

Grassroots Campaign

USW Local 689 wants to inform **all** employees at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant of an important development that may impact our workers' compensation program.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which plays a critical role in the evaluation and compensation of work-related health claims under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), is experiencing staffing reductions that will directly affect their ability to process claims in a timely manner.

As you are aware, all current and former employees of the Portsmouth site are entitled to workers' compensation protections, particularly concerning occupational illnesses that may have resulted from exposure during employment. NIOSH's role includes conducting dose reconstructions and evaluations that are essential for claims to be processed and approved. Due to the reduction in NIOSH personnel, delays are expected in the handling of these evaluations. This means that claimants may experience longer wait times for decisions on compensation and medical benefits under the program.

USW Local 689 understands how vital this program is to many of you and your families, and we are actively working on a Grassroots campaign to Ohio delegates to advocate for the necessary resources to ensure continued support and timely processing of all claims.

The Grassroots letter can be found at USW Local 689 2288 Wakefield Mound Rd Piketon, OH 45661 -or- you can printout the letter, sign and drop off at the Local.

The USW Local 689 remains committed to supporting the well-being of every employee at the Portsmouth plant.