

**§ 7385c. Exclusivity of remedy against the United States and against contractors and sub-contractors**

**(a) In general**

The liability of the United States or an instrumentality of the United States under this subchapter with respect to a cancer (including a specified cancer), chronic silicosis, covered beryllium illness, or death related thereto of a covered employee is exclusive and instead of all other liability—

(1) of—

- (A) the United States;
- (B) any instrumentality of the United States;
- (C) a contractor that contracted with the Department of Energy to provide management and operation, management and integration, or environmental remediation of a Department of Energy facility (in its capacity as a contractor);
- (D) a subcontractor that provided services, including construction, at a Department of Energy facility (in its capacity as a subcontractor); and
- (E) an employee, agent, or assign of an entity specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(2) to—

- (A) the covered employee;
- (B) the covered employee's legal representative, spouse, dependents, survivors, and next of kin; and
- (C) any other person, including any third party as to whom the covered employee, or the covered employee's legal representative, spouse, dependents, survivors, or next of kin, has a cause of action relating to the cancer (including a specified cancer), chronic silicosis, covered beryllium illness, or death, otherwise entitled to recover damages from the United States, the instrumentality, the contractor, the subcontractor, or the employee, agent, or assign of one of them,

because of the cancer (including a specified cancer), chronic silicosis, covered beryllium illness, or death in any proceeding or action including a direct judicial proceeding, a civil action, a proceeding in admiralty, or a proceeding under a tort liability statute or the common law.

**(b) Applicability**

This section applies to all cases filed on or after October 30, 2000.

**(c) Workers' compensation**

This section does not apply to an administrative or judicial proceeding under a Federal or State workers' compensation law.

**(d) Applicability to part E**

This section applies with respect to part E to the covered medical condition or covered illness or death of a covered DOE contractor employee on the same basis as it applies with respect to part B to the cancer (including a specified cancer), chronic silicosis, covered beryllium illness, or death of a covered employee.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3644], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-509; Pub. L.

108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(d), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-375 added subsec. (d).

**§ 7385d. Election of remedy for beryllium employees and atomic weapons employees**

**(a) Effect of tort cases filed before enactment of original law**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), if an otherwise eligible individual filed a tort case specified in subsection (d) of this section before October 30, 2000, such individual shall be eligible for compensation and benefits under part B.

(2) If such tort case remained pending as of December 28, 2001, and such individual does not dismiss such tort case before December 31, 2003, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

**(b) Effect of tort cases filed between enactment of original law and enactment of 2001 amendments**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), if an otherwise eligible individual filed a tort case specified in subsection (d) of this section during the period beginning on October 30, 2000, and ending on December 28, 2001, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

(2) If such individual dismisses such tort case on or before the last permissible date specified in paragraph (3), such individual shall be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

(3) The last permissible date referred to in paragraph (2) is the later of the following dates:

(A) April 30, 2003.

(B) The date that is 30 months after the date the individual first becomes aware that an illness covered by part B of a covered employee may be connected to the exposure of the covered employee in the performance of duty under section 7384n of this title.

**(c) Effect of tort cases filed after enactment of 2001 amendments**

(1) If an otherwise eligible individual files a tort case specified in subsection (d) of this section after December 28, 2001, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits if a final court decision is entered against such individual in such tort case.

(2) If such a final court decision is not entered, such individual shall nonetheless not be eligible for such compensation or benefits, except as follows: If such individual dismisses such tort case on or before the last permissible date specified in paragraph (3), such individual shall be eligible for such compensation and benefits.

(3) The last permissible date referred to in paragraph (2) is the later of the following dates:

(A) April 30, 2003.

(B) The date that is 30 months after the date the individual first becomes aware that an illness covered by part B of a covered employee may be connected to the exposure of the covered employee in the performance of duty under section 7384n of this title.

**(d) Covered tort cases**

A tort case specified in this subsection is a tort case alleging a claim referred to in section