

Investigation of Awareness and Knowledge of Workplace Hazards at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant



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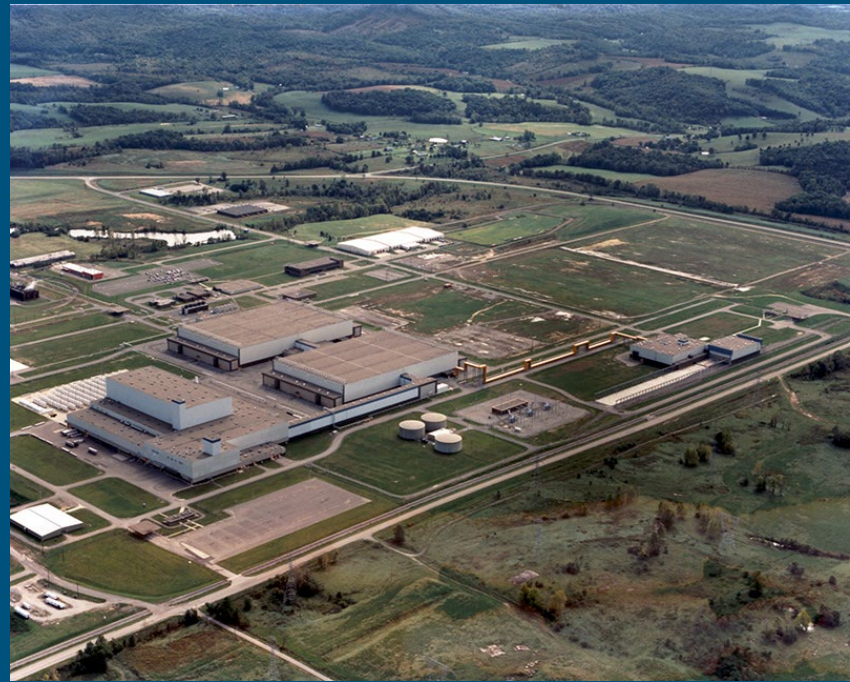


Background

- ❑ Portsmouth DOE Site
- ❑ Uranium Enrichment
- ❑ Decontamination & Decommission



Department of
Energy (DOE) logo



Aerial view of Plant

Radiological and Chemical Exposures

- ❑ Present from uranium enrichment and clean-up
- ❑ Caused cancers and other illnesses in workers
- ❑ Still present today

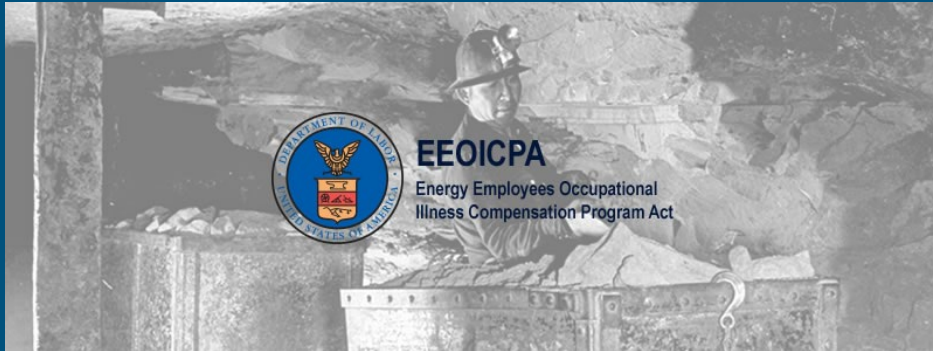


EEOICPA

- ❑ Worker Compensation
- ❑ NIOSH Dose reconstruction
- ❑ Expand Portsmouth Special Exposure Cohort (SEC)



Department of Labor
(DOL) logo. DOL
manages EEOICPA



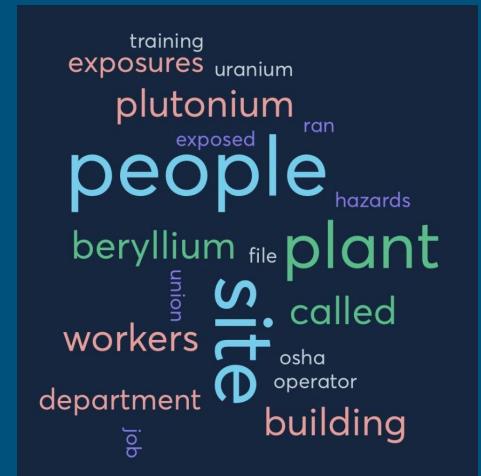
USW⁽¹⁾ Local 689 Objectives

- ❑ Gather information on safety practices
 - ❑ from workers, documents, data
- ❑ Inform workers on risks and possible SEC expansion
 - ❑ include other sites

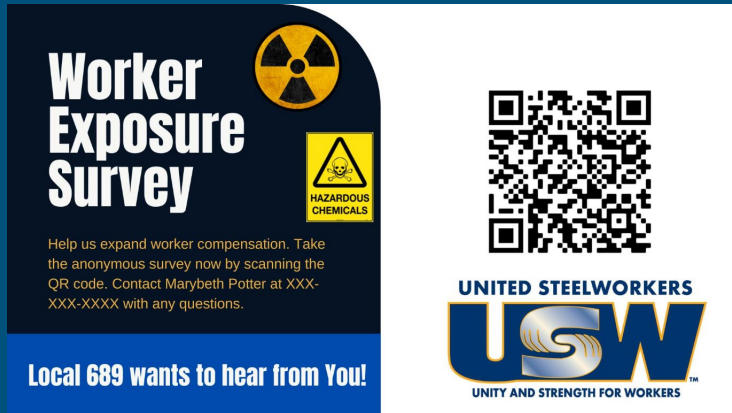


Methods

- ❑ Surveys and interviews
- ❑ Gather historical documents



Interview word cloud

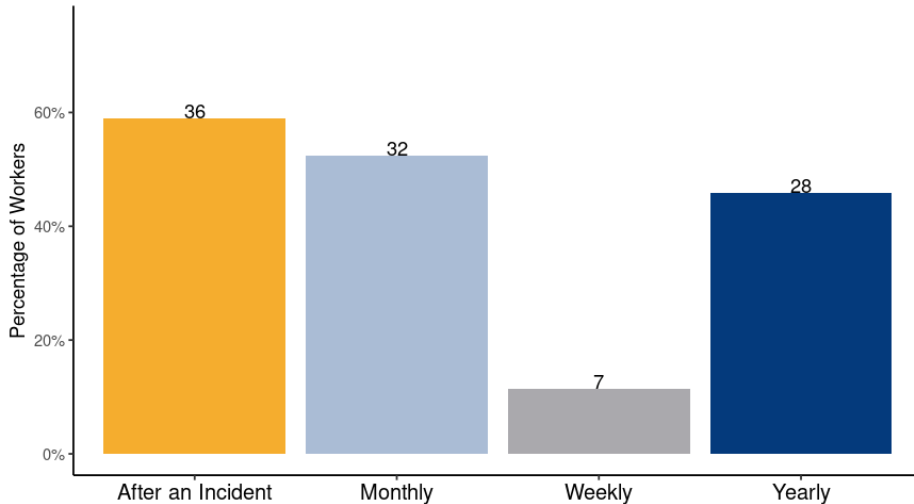


Survey Flyer

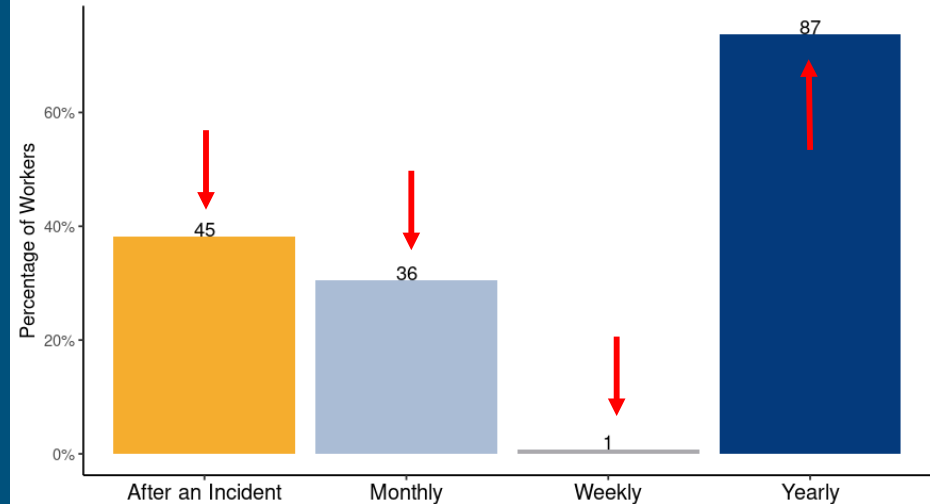
Inconsistent Urinalysis Procedures

- ❑ Urinalysis bioassays detect worker radiological exposures
- ❑ Those who do not qualify for SEC status also have less frequent testing schedules

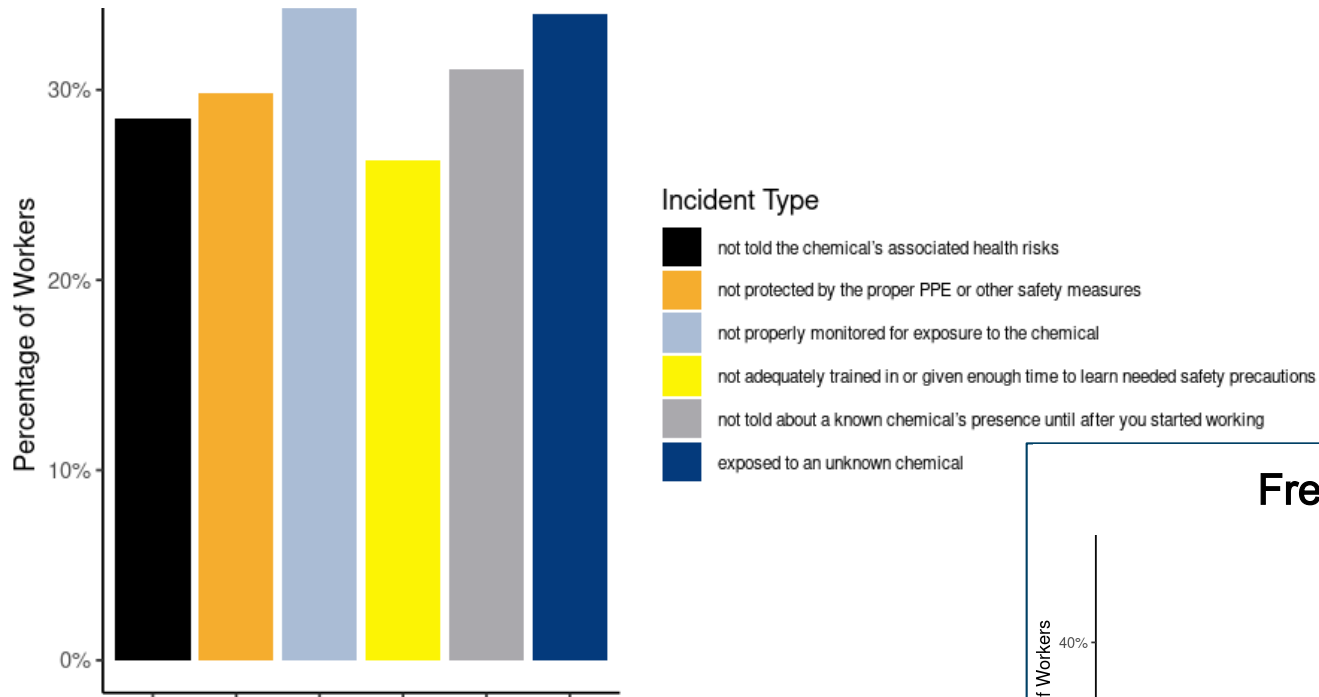
Workers who qualify for SEC



Workers who do NOT qualify for SEC



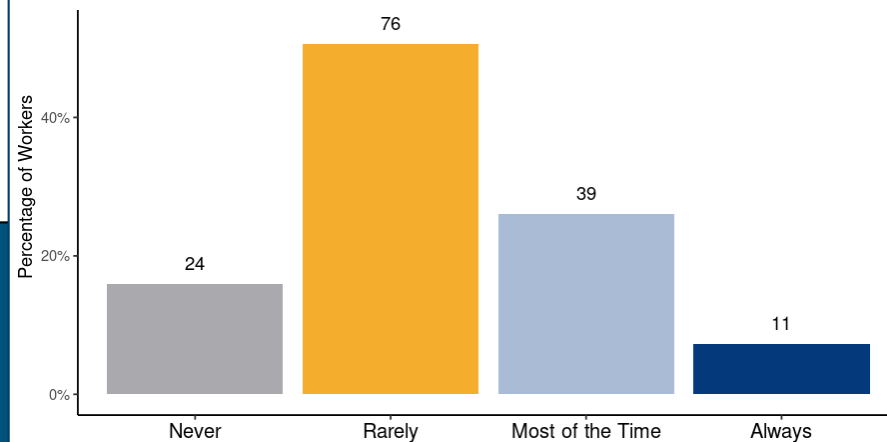
Types of chemical exposures experienced by workers



50.1% have had a chemical exposure incident

66.6% said these were "rarely" or "never" reported

Frequency of reporting



Givebacks

Screenshots of
the Local's
tiktok

- ❑ Guide to exploratory investigation on SEC petition
- ❑ Archive Directory
- ❑ Survey Data and Interview Transcriptions
- ❑ Local 689 Tiktok



Barriers

- ❑ Alphabet Soup
- ❑ No access to work site
- ❑ Paper surveys

Guard Post



Entrance Sign

Recommendations

- ❑ Cross-check Site Exposure Matrices (SEM) and survey exposure data
- ❑ Investigate urinalysis program
- ❑ Investigate Radiation Dosimeter Badge use

Achievements



- ❑ High response rate: 312 workers surveyed
- ❑ Different jobs interviewed
- ❑ Found next steps in petitioning process

Summer Personal Goals & Reflection

Anna

- ☐ Learn how public health practice is utilised for labor activism
- ☐ Value in “subjective” data



Hannah

- ☐ Work for and learn from unions
- ☐ Ask more questions

Acknowledgements

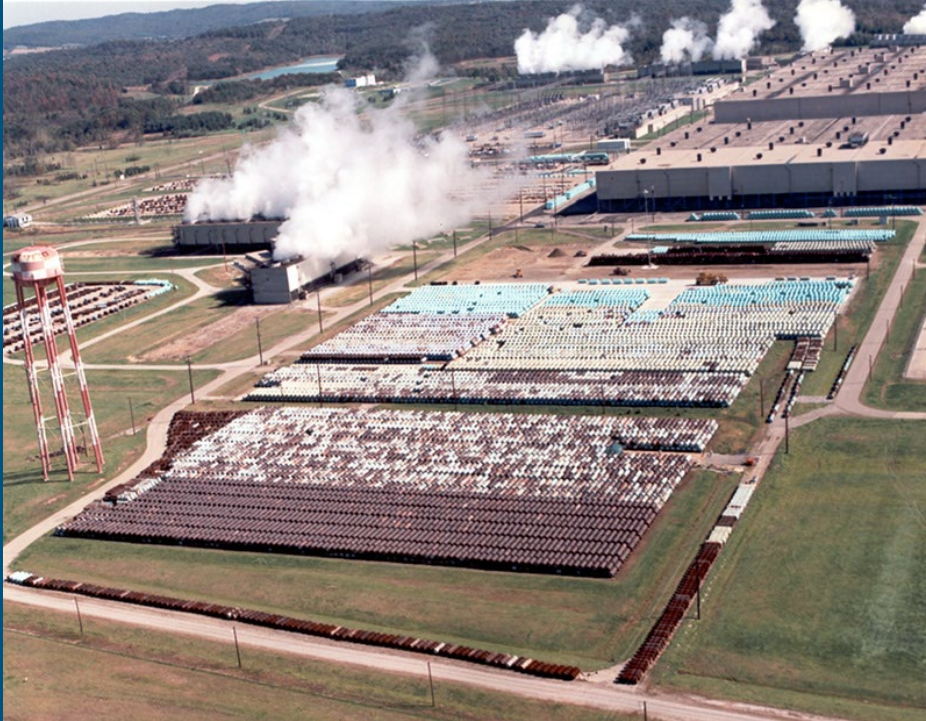
Tony Mazzocchi Center and Diane Stein

USW Local 689

- Union President Herman Potter
- Site Leader Marybeth Potter
- Jeanne Cisco, Jack Angel, Carrie Montgomery

OHIP and Matt London and MK Fletcher

Hazard Example: Cylinders



<https://www.portsvirtualmuseum.org/images/photos/66-large.jpg>

Worker Quote

From a Radiation Control
Tech/Industrial Hygienist -

“Management talks a good game
about safety until it slows down
work.”

- (1) A sign outside the plantsite advertising the 'community' of workers on site

