



# ***DOE Former Worker Medical Screening Program – An Update***

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# *FWP Background*



## **History:**

- Established following the issuance of the FY 1993 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 102-484), authorizing DOE to:
  - “...establish and carry out a program for the identification and on-going medical evaluation of...former DOE employees who are subject to significant health risks as a result of the exposure of such employees to hazardous or radioactive substances during such employment....”
- First former worker projects initiated in 1996
- Program now serves **all** former workers from **all** DOE sites in locations close to their residences



## *FWP Background (cont.)*

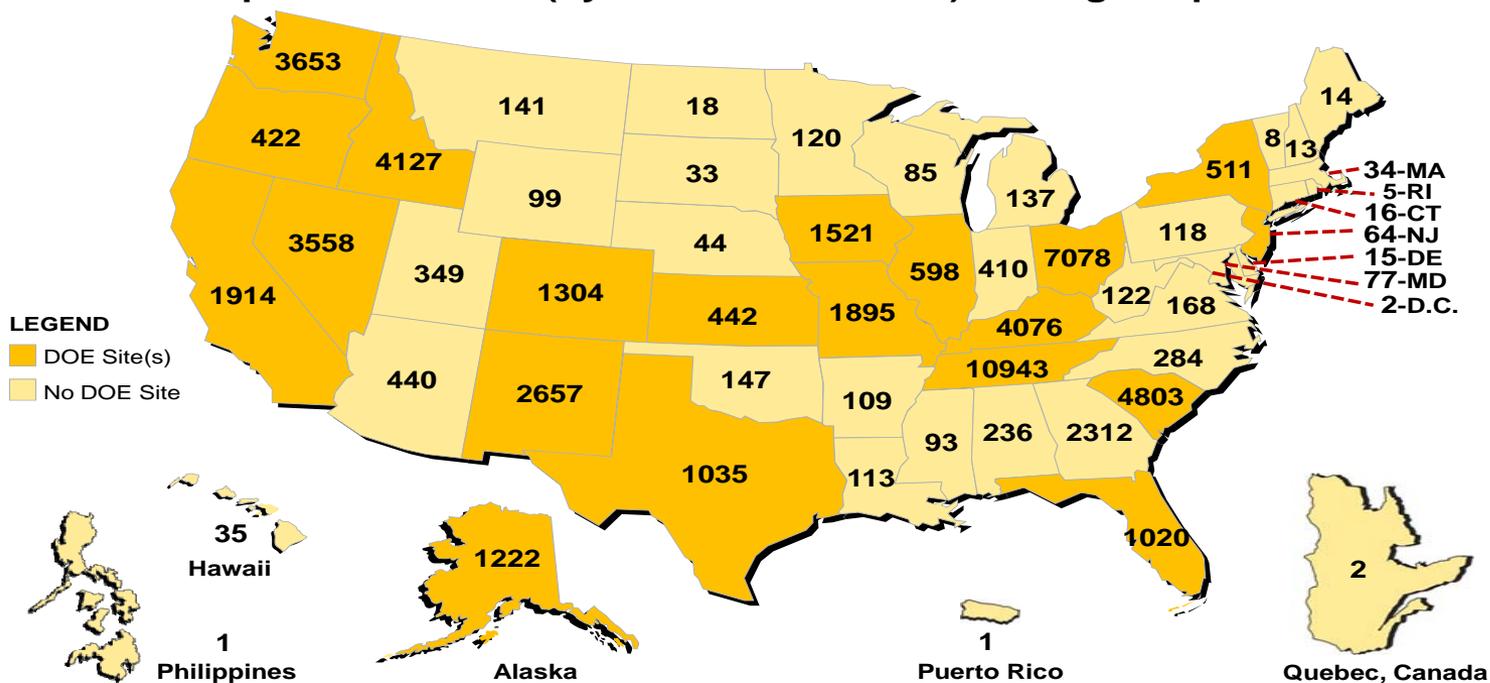


### **Mission:**

- Identify and notify former workers at risk for occupational disease
- Offer medical screening that can lead to treatment. As of June 2010:
  - Over 62,000 initial screening exams
  - Approximately 12,000 rescreening exams
- Provide information and assistance about medical follow-up and compensation
- Use findings to strengthen safety and health protection for current and future workers



## Participants Screened (by state of residence) Through September 2009



ALABAMA	236	FLORIDA	1020	MAINE	14	NEW HAMPSHIRE	13	RHODE ISLAND	5	WISCONSIN	85	NOVA SCOTIA	2
ALASKA	1222	GEORGIA	2312	MARYLAND	77	NEW JERSEY	64	SOUTH CAROLINA	4803	WYOMING	99	PRINCE EDWARD ISL.	1
ARIZONA	440	HAWAII	35	MASSACHUSETTS	34	NEW MEXICO	2657	SOUTH DAKOTA	33	PHILIPPINES	1	GREECE	1
ARKANSAS	109	IDAHO	4127	MICHIGAN	137	NEW YORK	511	TENNESSEE	10943	PUERTO RICO	1	IRELAND	2
CALIFORNIA	1914	ILLINOIS	598	MINNESOTA	120	NORTH CAROLINA	284	TEXAS	1035	QUEBEC, CANADA	2	VIRGIN ISLANDS	1
COLORADO	1304	INDIANA	410	MISSISSIPPI	93	NORTH DAKOTA	18	UTAH	349				
CONNECTICUT	16	IOWA	1521	MISSOURI	1895	OHIO	7078	VERMONT	8	NOT DISPLAYED:			
DELAWARE	15	KANSAS	442	MONTANA	141	OKLAHOMA	147	VIRGINIA	168	CANADA			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2	KENTUCKY	4076	NEBRASKA	44	OREGON	422	WASHINGTON	3653	ALBERTA	3		
		LOUISIANA	113	NEVADA	3558	PENNSYLVANIA	118	WEST VIRGINIA	122	ONTARIO	2		



## *FWP Initiatives*



- To ensure objective evaluation of the health of former workers, DOE offers exams by third-party providers through cooperative agreements. For site-by-site listing, see:  
<http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/>
- There are currently 2 national programs and 6 regional projects



## *FWP Initiatives (cont.)*



- Each team focuses on a distinct subset of the former worker population to:
  - ✓ Obtain rosters of former employees and their updated addresses
  - ✓ Advertise the program through union and DOE newsletters, TV and newspaper, public meetings, and individual mailings
  - ✓ Provide medical screening to eligible individuals
    - Projects follow standardized medical screening protocol
    - Customize screening according to individual's work history and likely exposures
  - ✓ Refer individuals with suspicious findings for follow-up medical testing and, if applicable, to the DOL-EEOICP



# *Service Providers*



## 2 nationwide programs:

- **National Supplemental Screening Program:**
  - Conducted by Oak Ridge Associated Universities
  - Site-specific projects at 8 DOE sites
  - Workers from other sites not covered by regional projects
  - Workers from sites whose regional projects have phased out
  - Workers (production) who no longer live near the regional screening clinics
  
- **Building Trades National Medical Screening Program:**
  - Conducted by CPWR-The Center for Construction Research and Training
  - Site-specific projects at 23 sites (construction/building trades workers only)
  - Workers (construction) from other sites not covered by regional projects



# *Service Providers (cont.)*

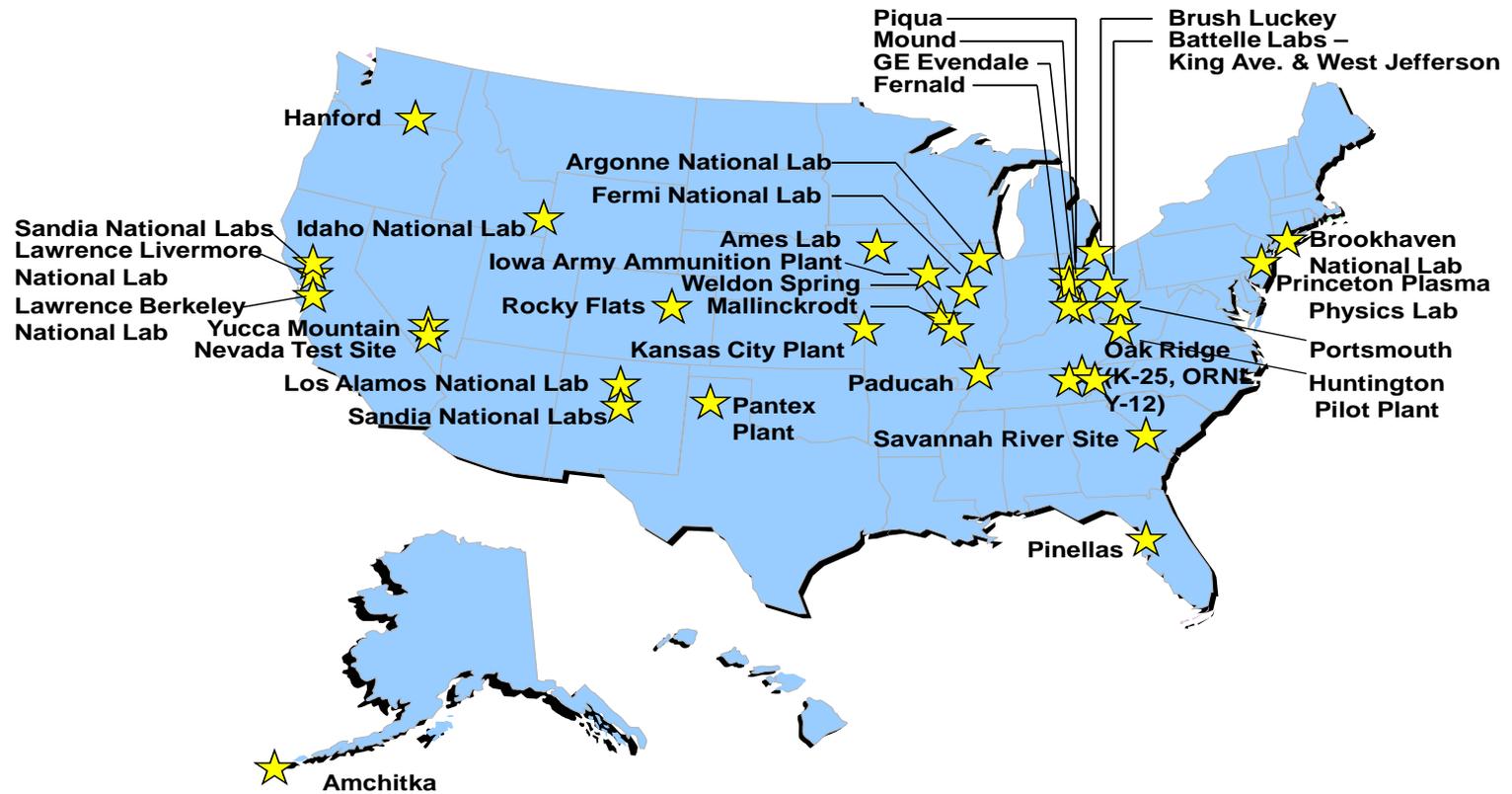


## 6 regional projects:

- Boston University School of Public Health
  - Currently screening at 4 sites
- Drexel University School of Public Health
  - Currently screening at 1 site
- Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
  - Currently screening at 2 sites
- Queens College City University of New York
  - Currently screening at 3 sites
- United Steelworkers
  - Currently screening at 5 sites
- U of IA College of Public Health
  - Currently screening at 2 sites



## DOE Sites Served by FWP Regional Projects





# *Program Accomplishments*



- Resulted in the identification of conditions at early stages, allowing for successful treatment
- Identified non-occupational health conditions, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and highly elevated cholesterol levels
- Medical results from these screenings serve useful purpose in supporting claims filed under EEOICPA and/or workers' compensation
  - Causation language added to results letters for certain conditions: “it is at least as likely as not that exposure to [radiation and/or toxic substance] during [covered Part E employment] aggravated, contributed to, or caused the [condition]”



# *Program Accomplishments (cont.)*



- Providing useful information for current workers' health and safety programs. Quarterly reports shared with:
  - SOMDs
  - DOE Field Office Managers
- Twenty-five peer-reviewed scientific studies were published in 2001-2010 as a result of the data collected and the methods employed by this activity



# *Medical Screening*



- Medical and occupational exposure history
- Comprehensive physical examination (includes general health assessments), may consist of the following:
  - Physical exam
  - CXR with B read
  - Spirometry
  - Blood chemistry
  - Urinalysis
  - Audiometry
  - Other tests based on exposures (e.g., BeLPT)



# *Abnormal BeLPTs by screening*

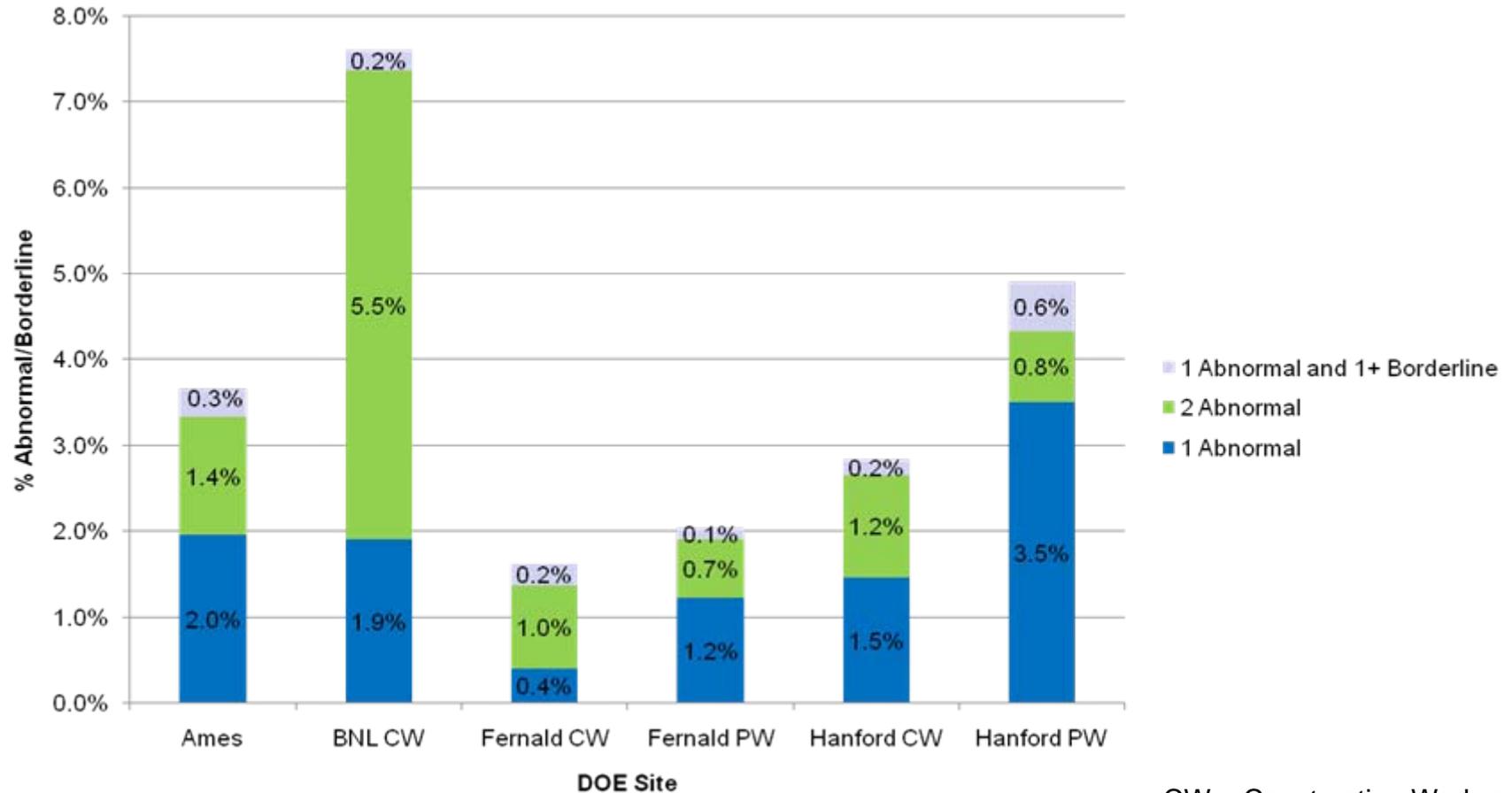
*(through June 30, 2010)*



<b>Screening</b>	<b># Workers tested</b>	<b>1 Abnormal</b>	<b>2 Abnormal</b>	<b>1 Abnormal and 1+ borderline</b>
Initial exam (complex-wide)	48,589	894 (1.8%)	521 (1.1%)	160 (0.3%)
Rescreen exam (complex-wide)	8,868	115 (1.3%)	35 (0.4%)	24 (0.3%)



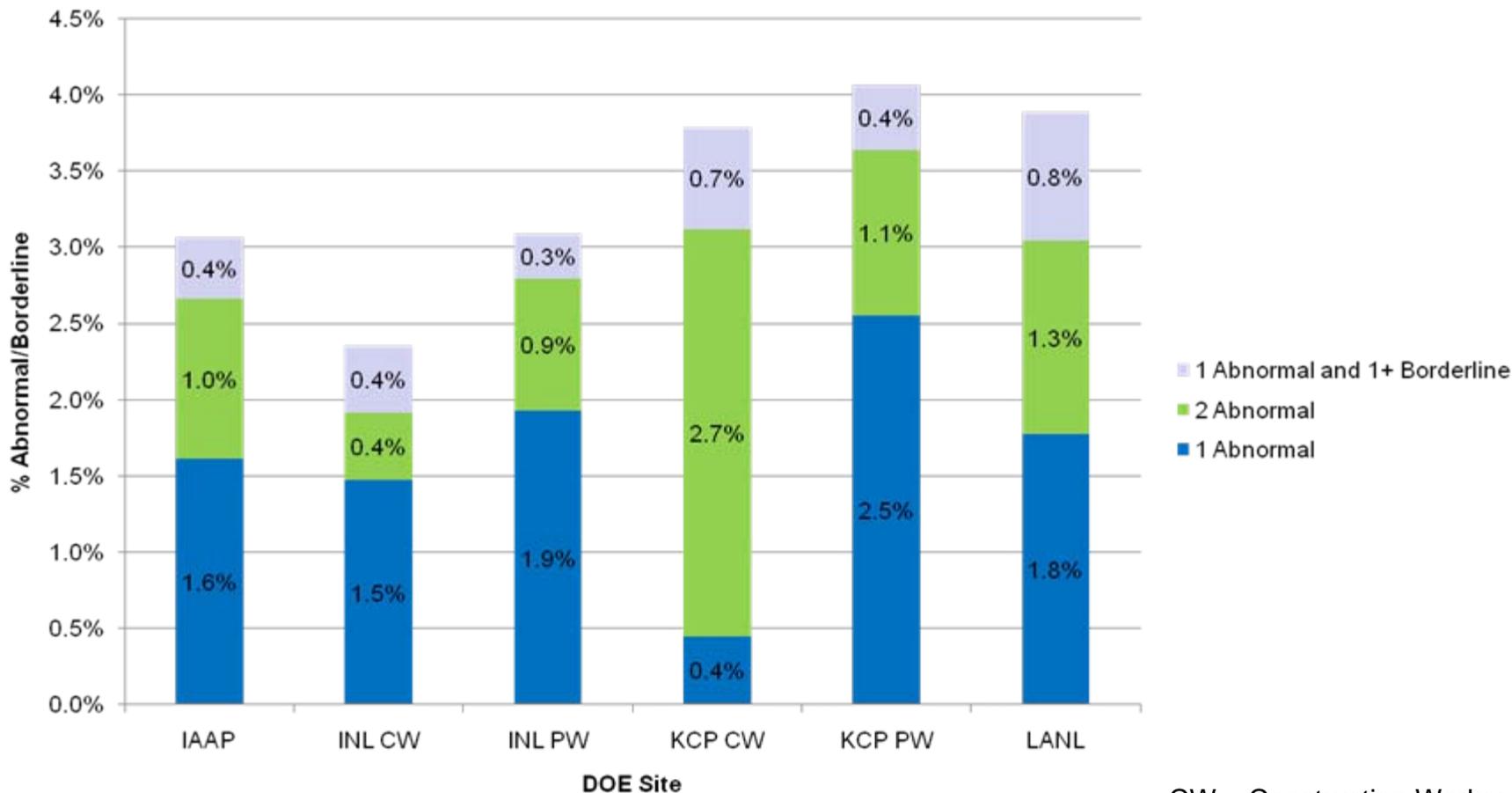
## BeLPT Results by DOE Site (total findings through June 30, 2010)



CW = Construction Worker  
PW = Production Worker



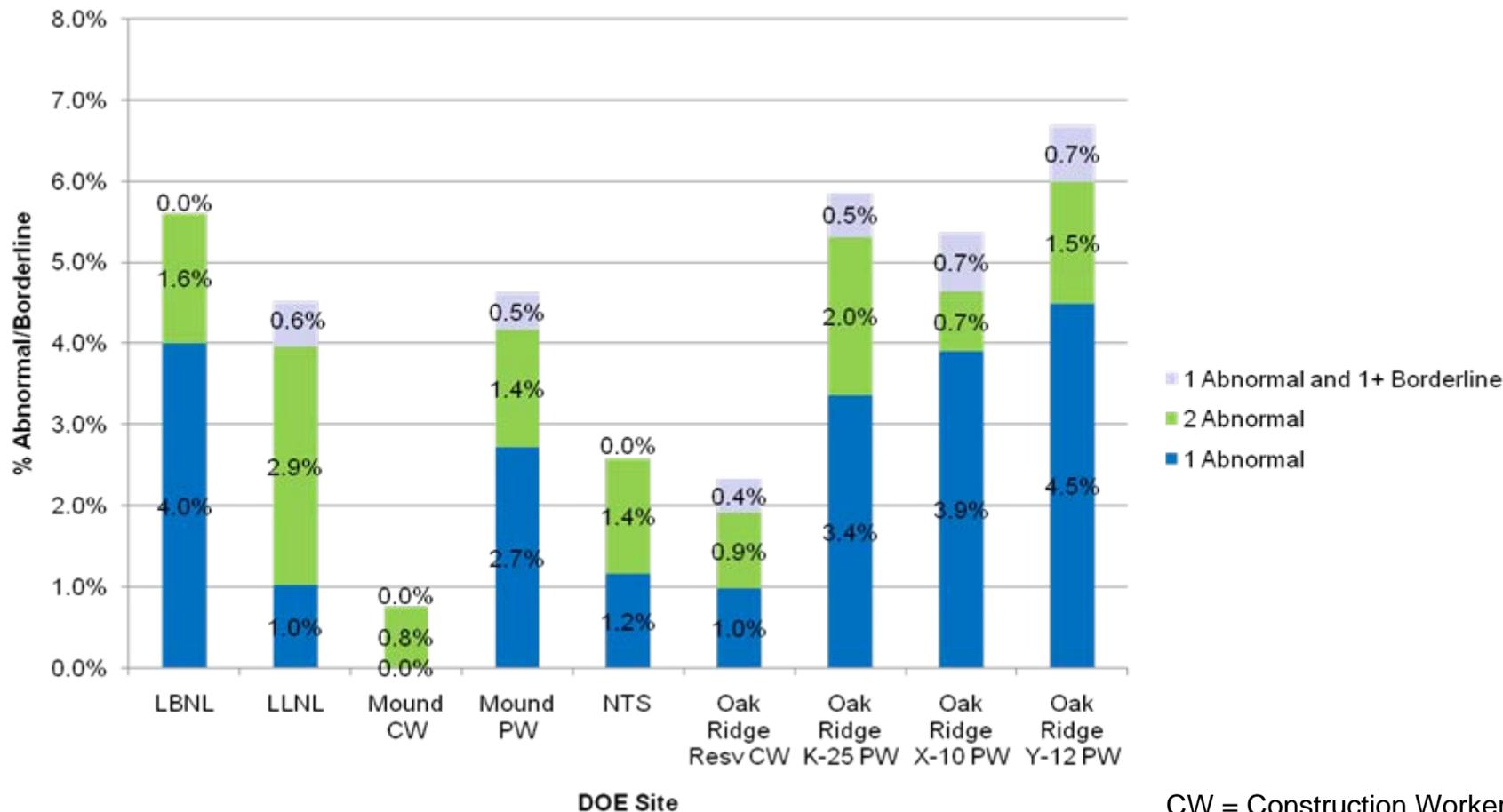
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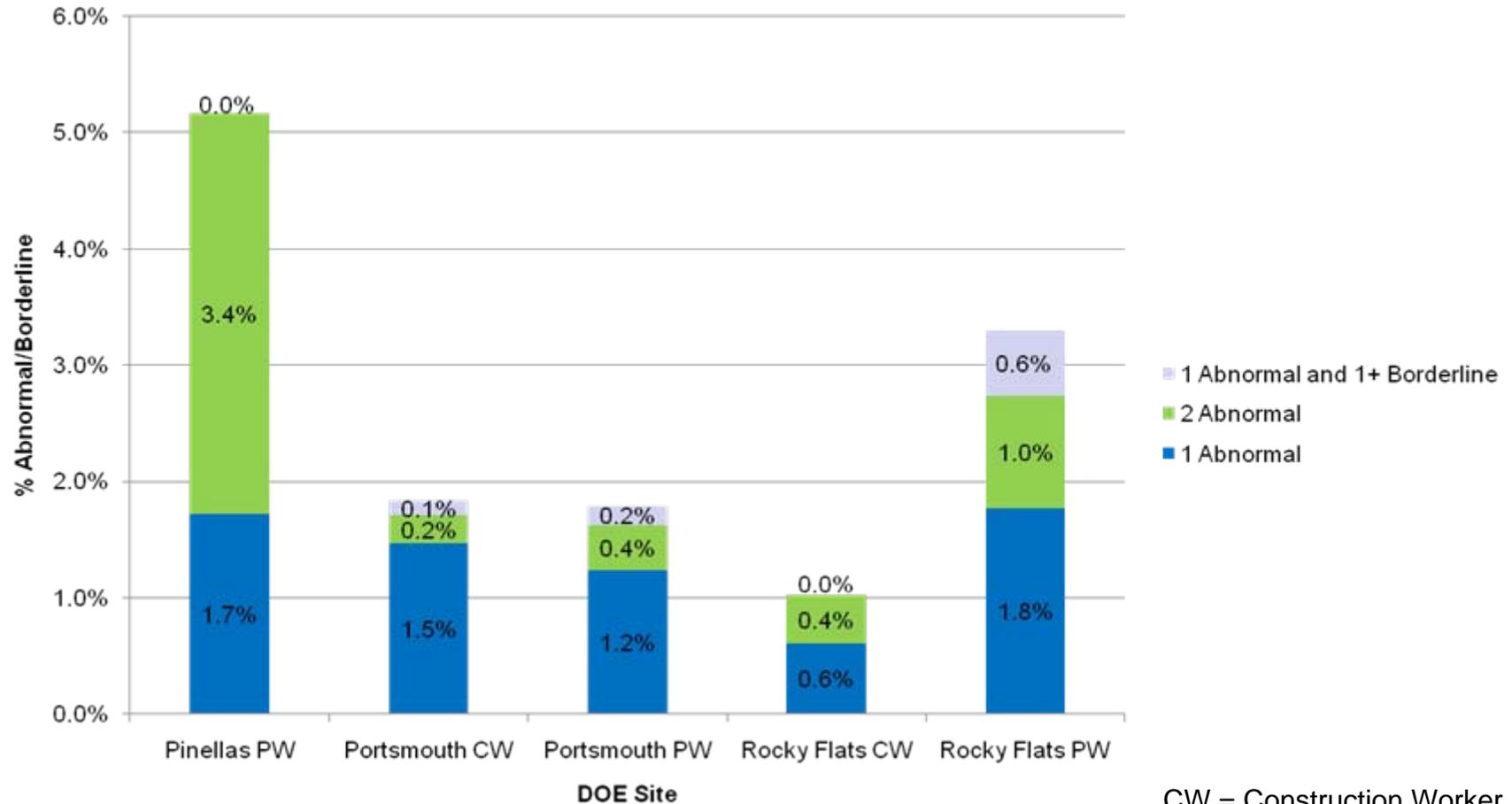
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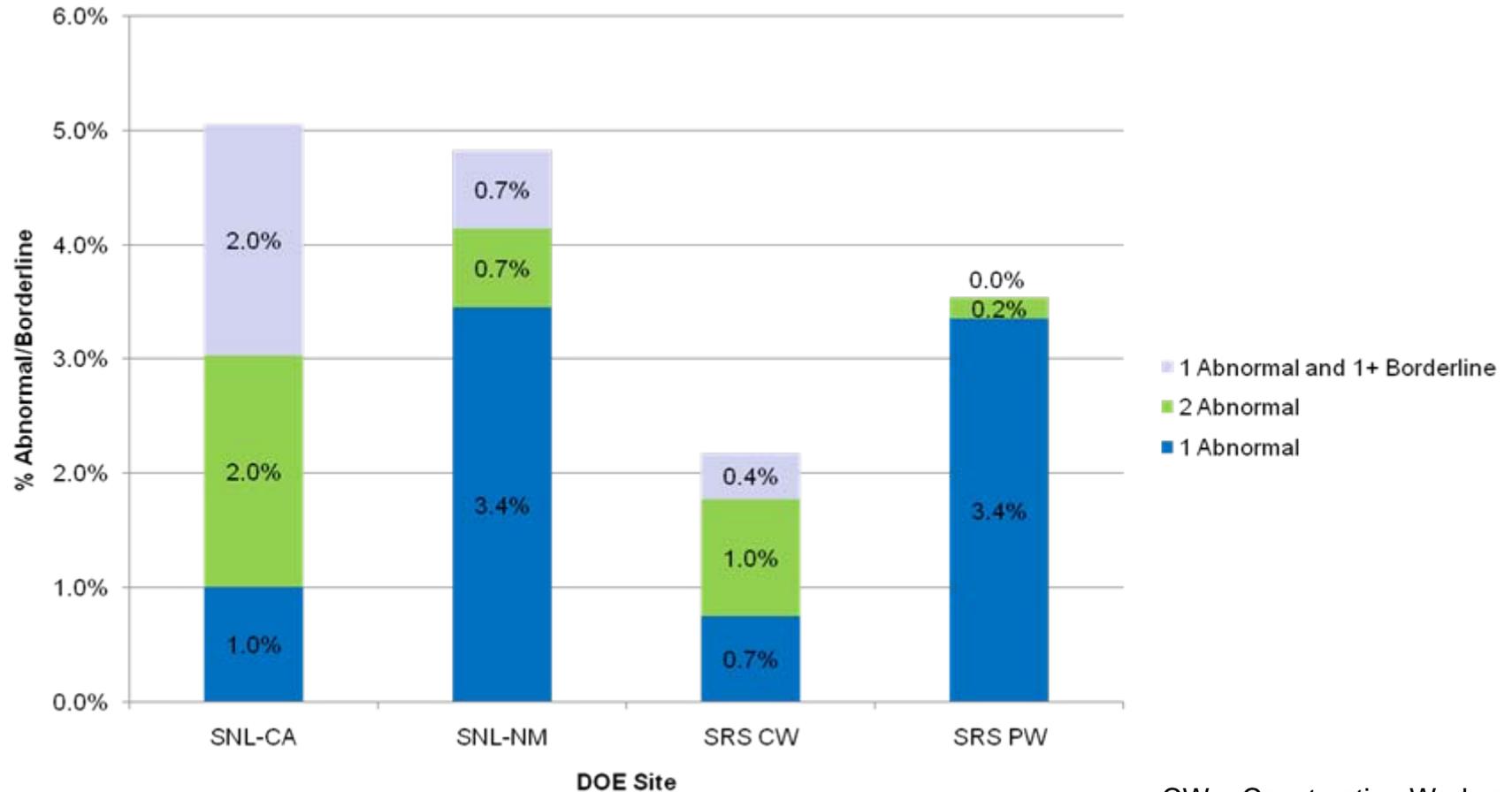
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CW = Construction Worker  
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## *Other Findings*



- Chest x-ray (N = 56,294)
  - 13.9% demonstrated findings consistent with asbestos-related non-malignant disease of the chest
  - 0.4% demonstrated findings consistent with silicosis
  - 2.2% had findings consistent with other dust-related lung disease
  - 3.6% showed a nodule, lymph node, or other abnormality that possibly represented a cancer
- Pulmonary Function Test (N = 55,186)
  - 16.3% demonstrated PFT findings consistent with restrictive lung disease (e.g., asbestosis)
  - 26.3% demonstrated PFT findings consistent with obstructive lung disease (e.g., silicosis, emphysema, asthma)
- Hearing test (N = 49,274)
  - 61.3% demonstrated hearing loss for normal speech tones



# *Program Enhancements*



- Outreach and Awareness Initiative
  - Increase DOE sites' awareness and support of FWP
    - Provide overview of program and findings to date
    - Request rosters of former workers
    - Assist with the transition of current workforce to FWP
      - Held 5 site visits in 2009; 5 in 2010
  - DOE Headquarters (HSS) initiated Joint Outreach Task Group (JOTG) that includes HSS, FWP, DOL, NIOSH, Offices of the Ombudsman for DOL and NIOSH
    - To coordinate and improve outreach efforts between the agencies



# *Program Enhancements (cont.)*



- JOTG held 23 "Town Hall" meetings in and near the communities of 13 DOE sites
- Developed educational material "Agency Roles/Programs for Assisting DOE Nuclear Weapons Workers"
- JOTG event calendar for public access:  
[http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events\\_calendars.html](http://www.hss.doe.gov/healthsafety/FWSP/Formerworkermed/events_calendars.html)



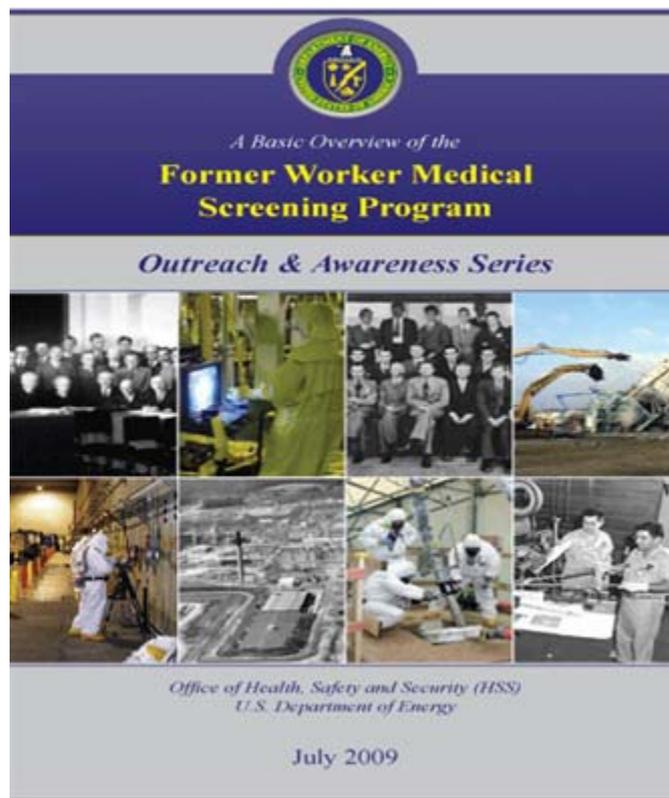
## *Program Needs*



- Continue receiving rosters of former workers
- Continue sharing brochures with workers as they retire/separate from site



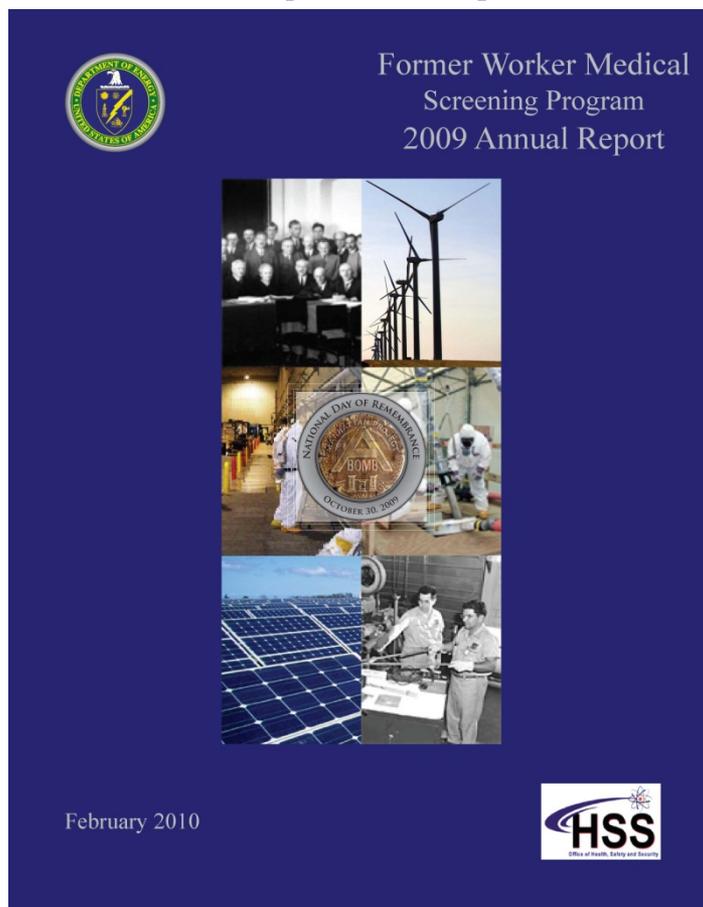
# Resources for FWP Information



[http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/FWP\\_pamphlet.pdf](http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/FWP_pamphlet.pdf)



# Resources for FWP Information (cont.)



[http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/2009\\_FWP\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/2009_FWP_Annual_Report.pdf)



# Resources for FWP Information (cont.)



Former Worker Medical Screening Program - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by DOECOE

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/> Go Links

## Former Worker Program (FWP)

- Home
- What's New
- Outreach Event Calendar for DOE Nuclear Weapons Workers
- Fact Sheet - Agencies Assisting with EEOICPA and the Former Worker Program
- Program Fact Sheets by State
- Program Brochure

### Covered Sites/Populations

- Construction Worker Screening Projects
- Production Worker Screening Projects
- Supplemental Screening Program

## Former Worker Medical Screening Program

**Background:**

The Former Worker Medical Screening Program (FWP) supports the Office of Health and Safety's mission and strategic response by funding external teams of health experts to independently offer medical screening to former workers who may be at significant risk for occupational diseases.

The FWP teams collect available site and deidentified worker health information, which is made available to DOE and other interested parties. Individual project final reports will also be made available to DOE workers and communities.

The FWP was first established in 1994, following the issuance of the 1993 [Defense Authorization Act \(PL 102-484\)](#), which called for DOE to assist workers with determining whether they had health issues related to their prior work with DOE. Site- and population-specific medical screening efforts were initiated in 1996. The FWP has been conducted using cooperative agreements held by consortia of universities, labor unions, and commercial organizations with expertise in administration of medical

Trusted sites

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<http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/FWSP/formerworkermed/>



Questions???