

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II  
FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HOUSING AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE



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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

December 22, 2015

Chairman Jason Chaffetz  
Committee on Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Elijah Cummings  
Committee on Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings,

Over the past decade, I have worked diligently to assist constituents from Missouri's Fifth District who previously worked at the former Bannister Federal Complex eligible under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA). It has come to my attention that some of these federal employees continue to be met with bureaucratic obstacles that amount to obstructive red tape in their pursuit of compensation for their previous exposure to toxins during their employment. I am extremely disappointed at the knowledge of this news. I have witnessed firsthand all of the hard work and dedication of the individuals who have been employed at the complex over the past few decades.

According to recent news reports, over 1,440 workers have been affected by working in the plant, and it is important to note, some of the workers were exposed to more radiation than originally believed. The long term effects have continued to plague the survivors of the former plant. Exposures have led to a plethora of health problems, such as pancreatic cancer and respiratory illnesses, and in some cases, have even been fatal. It is imperative the federal government pursues appropriate action to right this wrong. I am requesting an investigation by the Committee on Government Reform into this issue.

It is unfair to the many Americans who have served our country to be subject to this type of hardship. We must do everything we can to provide closure and compensation to those affected. Although the federal government has compensated some former workers, many have received these funds after their death, while some have not received any compensation or minimal amounts. It is imperative the EEOICPA claims process improve significantly in terms of speed, transparency and accuracy when processing workers' claims.

We must do better in serving the members of our community and addressing issues as severe as these complex medical cases. I understand it is a delicate balancing act between proving causation by the employees and the taxpayers who expect and demand our government agencies to be good stewards of their tax dollars. However, we must not abandon those who served our nation with patriotism and professionalism. Your attention to this matter is appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 225-4535.

Warmest regards,



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

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