

§ 79.34

and request that the DOE/NV conduct a search of its records for the purpose of gathering facts relating to the claimant's presence onsite and participation in the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device. If the facts gathered by the DOE/NV are insufficient to establish the eligibility criteria in § 79.32, the claimant or eligible surviving beneficiary will be notified and afforded the opportunity to submit military, government, or business records in accordance with the procedure set forth in § 79.72(c).

§ 79.34 Proof of medical condition.

Proof of medical condition under this subpart will be made in the same manner and according to the same procedures and limitations as are set forth in § 79.16 and § 79.26.

§ 79.35 Proof of onset of leukemia at least two years after first exposure, and proof of onset of a specified compensable disease more than five years after first exposure.

Absent any indication to the contrary, the earliest date of onsite participation indicated on any records accepted by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program as proof of the claimant's onsite participation will be presumed to be the date of first or initial exposure. The date of onset will be the date of diagnosis as indicated on the medical documentation accepted by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program as proof of the specified compensable disease. Proof of the onset of leukemia shall be established in accordance with § 79.15.

§ 79.36 Indication of the presence of hepatitis B or cirrhosis.

Possible indication of hepatitis B or cirrhosis will be determined in accordance with the provisions of § 79.27.

Subpart E—Eligibility Criteria for Claims by Uranium Miners

§ 79.40 Scope of subpart.

The regulations in this subpart define the eligibility criteria for compensation under section 5 of the Act pertaining to miners, *i.e.*, uranium mine workers, and the nature of the evidence that will be accepted as proof

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of the various eligibility criteria. Section 5 of the Act provides for a payment of \$100,000 to miners who contracted primary lung cancer or one of a limited number of nonmalignant respiratory diseases following exposure to a defined minimum level of radiation during employment in aboveground or underground uranium mines or following employment for at least one year in aboveground or underground uranium mines in specified states during the period beginning January 1, 1942, and ending December 31, 1971.

§ 79.41 Definitions.

(a) *Cor pulmonale* means heart disease, including hypertrophy of the right ventricle, due to pulmonary hypertension secondary to fibrosis of the lung.

(b) *Designated time period* means the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1971.

(c) *Employment for at least one year* means employment for a total of at least one year (12 consecutive or cumulative months).

(d) *Fibrosis of the lung or pulmonary fibrosis* means chronic inflammation and scarring of the pulmonary interstitium and alveoli with collagen deposition and progressive thickening.

(e) *Miner or uranium mine worker* means a person who operated or otherwise worked in a uranium mine.

(f) *National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certified "B" reader* means a physician who is certified as such by NIOSH. A list of certified "B" readers is available from the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program upon request.

(g) *Nonmalignant respiratory disease* means fibrosis of the lung, pulmonary fibrosis, cor pulmonale related to fibrosis of the lung, silicosis, or pneumoconiosis.

(h) *Pneumoconiosis* means a chronic lung disease resulting from inhalation and deposition in the lung of particulate matter, and the tissue reaction to the presence of the particulate matter. For purposes of this subpart, the claimant's exposure to the particulate matter that led to the disease must have occurred during employment in a uranium mine.