

RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION TRUST FUND

(Dollars in thousands)

	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
1999 actuals.....	\$13,839
2000 appropriation.....	3,200
Decreases (non-recurring).....	<u>(3,200)</u>
2001 base.....
Program changes (detailed below).....	<u>13,727</u>
2001 estimate.....	13,727

Comparison by activity and program	2000 Appropriation			2001 Base			2001 Estimate			Increase/Decrease		
	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount	Perm Pos.	FTE	Amount
Payment of Radiation Exposure claims.....	\$3,200	\$0	\$13,727	\$13,727

Program Changes

An increase of \$13,727,000 is requested to continue to make payments to individuals who qualify under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

	Perm. Pos.	FTE	Amount
	\$13,727

For 1999, approximately \$22.3 million was available in the Trust Fund. The amount included carryover from prior years of \$22 million and estimated interest earnings of \$259,000 from government bonds. The number of claims approved increased to 227, representing \$17.5 million. Actual payments from the Trust Fund totaled \$13.8 million. The increase in 1999 approvals was largely attributable to the Program's improved access to information on work histories; the adoption of new regulations, which apply current scientific and medical knowledge to the three statutorily-defined categories of claimants, also had an impact on the increase.

For 2000, available funding includes a carryover of \$8.4 million, an appropriation of \$3.2 million, and anticipated interest earnings of \$137,000. Up to 228 claims are expected to be approved at a value of up to \$18.3 million, while actual fund availability is estimated at \$11.8 million. Workload and funding estimates are consistent with the current statute and do not include resources for statutory changes. If the high-end estimate of approvals is realized, the Trust Fund will be exhausted during this year, with up to 130 award payments deferred until 2001.

For 2001, an appropriation of \$13.7 million is sought. New filings and approvals are expected to decline modestly, returning to historic levels. Approximately 205 new approvals may be granted. If the high-end estimate of approvals is realized the Trust Fund will be exhausted again, resulting in more deferred payments.