

**From:** "J Toon" <jtoon2b@frontier.com>  
**To:** <andrewt@dnfsb.gov>  
**Date:** 7/21/2011 10:01 AM  
**Subject:** Comments

Dear Mr. Thibadeau,

This comment is in response to recommendations made by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to the Secretary of Energy concerning the safety culture at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant located at the Hanford site in the state of Washington.

Hanford is our nation's most contaminated and dangerous nuclear site, and the Waste Treatment Plant is the nation's most expensive and complicated facility under construction. The operations at this site must be conducted with safety as the top priority. A healthy safety culture is a critical part of that safety mission.

The Board has made formal recommendations to the Secretary of Energy for improving the safety culture at the Hanford site. I am writing in full support of those recommendations.

There needs to be a meaningful response from the Department of Energy to the situation involving Dr. Walter Tamosaitis. Until his situation is fully resolved, workers will continue to fear reprisal. His case is the first step in curing the broken safety culture.

No worker should fear retaliation for speaking out to make our nuclear facilities safer. The DOE and the Board must assure that every DOE nuclear facility, including at Hanford, needs to put safety and accountability first, and assure that workers are free to speak up.

Any resolution to this problem should include enacting regulations and legislation that assure protection to workers when they speak out about safety, health, environmental or technical issues. The failure to establish or maintain a non-chilled work environment should result in financial penalties and, in cases where the problems persist, the loss of a contract. Compliance with these regulations should be subject to investigation and verification by the DNFSB, under the provisions of the Price Anderson Authorization Act.