

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: OCT 18 2010

From: Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration (006)

Subj: Presidential POWER Initiative: Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Reemployment (VAIQ #7045087)

To: See Addressees Below

1. VA's Safety Steering Committee members and I received a briefing on the new Presidential POWER Initiative: Protecting Our Workers and Ensuring Reemployment from the Department of Labor (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Director of Federal Agency Programs on Tuesday, September 28, 2010. Each Federal agency has specific safety and workers' compensation targets to meet. VA's Fiscal Year 2011 targets are attached. Information on Administration performance will be published on DOL's Web site quarterly; however, more current and specific information will be made available on VA's corporate management information system (Workers' Compensation – Occupational Safety and Health/Management Information System), which contains more frequent electronic data updates from DOL.

2. VA's Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) will provide educational support, technical expertise, and program oversight to assist and guide organizations in meeting their responsibilities under POWER; however, senior manager support for performance expectations at the station level is critical.

3. If you have any questions regarding this new initiative, please have a member of your staff contact Frank Denny, Director, Office of OSH, at (202) 461-5009.



John U. Sepúlveda

Attachment

Addressees:

Under Secretary for Health (10)

Acting Under Secretary for Benefits (20)

Acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs (40)

Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

VA's POWER Targets

1. A reduction of total case rate from the current 3.70 to **3.55**. (Note: This is a 4% reduction and VA has failed to achieve the previous goal of 3% for the last 5 years).
2. A reduction of lost time case rate from the current 1.71 to **1.64**. (Note: This is a 4% reduction and VA has been able to achieve 3%).
3. An improved timeliness of Workers' Compensation claim (CA-1/CA-2) submittal from the current 91.8% to **94.6%**. Timeliness is defined as claim submitted to the Department of Labor within 14 days of employee signature.
4. Maintaining the timeliness of CA-7 submittals of 69.8%.
5. A reduction of lost production days from the current 42.6 to **42.2**.
6. Improving the return-to-work rate from the current 88.9% to **89.8%**.