



Former employees of southern tier nuclear plant want answers

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(WIVB) - - Some former employees at a southerntier nuclear plant are convinced they are sick from working there.

Their common thread is that they worked at the West Valley Demonstration Project in the 90's, and now they're devloping cancer at a young age, but are getting no compensation.

Chris Fallon, worked at West Valley, said, "There's no history of cancer in my family," and yet, by age 35, Chris Fallon was diagnosed with two forms of cancer. He didn't really connect it to his work at West Valley until his co-workers developed cancer.

This small group has just started meeting monthly and is sending signed petitions to members of Congress.

A West Valley spokesman says the Department of Energy has always tried to keep workers exposure to radiation well below the limits set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Bob Timmel, West Valley employee, said, "Well, there's actually some documentation out there that even low doses of radiation can still affect you." Timmel even has a doctors note saying that his cancer came from his work at West Valley, but he was denied compensation.

One of the Centers for Disease Control known as NIOSH is working with about 57 cancer clients from West Valley, but historically only about 30% of the clients who seek compensation actually get compensated.

Story by George Richert (WIVB)



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