RECA 2025 Updates and Key Changes

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) provides restitution to individuals who developed certain illnesses after exposure to radiation from U.S. nuclear testing, uranium mining, or related activities. On July 4, 2025, Congress passed Pub. L. No. 119-21 (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act), reauthorizing and expanding RECA.

Key Changes in 2025

Change	Before 2025	After 2025 / Under New Law
Program Reauthorization / Timeline	Program expired after June 2024	New claims may be filed through December 31, 2027.
Program End Date	-	Trust fund extended through December 31, 2028.
Compensation Amounts	Up to $50,000 (Downwinders) / $75,000 (Onsite)	New one-time payment of $100,000 for eligible claimants.
Uranium Worker Coverage	Limited to earlier work periods	Expanded to include core drillers, remediation workers, and work through December 31, 1990.
Covered Diseases	-	Adds chronic renal disease, nephritis, and kidney tubular injury.
Geographic Expansion	Only select counties	Now includes NM, UT, ID, Mohave County (AZ), and new areas under Manhattan Project waste program.
Filing Process	Paper-based; certified documents required	Online filing portal expected December 2025; electronic filings accepted without certified copies.
Claim Deadlines	-	Claims due by December 31, 2027; medical

documentation due by December 31, 2028.

Summary of New and Expanded Coverage

• Downwinders: Expanded eligibility to New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, and Mohave County, Arizona.
• Uranium Workers: Includes miners, millers, core drillers, and remediation workers through 1990.
• Manhattan Project Waste Victims: New category for residents of certain ZIP codes in Missouri, Tennessee, Alaska, and Kentucky.
• Online Filing: Launching December 2025 for easier claim submission.
• Program Extended: Claims accepted until December 31, 2027; program runs through December 31, 2028.

For the most current information and claim forms, visit the U.S. Department of Justice RECA page: https://www.justice.gov/civil/reca