PUBLIC RECORDS / WORKED EXAMPLE

RECA: approval rates and payment evidence

Funding diligence

Prepared by Dossier Editorial | November 23, 2026

EVIDENCE SOURCES	EVIDENCE CHECKED	PUBLISHER INSTITUTIONS
5	**2026-11-23**	**1**

SECTIONS	READER QUESTIONS	REVIEW SCOPE
9	**4**	**Public records**

EVIDENCE CHECKED	2026-11-23
EDITION	1 | Public-source research
ARTICLE	dossierplus.ai/blog/reca-approval-rate-awards-payment-evidence

IMPORTANT USE NOTE

Prepared by Dossier Editorial with AI assistance from public DOJ records. This educational document review uses aggregate program statistics and does not assess anyone's eligibility or medical history. It does not claim a live Dossier investigation, human approval, legal review, access to claimant records or verification of individual receipts.

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PART 01

The decision in brief

RECA's 97.3% approval rate on November 23, 2026 measures approvals among disposed claims, excluding pending claims. DOJ lists 14,809 approvals, 412 denials and 52,869 pending claims in its Public Law 119-21 table. Approvals therefore represent about 21.7% of all 68,090 claims received. Neither percentage proves that a particular claimant was paid. To assess the outcome, preserve the dated table, check its denominator and reconcile award amounts separately from payment evidence.

Publication date: November 23, 2026. Historical event dates are identified separately. This PDF and the article use the same structured source selection and findings.

PART 02

Executive summary

- The latest table linked from DOJ's RECA program page at this review is dated November 23, 2026. Its 97.3% rate is 14,809 approvals divided by 15,221 disposed claims; 52,869 pending claims are outside that denominator.
- Today's four award category amounts add to the displayed $1,035,939,184 total. The retained November 20 table has a $5,400,000 difference between its category sum and displayed total. The newer table reconciles but does not explain that earlier difference.
- DOJ's November 17 announcement reports a compensation milestone, including delivery language. That is affirmative agency reporting. It is distinct from a dated disbursement reconciliation or evidence that a specific recipient received funds. [S1] [S2] [S3] [S5]

The supported outcome is a reconciled current aggregate table, a reproducible approval-rate calculation and a qualified historical comparison. No inference of missing money, fraud or nonpayment follows from the older arithmetic gap. Individual payment outcomes and the reason for that gap remain unverified. [S1] [S2] [S3]

PART 03

Identify the program and the claim cohort

The subject is the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division's Radiation Exposure Compensation Act program, commonly called RECA. Public Law 119-21 reauthorized and expanded the program on July 4, 2025. DOJ describes a non-adversarial compensation process with defined eligibility requirements. This walkthrough concerns the aggregate administrative records, not a lawsuit or an individual benefits determination. [S5]

The awards page separates claims received under Public Law 119-21 from an older table labeled claims received before July 3, 2025. Preserve those cohort labels. The older table lists 42,601 approvals and a 74.6% approval rate; it should not be silently combined with the new table to describe the expanded program's current rate. Counts are claims, not an independently verified count of unique people or households. [S1]

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PART 04

A chronology with different kinds of evidence

These dates describe different events and reporting cutoffs. They are not interchangeable payment dates. [S1] [S3] [S4] [S5]

DATE	ORIGINAL RECORD	WHAT IT ESTABLISHES
July 4, 2025	RECA program guidance	Reauthorization and expanded program scope. [S5]
September 30, 2026	FY 2026 financial statements	Financial reporting cutoff for the estimated RECA liability. [S4]
November 17, 2026	DOJ announcement 26-1371	Agency reports more than $1 billion in awards and describes delivery of compensation. [S3]
November 20 and 23, 2026	Dated claims tables	Separate snapshots of pending, approved and denied claims and approved dollars. [S1] [S2]

PART 05

Reproduce the approval rate before interpreting it

DOJ's November 23 column heading specifies approvals as a share of disposed claims. The table's counts reconcile: 52,869 pending + 14,809 approved + 412 denied = 68,090 total. Disposed claims are the 14,809 approvals plus 412 denials, or 15,221. The calculations below use those published counts; percentages are rounded to one decimal place. [S1]

QUESTION	CALCULATION	RESULT
Of disposed claims, how many were approved?	14,809 / 15,221 × 100	97.3% [S1]
Of all claims received, how many are approved so far?	14,809 / 68,090 × 100	21.7% [S1]
Of all claims received, how many remain pending?	52,869 / 68,090 × 100	77.6% [S1]

Both approval percentages are valid answers to different questions. The 21.7% figure does not mean the remaining claims were denied: most are pending. The 97.3% figure describes decisions already recorded, not a forecast of final approval for everyone in the queue. Pending claims may differ from completed claims in ways this aggregate table does not reveal. [S1]

A pending count alone also does not establish average processing time or missed deadlines. Those questions require filing dates, completion dates, requests for additional evidence and the applicable timing rules. This snapshot supplies no claim-level duration distribution. [S1]

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PART 06

Check the dollars and keep the earlier snapshot

The following comparison transcribes the approved-dollar columns from the two dated records. The sums and differences are our arithmetic, not additional DOJ figures. [S1] [S2]

APPROVED-DOLLAR CATEGORY	NOVEMBER 20	NOVEMBER 23
Downwinder	$632,300,000	$638,400,000 [S1] [S2]
Onsite Participant	$9,489,184	$9,489,184 [S1] [S2]
Manhattan Project Waste	$345,200,000	$348,650,000 [S1] [S2]
Uranium Worker	$38,000,000	$39,400,000 [S1] [S2]
Calculated category sum	$1,024,989,184	$1,035,939,184 [S1] [S2]
Displayed total	$1,030,389,184	$1,035,939,184 [S1] [S2]
Displayed total minus sum	$5,400,000	$0 [S1] [S2]

The November 23 record resolves the arithmetic concern for that snapshot. It does not label or explain a correction to the November 20 record. Keep the older values as published and record the discrepancy rather than silently changing a category amount to make it balance. [S1] [S2]

This matters when calculating growth. The displayed totals rise by $5,550,000, while the sum of category rows rises by $10,950,000. Without an official reconciliation, neither difference should be described as cash paid between the two dates. A changed aggregate award balance is not itself a dated payment ledger. [S1] [S2]

PART 07

Separate approved awards, reported delivery and future liability

The November 17 DOJ announcement says more than $1 billion had been awarded and quotes the Civil Division as having delivered more than $1 billion in compensation. A fair dossier must retain that affirmative delivery statement. The narrower limitation is that this announcement does not reconcile the November 23 award rows to specific payment transactions, payment dates or recipient receipts. [S3] [S1]

A second distinction appears in DOJ's FY 2026 Agency Financial Report. Its September 30 balance sheet lists RECA liabilities of 8,924,438 in thousands of dollars, equivalent to $8,924,438,000. Note 26 explains that the approximately $8.9 billion estimate uses an actuarial model, including projected future claims and approval assumptions. It is not a statement that $8.9 billion was paid or that the entire amount consists of already approved unpaid awards. [S4]

Note 26 also identifies different payment channels: DOJ's RECA Trust Fund for Downwinder, Onsite and Manhattan Project Waste claims, and the Department of Labor's Energy Employees Occupational

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Illness Compensation Fund for uranium-related awards. Those payer boundaries and the September 30 cutoff prevent a simple subtraction of November approved awards from the financial-statement liability to infer unpaid balances. [S4] [S1]

For a payment conclusion, seek a reconciliation with the same cohort, cutoff and payer, identifying awards, disbursements and adjustments. Proof that one claimant received funds would require appropriately authorized claimant-specific evidence. This public aggregate review neither collected that evidence nor concludes that payments did not occur. [S1] [S3] [S4]

PART 08

Decision tree: what conclusion can the record support?

1. ARE THE REPORTING DATE, COHORT AND UNIT CLEAR?

- If established: Use the dated Public Law 119-21 claims table and keep the older cohort separate. Distinguish claims, dollars and unique recipients.
- If unresolved: Stop the comparison and obtain the table heading, date and definitions.

2. DOES THE RATE REPRODUCE USING THE STATED DENOMINATOR?

- If established: Report 97.3% of disposed claims alongside 21.7% of all claims received and the pending count.
- If unresolved: Check exclusions, rounding and numerator definitions before repeating the headline rate.

3. DO THE CATEGORY AMOUNTS RECONCILE FOR THE SNAPSHOT BEING USED?

- If established: Use the November 23 sum, while preserving the unresolved November 20 discrepancy in any historical comparison.
- If unresolved: Record the difference and hold exact category-to-total or growth conclusions pending an explanation.

4. IS THERE PAYMENT EVIDENCE MATCHED TO THE CLAIMED OUTCOME?

- If established: State exactly which payer, period, recipients or aggregate disbursements the evidence covers.
- If unresolved: Retain the agency’s delivery announcement, but limit the conclusion to what the table and announcement establish.

PART 09

Reproduce this review in a Dossier workflow

- Define the question narrowly: whether the approval rate describes all received claims, and what the dollar total proves about payment. Register RECA, Public Law 119-21 and the reporting cohort as the subject.
- Preserve each original page or PDF with its URL, retrieval time and file hash. Keep November 20 and November 23 as distinct records; record which dated table the program page linked at review.
- Create separate findings for claim status, approval-rate arithmetic, approved dollars, agency-reported delivery and estimated liability. Link each finding to the relevant table or financial-report page.
- Recalculate counts, denominators and column sums from the captured rows. Store the formula and rounding rule so another reviewer can reproduce 97.3%, 21.7%, 77.6% and the $5.4 million historical difference.

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- Record contrary or qualifying evidence beside the finding: the newer table reconciles; DOJ reports delivery; the financial report covers future claims and multiple payment channels. Do not hide those qualifications in a source list.
- Export the evidence register, chronology, calculations, decision tree and open questions from the same reviewed content. Preserve version history when a later original record changes a conclusion.

These are reproducible authoring steps, not a claim that this article ran a live platform investigation or accessed a benefits system. The accompanying PDF uses the same public content and source register as this page.

PART 10

What evidence would change the conclusion?

- An official correction or reconciliation explaining the November 20 category-to-total difference would support a more reliable comparison across the two dates.
- A payer-specific disbursement reconciliation with the same cohort and cutoff could connect approved awards to amounts actually paid.
- Published claim-age or processing-time data could support a separate timeliness analysis; the aggregate pending count cannot.
- Later dated awards tables can update the observed rate and pending share. They should be retained as new snapshots rather than used to overwrite what earlier records showed. [S1] [S2] [S4]

As of the November 23 evidence check, the reviewed records support the calculations above but do not explain the older $5.4 million difference or establish individual receipts. No claimant identities or medical records are included. The related funding walkthroughs below apply the same distinction between an announced award, eligibility and evidence of an achieved outcome.

PART 11

Questions readers ask

DOES A 97.3% APPROVAL RATE MEAN 97.3% OF ALL RECA APPLICATIONS WERE APPROVED?

No. In DOJ's November 23, 2026 Public Law 119-21 table, the denominator is 15,221 disposed claims. The 14,809 approvals are about 21.7% of all 68,090 claims received; 52,869 remain pending. [S1]

DOES AN APPROVED RECA AWARD PROVE THAT THE CLAIMANT RECEIVED PAYMENT?

The approved-dollar table does not establish a particular receipt. DOJ separately reported delivery of more than $1 billion on November 17. Retain that agency statement while checking any more specific payment claim against matching disbursement or receipt evidence. [S1] [S3]

DOES THE NOVEMBER 20 DISCREPANCY MEAN $5.4 MILLION IS MISSING?

No. It is a difference between the published category sum and displayed total. The November 23 table reconciles, but the reviewed records do not explain the earlier difference. No loss, fraud or nonpayment is established. [S1] [S2]

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IS DOJ'S APPROXIMATELY $8.9 BILLION RECA LIABILITY THE AMOUNT ALREADY PAID?

No. The FY 2026 financial report describes a September 30 actuarial liability estimate that includes projected future claims and approval assumptions. Its period, purpose and payment-channel scope differ from the November claims table. [S4]

PART 12

Linked source register

Titles with a recorded URL link to that source. Entries without a URL identify retained material but do not open an original file. For any court or business record being used in litigation, obtain a certified copy directly from the clerk or filing authority and preserve the retrieval date.

S1 **DOJ RECA awards to date — November 23, 2026**
Official program statistics. Anchor: Public Law 119-21 table; claim counts, disposed-claim rate, category amounts and total. Latest dated table linked by the program page when checked; claims and approved dollars are separate from recipient receipts. · retrieved 2026-11-23

S2 **DOJ RECA awards to date — November 20, 2026**
Official program statistics. Anchor: Public Law 119-21 table; four approved-dollar rows and displayed total. Retained historical snapshot. Its category amounts sum to $5.4 million less than the displayed total; no explanation inferred. · retrieved 2026-11-23

S3 **Justice Department surpasses $1 billion in RECA awards**
Agency announcement. Anchor: November 17, 2026; release 26-1371; award milestone and delivery statement. Affirmative agency reporting retained; not a transaction-level reconciliation to the November 23 table. · retrieved 2026-11-23

S4 **DOJ FY 2026 Agency Financial Report**
Agency financial report. Anchor: Printed page 41 / PDF page 46; Note 26, printed pages 103–104 / PDF pages 108–109. Balance-sheet units are thousands of dollars. Reviewed the RECA liability, actuarial assumptions and payment channels, not every page of the 225-page report. · retrieved 2026-11-23

S5 **DOJ Radiation Exposure Compensation Act program**
Official program guidance. Anchor: Program summary; July 4, 2025 reauthorization; current Awards To Date link. Program identity and current statistics navigation. No individual eligibility determination or application was performed. · retrieved 2026-11-23

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