

Defense tracks nuke test personnel

For more than a year, the Department of Defense has been attempting to identify former military and civilian defense personnel who participated in the atmospheric nuclear tests conducted from 1945-62.

If you participated in these tests, which were largely in Nevada and at Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Pacific, you are urged to contact the Defense Nuclear Agency if you have not done so in 1978-79.

The Defense Nuclear Agency is the executive agent for the program. The agency is attempting to reconstruct a complete history of the atmospheric nuclear test program, including names of participants and any radiation doses they received.

One of the purposes of this effort is to enable the National Academy of Science and other scientific organizations to determine if there are health hazards resulting from participation in the tests.

Contact the agency at the toll-free number 800-336-3068 in the continental U.S. or write the agency in Washington D.C. 20305. If you are concerned that your possible exposure may have adversely affected your health, you are urged either to consult your doctor or, if you are a former serviceman, to contact the nearest Veterans Administration Hospital where you may obtain a physical examination at government expense.

Based upon research to date, it is believed that radiation exposures were low. While medical science has no proof that exposure to radiation levels as low as these is hazardous to health, it is generally assumed by scientists that even low levels of exposure carry some slight risk. There is, however, some disagreement within the scientific community about the magnitude of the risk.

State hikes unemployment benefits

Many unemployed workers in Michigan are now eligible to collect up to 13 weeks of additional unemployment benefits.

According to Gov. William G. Milliken the Extended Benefits (EB) program became effective Sept. 30. It was triggered when statistics showed Michigan's insured unemployment rate — the

number of unemployed workers eligible for unemployment benefits — averaged 5.05 percent for the 13 weeks ending Sept. 15.

Although Michigan is paying the price for a national recession through an increased unemployment rate, I am pleased that the burden will be eased for many laid-off

Michigan workers through these continued benefits," Milliken said.

The EB program allows a 13-week extension beyond the first 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. EB is a federal-state program with both Michigan and the federal government picking up 50 percent each of the program's cost.

EB is determined by the insured unemployment rate, which is the percentage of people claiming unemployment benefits compared to all employed workers covered by unemployment insurance. The insured unemployment rate is distinguished from the total unemployment rate, which stood at 7.5 percent in August.

The effective date for all EB claims is Sept. 30 provided certain eligibility and qualifications re-

quirements are met. For more information, recipients should contact their nearest Job Service office.

The most recent EB program in Michigan ended July 1, 1978, said S. Martin Taylor, director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission. Although he could not say if EB might continue in Michigan beyond the 13 weeks, he said the number of claims for unemployment benefits has been increasing.

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