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Subject: The Broken Safety Culture at Hanford

After 19 years of employment at Hanford almost exclusively at 200 ETF on the Hanford site I haven't seen such a total disregard for safety, procedures, and compliance with the regulation laws. I was employed as a HPT and through out my time I worked shift work, covered all aspects of job coverage in a multiple of areas. I was also active on safety councils, wrote several hundred pers, and actively promoted safety to my peers as well as management. In OCT. 2008 WRPS took over and the Safety culture began a dramatic change. At first it was concealed but when a crane incident that happened just prior to CHG was covered up and a investigation prompted by me filing a employee concern with Brandon Williams resulted in facts revealing a near miss involving a crane in C farm. Interesting thing after several months investigation that it didn't even get classified as a near miss. DOE had chosen to cover it up. With the loss of the VPP Star Status, the Safety Culture continued a downhill spiral. It became evident that procedure compliance, safety, 835 Radcon compliance and worker involvement now took a back seat to schedule. The millions of dollars in stimulus money, milestone \$\$\$, and the potential of future contracts took precedence. Now pers, stopwork, and worker involvement were looked as roadblocks. Anyone who continued to bring up safety issues, follow procedures, and use Stop Work became a target. I have pers in the system that exposed beryllium posting violations that WRPS tried to cover up and clean-up at 2704 E building. Fact Finding proved that with a DOE auditor present who was given all the information and given a first hand look at the serious violation and possible exposure for workers sent to clean up the area. Instead of addressing the problem the Fact Finding tried to push blame to me and a Safety Rep. who dared to bring this forward. In Feb. 2011 I also documented a procedure violation for a emergency response to a actual tank pressurization at AN Farm. What resulted to my documentation of the AOP violation and RWP violation was that I was investigated for holding up the reponse. Today I believe that since I had the courage to document this in the per system as well as many other pers resulted in my termination in 3/2011. Workers didn't buy WRPS excuses and know that if they bring up any concerns they could put a target on them. It is obvious that the DOE preaches "Procedure Compliance" but currently it takes second fiddle to schedule. The system is currently broken with DOE being there own police force. NRC is a separate agency that regulates the commercial industry. I'm 61 yrs old. Prior to coming to the DOE at Hanford, I worked as a HPT at Rancho Seco in California for 7 years. I have worked in the commercial reactors since 1981. Job classification ranged from Union Laborer, junior HPT, to ACNI 3.1 qualified senior HPT. I take safety seriously and have promoted it through out my work history. I have been fortunate to have never been seriously injured at work but have witnessed serious and life threatening injuries. Today I firmly believe that the Safety Culture at Hanford needs to be changed to protect workers and the CHilling EFFECT reversed. Thankfully I have documented pers that are readily available as well as documents to back my concerns. Please feel free to contact me for any clarification or futher information.