

**PROVIDED BY: THE TULAROSA BASIN DOWNWINDERS CONSORTIUM**  
**WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE COMPENSATION AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RECA PROGRAM**

The DOJ is now accepting claims and has provided guidance on the claims process. They are accepting mail in claims along with electronic submissions. For more information you can go to the DOJ website at:

<https://www.justice.gov/civil/reca>

Please be careful when supplying documentation via the regular mail. If you decide to file this way you should send the documents via certified mail return receipt. Once your documents are received by the DOJ through the mail, they have one year to process your claim and return your documents.

There are organizations/attorneys who will offer to file a claim on your behalf. They're being dishonest in what they tell people to get them to believe their services are necessary and they often guarantee results. No one can guarantee results and they can't get you to the front of the line! Please be aware that if an entity files a RECA claim on your behalf they will charge a fee. They receive the check, deduct their fee, and then pay you.

The New Mexico Department of Health is equipped to help people with gathering documents and filing a claim. They can be reached at 833-796-8773. The claims process is not difficult and people will be available to assist with the application process when needed. We'll also be looking to government agencies to cooperate in locating necessary documentation for the application process. PLEASE DO NOT TURN OVER YOUR RECORDS TO ANYONE THAT YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT. You can remain updated about the application process by going to any of the following websites:

[www.trinitydownwinders.com](http://www.trinitydownwinders.com) <https://fernandez.house.gov/live/> <https://www.lujan.senate.gov/>

**What does the expansion of RECA do?**

- The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act program has been re-authorized and extended through Dec 31, 2028 but the application deadline is Dec 31, 2027.
- People who lived in any part of New Mexico for one year from 1944 through Nov. 1962 will be eligible and family members can apply on behalf of a deceased loved one.
- There are 19 cancers that are covered by the expansion. The cancers covered are: Leukemia (except chronic lymphocytic Leukemia); Lymphoma (other than Hodgkins); Primary cancers of the Thyroid, Breast, Esophagus, Stomach, Pharynx, Small Intestine, Pancreas, Bile Duct, Gall Bladder, Salivary Gland, Urinary, Bladder, Brain, Colon, Ovary, Liver (unless cirrhosis/Hepatitis B present), and Lung.
- Compensation for downwinders will be increased to \$100,000 and Downwind coverage is expanded to cover the entire state of New Mexico
- Coverage for uranium miners and workers would be expanded:
  - To workers through Dec 31, 1990
  - To core drillers and remediation workers
  - To cover additional kidney disease for uranium miners
  - To allow for combined work histories

**What does this mean?**

This is the biggest expansion of RECA in the history of the program. It wouldn't have happened without the tireless advocacy of Senator Lujan, Representative Leger Fernandez, Senator Heinrich, Representative Stansbury and Representative Vasquez.

While it is a significant win, it still leaves out many impacted communities, including the parts of Nevada and Arizona not previously covered, along with Montana, Colorado, and Guam.

The 2-year extension will likely not be adequate time to get all the people in New Mexico who qualify enrolled and this bill does not have health care benefits for Downwinders. We will continue to fight for a longer extension and the addition of healthcare benefits. This is an important first step because it reinstates the program keeping it operational so people can continue to apply for benefits and get the help they need, and it shows that expansion is possible and provides an opportunity to address concerns raised about the cost of expansion.

**We're grateful for the win and consider this a big step in the right direction. We're very happy to report that claims have been successfully filed and the people of New Mexico have begun to receive the money that they are due through the expansion of RECA. Stay tuned for updates and many thanks to all of you who have stood together with us in this fight!**

Go to our website for more information or to sign up for our newsletter

[www.trinitydownwinders.com](http://www.trinitydownwinders.com)