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To: <andrewt@dnfsb.gov>
CC: Richard Fleming <rich2day@clearwire.net>
Date: 7/20/2011 9:54 PM
Subject: Fwd: SAFETY & SECURITY of the HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION

To,

Dr. Peter S. Winokur,
Chairman:
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

Dear Sir,

My name is Richard M. Fleming. Son of William M. Fleming, a WWII veteran who served in the Pacific, who retired after 35 years as a Hanford Patrolman, International Secretary to & Mediator for the International Guards Union of America.

I grew up in Richland, hunting & fishing the Columbia River with my dad, which is where I learned the Morals, Values & Principals I live by today.

Had it not been for the production of the plutonium from the B reactor & it's use on Nagasaki Japan, Aug. 9th, 1945, I; in all likelihood would not be writing this letter today.

For I would not exist. And dad would be but a name on a monument on a beach in Japan.

I have agonized for weeks about writing this to you sir; as I have always found myself being a defender & protector of the Hanford Reservation & all its missions under the A.E.C. or the D.O.E. over the many years and many different contractors I myself have worked for.

I initially intended this to be only about the Safety Culture at the Waste Treatment Plant under construction by Bechtel National Inc & the various sub-contractors.

However, Safety & Security have always been of particular importance to me, through out my career as an I.B.E.W. LU112 journeyman wireman of nearly 35 years.

I have worked on, near, or around nearly ever square inch of the reservation at one time or another, as an electrician, a patrolman, or a substation operator going back 1975.

There are very few contractors or sub contractors I have not worked for at one time or other. I've held all level of clearances from Q on down to confidential on and off since then.

I wish the Safety Culture problem were only confined to he WTP project, but such is NOT the case. I have always tried to work within the system, but occasionally had to resort to unconventional means to get any meaningful results on some projects or contractors. Such as "Allowing "others the "How to" make formal complaints to OSHA, WISHA, DOE, & others entities before action was taken. Sometimes, no action was taken. But, that way I insulated myself from being a target for a lay off. That is the normal consequence for speaking out about anything Safety related SITE WIDE.

Not every contractor, or project is so effected that way, depending mostly upon low to mid managements attitude about integrity, honesty, and commitment to safety vs production.

It IS particularly rampant at the WTP Site. Where every one from Union Leadership elected Officials & Contractor Associations, through Bechtel, Most of its Sub Contractors, & on up into DOE itself.

I did not know of your boards existence until a few months ago when Mr.

Tamopolis brought his problem to light. I assure you, he is but one ice cube in a sea of icebergs the size of Hanford.

I was brought up to trust & respect the AEC & then DOE. But that trust was broken with Shirley Olinger.

I have worked "outside the fence" most of my career, even though I could have just kept my mouth shut & been groomed for easy duty jobs several times for several contractors on site. I have had a reputation for being a safety advocate in my local union, mostly for my actions on other jobs off of the Hanford Site, and even other States.

I began receiving calls about 2 years before I ever took a call to the WTP for Bechtel, whom I'd worked for several times on other jobs, and I know how they operate. These calls were mostly from younger, less experienced members of my own local union, but some came even from my own peers and other trades, asking me to "come out here before they kill one of us".

Had I known about the DNFS Broad before now, I would like to think I could have made a difference, in the positive.

I did attend all three State Of The Site meetings held this year & spoke at each one on behalf of those workers who can't. Plus the one held in Richland in 2008.

The retaliation and social & economic harm and stress I've experienced has not stopped even now. Even though I'm disabled, & unable to work, I'm still perceived by many in key positions to be a threat to their empire of deception.

I've only talked about a very small portion for just what I can pull up from memory. I have not even scratched the surface of what my job logs hold.

Thank You for you time and consideration.

You may contact me at this email address or call me at home at 509-588-6657.

sincerely yours,
Richard M. Fleming