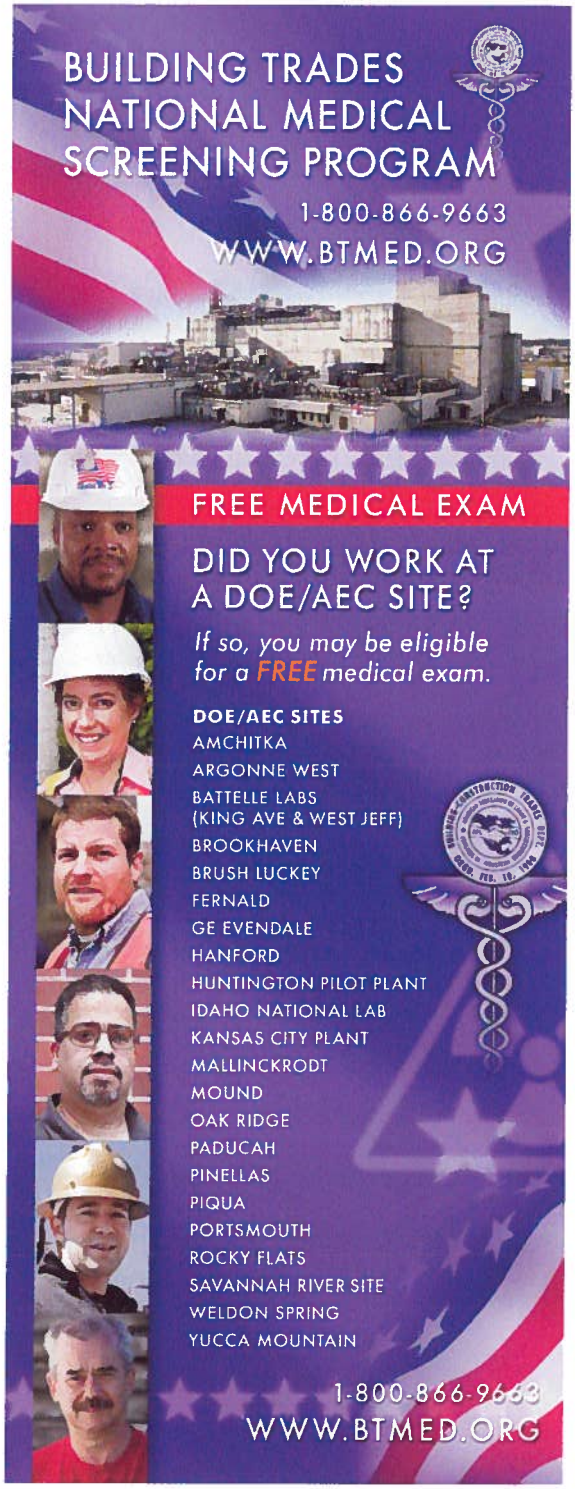
BTMED news

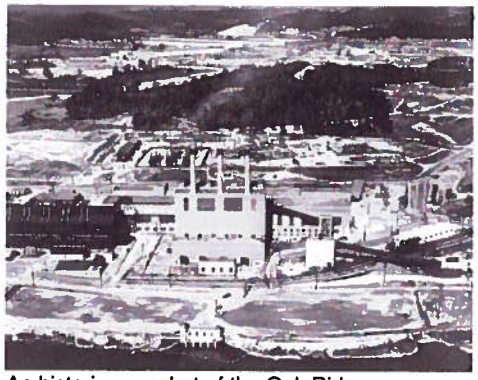
SUPPORTED BY THE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO • COORDINATED BY CPWR - THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH & TRAINING

Volume 6, Issue 1 Winter 2011 www.btmed.org



2010 BTMed Highlights

The Building Trades National Medical Screening Program (BTMed), managed by CPWR since 1996, continues to fulfill the critical mandate that was designated by the U.S. Congress. The 1993 Defense Authorization Act called for the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide medical screening services, at no cost, to all DOE workers (former DOE Federal, contractor, and subcontractor employees) who contributed to the advancement of national security, energy independence, and scientific and technology leadership of the United States.



An historic snapshot of the Oak Ridge Reservation in its early years.

- Over ***2,400*** workers were screened in 2010.
- Participant satisfaction rating above 96%.
- Pilot project to begin in early 2011 that will provide a low dose high resolution helical computerized tomography (CT scan) to eligible Oak Ridge former workers.

Medical findings

- X-ray evidence of lung disease in about 21 percent of screened workers.
- Audiometry test evidence of hearing loss in 58 percent.
- Blood test results showing beryllium disease in 2.4 percent.

BTMed Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I have to be a union member to participate?

A. No. This program is available to any worker who worked on a Department of Energy/Atomic Energy Commission site.

Q. Do I have to pay to participate?

A. No. The exam is free. Invoices from the physicians are sent directly to BTMed for payment.

Q. Will I get a copy of my medical report?

A. Yes. You will receive a copy of your medical findings about six to eight weeks after your exam.

Q. Do they check for asbestos?

A. Yes. You will receive a chest x-ray that will be read by a B-reader to determine whether or not your lungs have been affected by any exposure you may have received.

Q. What benefit would it be for me to have this exam if I am already getting a physical every year with the VA or my doctor?

A. Even though you may have regular check ups with your doctor, those routine exams are not looking for possible work-related conditions. The BTMed exam provides an evaluation for disease from toxins (such as asbestos and silica) spirometry breathing tests, specialized blood test to check for beryllium sensitivity, and a hearing test. It includes testing to check kidney, liver, and thyroid function, because these organs are most affected by exposures to toxins. The BTMed exam also includes screening tests for diabetes, lipid panel (total cholesterol, good cholesterol, bad cholesterol and triglycerides), and complete blood counts. In addition, your exam may include other tests depending on your work history and exposures.

Q. Is it too late for me to get an exam?

A. No. If you have already gone through your work history interview, all you have to do is call us at 1-800-866-9663 to schedule your exam with a physician conveniently located in your area.

Q. What is the purpose of the re-screen?

A. Participants are eligible to receive a second exam (re-screen) three years following the initial exam. The purpose of this exam is to determine if there have been any changes to your health since the first exam. Because several illnesses related to exposures at DOE sites have lengthy latency periods, participants are urged to take advantage of the re-screen exam.

"This is a GREAT physical! It was a very thorough examination and the results were provided to me in a very comprehensive report. A person would be foolish not to take advantage of this program."

Bob Stallmeyer
Sheet Metal Workers Local 24
GE Evendale

"I worked at the plant in Paducah over many years which sensitized me to beryllium and also led to asbestosis. With the help of the BTMed program, I discovered illnesses that allowed me to file a claim that got approved."

Maurice Bynum
Pipe Fitters Local 184
Paducah GDP

Q. What can I do to help promote this program?

A. Construction workers are on the move and word of mouth is one way to spread information about the BTMed program. Tell your friends and co-workers who worked at DOE sites to call us at 1-800-866-9663. If you belong to a union or a retiree club, we can give you brochures about the program to share at your next meeting.

Has it been 3 years since your initial screening? If so, call us at 1-800-866-9663

Meet the Hanford Outreach Office

Sherry Gosseen started with the BTMed Program in 2005. She is the Interviewer at the Hanford Outreach Office.

How did you become acquainted with Hanford?

My husband is a pipefitter/welder out of UA Local Union 598. He worked at the site for many, many years starting all the way back in 1978.

What is your role in the medical screening process?

I conduct outreach and the work history interviews for former construction workers who worked out on the Hanford site. If a workers ends up discovering an illness that is compensable, I also help in directing that worker into the EEOICPA.

How does the knowledge you've gained of the site help in conducting the interviews?

Every interview I do is slightly different since every Hanford worker remembers different parts of their work experience. So I'm constantly learning new things about Hanford. In learning these things, I can refresh the memories of other workers so in a way, through me, every Hanford worker is helping each other.

What would you say to any eligible worker who has not received a medical exam?

Come in as quickly as possible! There's no reason you shouldn't take the time to protect yourself and your health. After all, the medical screening is free so all it takes from you is just that - your time. And your health is worth a couple hours.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Whether it's helping a worker discover they're perfectly healthy or bringing illness to their attention, a feeling of pride comes with every Hanford worker who goes through the program. It's particularly exhilarating when workers come back to tell me they received compensation for an illness BTMed discovered.

For information about the BTMed at Hanford
Call Sherry at 509-783-6830
Tuesday - Thursday (9am - 5pm pst)

Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA)

CPWR researches construction worker employment histories

Under contract with DOL, CPWR works with local building trades unions and subcontractors to obtain union and union-employer trust funds records to help with employment verification.

CPWR has assisted with more than 14,679 verification requests since 2003 and has been able to provide records for ***two-thirds*** of these requests.

If you need help verifying a construction work history for an EEOICPA claim, ask your claims examiner for more information.

Comments? Questions?

The Office of the Ombudsman
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICPA)

Contact: 1-877-662-8363
Website: www.dol.gov/eeombd
Email: ombudsman@dol.gov

The Ombusdman provides information to claimants regarding the benefits available under Part B & E of the EEOICPA, and the requirements to file for and receive those benefits.

Attention Oak Ridge Workers!

Join DOE, DOL, and NIOSH on April 13th at the New Hope Center in Oak Ridge for discussion on EEOICPA and the medical screening programs. Call for meeting times and directions, 1-888-464-0009.

Building Trades Outreach Office Locations and Staff

Brookhaven	Fernald	Hanford	INL	Kansas City Plant
Angela De Vito	Lou Doll	Sherry Gosseen	Dan Obray	Walter Smith
631-727-6406	513-681-0864	509-783-6830	208-233-4611	816-500-1234

Oak Ridge	Paducah	Portsmouth	Rocky Flats	Savannah River Site
Kim Cranford/Johnny Ballinger	Joe Hudson	Ron Bush	Dwayne Adkins	Gordon Rowe/Charles Jernigan
1-888-464-0009	1-888-464-0009	1-888-464-0009	303-744-6169 ext.11	706-722-7272

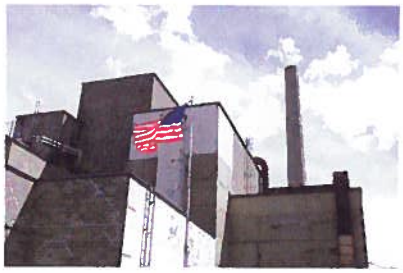
For Amchitka, Argonne West, Battelle Labs (King Avenue & West Jefferson), Brush Luckey, GE Evendale, Huntington Pilot Plant, Mallinckrodt, Mound, Pinellas, Piqua, Weldon Springs, and Yucca Mountain

Call Toll Free 1-800-866-9663

BTMed Detects Disease, Prompts Expansion of Testing

UA Local 598 member awarded compensation for illness found through BTMed Screening

"Every year at Hanford, I had to give a blood sample," Courtland Smith explained, "and every year, it came back clean. It wasn't until I went through the Building Trades National Medical Screening Program that I found out I'd been sensitized to beryllium."



For an entire decade, Smith worked on the Hanford site before this disease caused his medical removal from the site. "I used beryllium tools everyday on the tank farm because they are spark-resistant, protecting against explosions. But I didn't know anything about beryllium being harmful."

Upon being informed of the program, Smith took advantage of the BTMed's free medical screening . After testing positive a second time for beryllium sensitivity, he filed an EEOICPA claim with the Department of Labor, who sent him for further testing that led to a Chronic Beryllium Disease diagnosis.

"Until the day I was diagnosed, I didn't know anything about beryllium. Because the BTMed's physical checks for everything, I know all about that and much more. Some of my buddies have discovered other illnesses."

This experience has convinced Smith to actively promote the BTMed program. "Anybody that has to do with the building trades and worked on a Department of Energy site needs to get tested."

"If the fact that this program found a disease Hanford couldn't find doesn't convince you to go through the program, I guess nothing will."

Building Trades National
Medical Screening Program
c/o CPWR - The Center for Construction
Research and Training

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This publication was produced by CPWR through funding from the Department of Energy (DE-FC01-06EH06004). The information provided here is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of DOE.

Were you a construction worker at a DOE site? If so, please read this.

Check out our UPDATED website! www.btmed.org