July 18, 2011

Brian Grosner or Andrew L. Thibadeau
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, NW.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004–2901

Dear Brian or Andrew,

Enclosed please find 61 comments collected from members of the public who attended an event we sponsored in a Seattle park on July 12, 2011. The comments are submitted for the public record in response to the Federal Register notice of June 20, 2011, relative to the Board’s safety culture letter and recommendations to Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

Thank you for accepting these comments,

Liz Mattson, Program Coordinator
Hanford Challenge
219 First Avenue S., Suite 120
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 292-2850, ex 21
hanfordchallenge.org
Join Hanford Challenge for
FREE Ice Cream in the Park!
Tuesday • July, 12th • 4-7pm

Join Hanford Challenge in Seattle’s Volunteer Park by the amphitheater for FREE Bluebird Ice Cream and Hayton Farms Organic Strawberries!*

Nuclear Safety

BLUEBIRD Microcreamery
Seattle, WA

Frisbee! • Wiffle Ball! • Live Music! • Face Painting!

This event is made possible through funding from the New Mexico Community Foundation.
*While supplies last.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Graeme Cohen Email: CohenG@asu.edu Date: 7/12/11

I strongly support the recommendation from the DNFSB. No worker, or general employee, should be censored from speaking the truth.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Louise Tusseau Email: louise.tusseau@gmail.com Date: __________

Please consider the recommendations of the DNFSB. All workers deserve to have their voices heard.
We support you! Safety First! Seattle is behind you!
Keep up the good work!
I support the recommendations of the DNFB.
No worker should fear retaliation for speaking out to make our nuclear facilities safer.
Overcoming challenges ultimately leads to a stronger system.
Please support the DNFSB’s recommendations.
Workers should feel no fear in speaking up to make
work sites better.
We need more independent oversight of Hanford, which is why I support the Defense Board's involvement.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Zale Lightner-Shotwell   Email: ZaleLS@hotmail.com   Date: ______

Money should never be a substitute for safety. The people who acknowledge this should be protected.

I support the recommendations of the DNFSB.
Hearing about what you're doing, appreciate you and support your efforts. ! 🌟
Where can I have more Spanish info.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Vitza Ward  Email: VitzaCme.com  Date: ____

Great cause. I hope to get more information.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety

Culture

Name: Patty McGee  
Email: egcmpa@gmail.com  
Date: 7/12/11

I would like to see meaningful responses to recommendations made by regulatory commissions regarding Atomic and nuclear energy waste disposal. Individuals should not fear repercussions due to ignorance over safety issues being overlooked. It is most important to support properly disposing of materials regardless of cost incurred, otherwise you defeat the purpose in developing a system of providing clean and safe energies to all the people in need. All entities should fear accountability and should assure a high level of performance in the duties assigned or will lack support of future people believing understanding and knowing that the right thing is being done. In all cases, nuclear, atomic, solar, wind, and water power should be held responsible for actions that disrupt existing forms of life and habitat. Voices should be heard and accommodated which will result in a solution to this common problem that's universal and ongoing - Thank you.
Name: myseret
Email: cherrielim
Date: 2/12/11

I support the DNFSB recommendations. DoE needs to get independent help to put reforms into ACTION!!! I agree with idea.
I believe that instead of having waste be stored in tanks we should be able to value opinion on how to store, dispose, and incinerate nuclear waste. The people that work at the plants should not fear their jobs or lively need for expressing their opinions and educated views.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: Edmund M. Barker Email: edmundmbarker@yahoo.com Date: 7/12/13

Nuclear safety is a large priority
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Jelina Zimmer  Email: inonecontributor@hotmail.com  Date: July 12th

What you are doing is courageous and just.

Don't let the man bring you down!
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: Tamra Smitich Email: fannnd комплекс@yahoo.com Date: 4/12/2011

In regards to the findings by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board June 9, 2011, I am very concerned that many of the employees have felt pressure to refrain from speaking up when they have safety concerns as to the environment at the Washington State Hanford Nuclear Plant. If safety concerns are not being brought up to supervisor and other management levels, then not only are the employees and contractors on the site in jeopardy but also the public as safety concerns can possibly effect the local residents and breaches. Thank you for taking this situation seriously.
I support the notion to improve safety culture in order to preserve the safety of workers stationed at the Hanford Nuclear Plant; there should be no negative repercussions in speaking up against unsafe working conditions, especially while working in such a site as Hanford.
Safety at the Waggie Treatment Plant is of paramount importance not only for people but for the surrounding ecosystem. Those directly involved should be able to speak out concerning problems, thus I sincerely support the recommendations of the DNF SB.
I think the design and construction of the Waste Treatment Plant needs to be the most careful, safe, and deliberate effort ever undertaken in Washington State. So far, this has not been the case. I welcome a thorough investigation by the DNFSB to assure the best and safest WTP.
I support the DNFSB in making realistic safety changes to ensure workers' safety and well-being while trying to clean up this facility to make it a safe community for Washington.
More serious response is required to react to those who point out dangerous situations that should be dealt with professionally.
Public Comments  
Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture  
Name: Kirby Kirschennmann  
Email: Kirby Kirschennmann@Yahoo  
Date: July 11, 2011  

Workers should not be fired for being whistle blowers. These safety violations need to be corrected, but don't punish people for doing their job. The DNFSB boards letter for reforms and improvements is an important first step.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Anne Marie Estrein   Email: annmarise@smail.ca   Date: 7/12

The safety of workers, citizens, and the environment must be the top priority in the cleanup of Hanford.

The retaliation against employee whistleblowers must stop, and processes need to be enacted to ensure safety and reporting of issues.
I support the whistleblowers and agree that no one should fear retaliation for wanting to work in a safe nuclear power plant.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety
Culture
Name: Gene Lipitz Email: ___________________________ Date: 7/12/13

Whistle blower laws + spirit should be routinely conducted + made publicly available. However, I do not support blanket job protection for federal workers.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Wendell H Email: Olivertwisted

Workers at the plant should be able to speak their minds without fear of getting fired.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: [Redacted] Email: wolf@att.net Date: 7/12/11

I believe a person should be able to voice their opinions and safety concerns without fear of persecution and loss of employment.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Eric Rosenfeld  Email: eric@uoregon.edu  Date: 7/12/2011

The clean up of the Hanford Waste Site should focus on the safety of the workers and the people who may use it afterwards, not on finishing quickly and cheaply. Therefore I support the DNFSB's recommendations.
Hanford needs to put safety and accountability first, and assure that workers are free to speak up!!!
Everyone should feel safe at work. Companies shouldn't fire complainers because they disagree.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Claire Champernowne  Email: cchampernowne@gmail.com  Date: 7/12/11

It is important to me that waste treatment plants in the USA are safe, it is appalling that workers must fear a loss of their job because of their concerns regarding plant safety.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: GERARD DEVRIES Email: gerarddevries@yahoo.com Date: 7/21/11

I am outraged at the sidelining of Dr. Tamosaitis. Hanford needs to put safety and accountability first and assure that workers are free to speak up.

We need more independent oversight at Hanford, which is why I support the Defense Board's involvement.
Hanford needs to put safety for workers and needs to provide a safe environment and that can’t be done without a workplace that has freedom of speech.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Sam Carpenter   Email: sam.carpenter72@yahoo.com   Date: 07/12/11

It is more important to have a safe waste treatment plant than it is for contractors to earn a profit by making a deadline while cutting corners. I support the recommendations of the DNFSB. No worker should fear retaliation for speaking out to make our nuclear facilities safer.
Yes! To protection by the Defense DNFSB. The alternate outcome (explosion, leakage, pollution) is unacceptable.

Sincerely, thank you to Dr. Tamosauskas for speaking out, speaking the truth and honoring the future of our earth.
No short term gains the Waste Treatment Plant contractors at the expense of long term losses for my children, grandchildren (future), and great grandchildren. The impact of this clean-up will impact generations to come - we can't afford to mess this up! Implement the DNFSB recommendation now!
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Julia Montagnet   Email: jmontagnet@gmail.com   Date: 7/12/11

I want to see contractors working on the clean-up who put work ethic & quality FIRST—instead of profit for their company. If that means firing Bechtel & starting over with another company it would be worth it. The corruption within Bechtel & their DOE ties runs so deep it needs to be completely overhauled in order to stop wasting millions of tax payers money on lining Bechtel’s pockets.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: Nadine Maestas Email: maestas.amarine@outlook.com Date: 7/12/11

Hanford needs to put safety and accountability first, and ensure that workers are free to speak up. It is more important to have a safe waste treatment plant than it is for contractors to earn profit for meeting a deadline, while cutting corners.
I fully support the DNFSB recommendations concerning the dysfunctional safety oversight culture at Hanford. Moving responsibility for clean-up from D.O.E. to the nuclear weapons folks seems like a move in the wrong direction, unfortunately.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: W. Scott Davis  Email: WSDAVIS1@DOE.gov  Date: 7/24/11

Please respond to the DNFSB recommendations in a meaningful, swift, and lasting way. The issues we face as Washingtonians at Hanford are so grave that we risk facing generations of health risks if the DOE does not do the cleanup the right way this time around. Workers @ Hanford should fear absolutely NO concerns for their employment when they raise questions on "whistleblow." Please help protect us by requiring that Safety and Accountability are prioritized @ Hanford, rather than efficiency and profit.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Edanforth  Email: edanforth@hotmail.com  Date: 7-12-11

I support the DNFSB recommendations in critical health and safety areas of concern such as nuclear waste; an open culture that promotes safety communication is essential. Not only do whistleblowers need protection, but there needs to be a personal-blame-free atmosphere that addresses safety concerns from a systems perspective.

Sincerely,

Edanforth
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Nina Schwinghammer  Email: nadschwinghammer@alaska.gov  Date: 1/12

It is important for the nuclear industry to be responsible for its actions in order for nuclear power to continue as a viable energy source.

Thanks

Nina Schwinghammer
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: CHARLIE ERNST  Email: NAME.Charlie@YAHOO.COM  Date: 7/12/19

It's been 40+ yrs - Clean it up!
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Wynne Teeter Email: Wynne.Teeter@pnnl.gov Date: 7/17/2011

The safety of the environment and our families is dependent on the hardworking men and women willing to share their concerns when they see an error. If people are fired for sharing these flaws that ultimately could threaten our safety, we need to protect those people and create a work environment that is collaborative, allowing open dialog between workers and employers.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Ida Jokisaari Email: ida11ano@yahoo.com Date: 7/12/11

The fact that individuals have been fired for raising safety concerns at Hanford nuclear facilities is unacceptable. The long term safety of the public is adversely affected by such a retaliatory culture. The management of Hanford should be accountable for the safety of the operations and the public as well as the culture of safety in their organization.
I support the recommendations of the DNFSB. DOE needs to get independent recommendations to implement reforms. Workers should not fear retaliation for being whistleblowers!
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety
Culture
Name: Page Lee Email: pagelee@com Date: 7-12-11

Hanford needs to put safety first & assure that workers are free to speak up.
I support DNFSB's Recommendation.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: Rachel BlumCantone   Email: RachelABlum@yahoo.com   Date: 7/12/11

Hanford needs to be putting safety and accountability first, and assure that workers are free to speak up. We need more independent oversight of Hanford, which is why I support the Defense Board's involvement.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Joon H Song  
Email: juno-song @hanmail.net  
Date: 07/11 12/11

I support DNFSB.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Shannon Smith  Email: shannon.a.smith@eunet  Date: 7/12/11

We all want Hanford workers to be safe at their jobs and in their jobs. In any profession, measures of safety and protocol exist and I support the Defense Board's letter and recommendations. Protect all nuclear facility workers' right to ensure their workplace safety culture!
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture
Name: Jonathan Sheneman Email: Johnnyboyck1@yahoo Date: 7-12-11

It's extremely important to construct a facility like this carefully with focus on details involving transportation, loading and eventual storage of highly toxic waste.

Incidents such as a simple valve blow-out on the Multi-million dollar Deepwater Horizon project caused a huge still-undetermined environmental mess. It's important to get it right - the first time.
Nuclear waste and the appropriate response to cleaning it up should be an open and safe debate. When there is a violation for an opinion to safe cleanup of nuclear waste, there is a problem in the process.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Quetzel McCormick  Email: Quetzel.698dixya@gmail.com  Date: 7-12-11

I am sorry to hear that workers reporting safety violations at a NUCLEAR PLANT still harboring plutonium is being allowed. This should NOT be acceptable in WA state, let alone the U.S. given recent world events (Japan nuclear incident).

Please, we need fair treatment of employees who ARE doing their jobs excellently.

Concerned, Quetzel Q. M.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: Martin  Email: Marty011023@yahoo.com

Reporting the safety of the nuclear plant is right and they should not be fired for it.
I feel strongly that it is more important to have a safe waste treatment plant than it is for contractors to earn profit for meeting a deadline while cutting corners.
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety
Culture
Name: Louis Gervais Email: louisgervais@hotmail.com Date: 7/11/11

Why spend the time, money and effort to control hazardous waste and not include all the best minds feedback? I support the recommendations of the DNFSB.
There needs to be more independent oversight of Hanford. It is more important to have a safe waste treatment plant than it is for contractors to earn profit by cutting corners. This is an enormous public safety issue. Protect whistleblowers with legislation!

- Toni Craig
Public Comments Re: Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Recommendations on WTP Safety Culture

Name: [Signature]

Email: cooljc6633@... Date: 7/12/11

I really think that safety should be the number 1 priority. There is no reason for the safety of workers or others to be at risk because of this. Doing things right should not be punished because someone wants a paycheck.
Support the freedom of speech of workers and respect their health and safety rights. Respond to concerns quickly and with the most urgency.
I am concerned about the future of the Hanford Treatment plant for Nuclear Waste—please take into consideration the implications of this future site on the environment—especially our water systems—safety always comes first! I support the DNF SB recommendations. Thank you.