

Message from the Special Master about the Payment process for the approved claimants.

On May 17, 2006, Judge William P. Johnson's order approving payment to the 526 successful claimants listed in the April 14th Special Master's Findings of Fact became final. Letters were sent to all claimants by the Special Master, requiring the return of a disclaimer form and a Federal Vendor form, so that payment could be made by the Department of Energy through an automatic bank transfer. On July 3, 2006 A spreadsheet with payment information of the 491 persons who had returned the form by July 1, 2006 and all of the ACH vendor forms with payment information were sent by the Special Master to the Department of Energy accounting department.

During the payment process, two issues have emerged. First, even though advance efforts were taken to prepare the Special Master's data base to fit the requirements of the DOE accounting system, they were not totally successful. There has been some incompatibility with regard to the database and the DOE's system which is being corrected.

Second, there were many instances in which the information provided needed to be verified. In some instances individuals provided incorrect bank account information or inaccurate Social Security Account numbers. Each and every one of the people must be contacted and their information must be correct before payment on any tract can be made.

This is a necessary, tedious and on-going process, in which many of you have or will receive telephone calls from the Special Master to verify certain information until all of the information is complete. Once the information is corrected, payment will be made. Every one of us working on this process of payment would ask for your patience and consideration with the assurance that the payments provided in Judge Johnson's order will be paid.