

From: ALLEN FRIDLUND <afridlund@msn.com>
To: <andrewt@dnfsb.gov>
Date: 7/16/2011 11:50 PM
Subject: FW: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
Attachments: ATT00001

From: postmaster@mail.hotmail.com
To: afridlund@msn.com
Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2011 20:28:58 -0700
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

andrewt@dnfsb.gov

--Forwarded Message Attachment--

From: afridlund@msn.com
To: andrewt@dnfsb.gov
Subject:
Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2011 20:28:57 -0700

Sir,

I am sending you this letter to give you my perception of the chilling effect that has come to be a way of life at the 200 East Tank Farms at the Hanford Reservation in Washington State. I have worked at Hanford for just under 28 years. I am 57 years old. The first 6 1/2 years I was an engineer/ brakeman on the Hanford railroad. In January of 1990 I became a Health Physics Technician and passed the NRRPT test in 1995. To date I am still working as a Senior Health Physics Technician for WRPS. I have called Rick Schapira twice and during the 2nd call he referred me to you.

I have accumulated a lot of information on the day to day safety problems/chilling effect we incur but obviously it would be hard to give it all to you now including the documentation that I have amassed. With all this said here's what I can convey at this time.

For me the chilling effect started for me in the first year that WRPS took over the contract. I watched as an engineering group out of either North or South Carolina was contracted to remap the mechanical and electrical drawings of the tank farms with Obama stimulus money. These individuals had to be escorted into the tank farms because they didn't have the appropriate training to clear our ACES qualification checks. When I questioned this, I was always told that they didn't need to be qualified for entry to the tank farms because they weren't performing work. This observation never seemed right to me. After this had been going on for approximately 5 months I had the opportunity to bid a 4 ten hour shift per week opening. This job also would boost my pay by 5%. When I was awarded this job due to my seniority I was told I had to be their escort. After about 2 weeks of this I felt it was still wrong and informed my bosses of my feelings. I told them I would do all my SHPT duties but escorting someone for lack of training (which they should have) was not part of my job scope. I was kicked off this shift within a day or

two along with another SHPT on the same shift because of my stance on making sure all individuals had the right training for work in the tank farms. I even gave them ways of getting these individuals into training including changing class dates with someone else. For the record, my beliefs are now the way escorting is done today.

A lead SHPT position for training new HPTs to our facility came up in September of 2010 that I was interested in. It would be a 5% raise in pay but also I felt I would be a good candidate for this position. There were two other lead positions that came up at the same time but this was the only one I was interested in. According to one of the two people who we were put in front of to board for this position I placed 2nd out of five applicants. If they followed the procedure on selecting Lead SHPTs the one who they selected and awarded the training lead should never have even been considered due to the fact that he placed last. I don't want to get into all the details at this time but let me say that if I had the ability to get the documentation on this I could prove it. I even brought this up to the WRPS RADCON manager Ed Adams but he didn't do anything that I saw. I even told him that I didn't mind losing but I never liked being cheated.

When the 4 SHPTs were fired in March of 2011 I was devastated. I had worked side by side with all of them for approximately 10 years. I never saw them do anything that would even remotely put themselves in jeopardy. This event absolutely freaked me out. It was now apparent that following procedures and bringing up safety concerns was a firing offense. In fact, because of this, I ended up being off work for three weeks due to stress. The memory of this is always on my mind and I have found that I have had a couple instances come up where I should have used my "Stop Work" authority but couldn't do it.

One of these events happened at the AN-Farm change trailer. I was inside the trailer waiting to survey out the tools and equipment my crew was using. A sub-contractor had been hired to widen the doors due to a ARGOS-5 PCM problem. The units were too big to get into the change trailer through the limited space of the old doors. The carpenter was using a reciprocating saw to open up the area of the door jamb. The lights went out in the trailer and the NCO hollered at the carpenter to stop as she felt that he had hit a live wire. He kept working for approximately 30 seconds. About this time Dave Lassao (Field Work Supervisor) and another NCO walked in and opened the breaker box like they were going to reset the breaker. I stopped them and told them we needed a qualified electrician to check out what had happened but I failed to use my "Stop Work" authority. I then went up to 272-AW and reported what I had witnessed to the electrician's chief steward and to Lou Acala (Safety Representative). They took over the responsibility of addressing this problem. When WRPS had a "Fact Finding" forum they didn't invite the NCO who noticed the lights go out, the instrument technician who also was in the trailer and myself who were all in the trailer when this event happened. The next day we were told in our morning meeting that the "Fact Finding" brought out the fact that everything was done right when the electrical cable was cut. They immediately stopped work, secured the work and all the proper notifications were made. That is not the way it happened. It has been my experience that WRPS picks ONLY the individuals they want at these investigations so that they can hide the truth.

Another event that happened to me was again with Dave Lassao (Field Work Supervisor). I was in B-Farm (contamination area alpha/beta) performing radial filter changes on various breather filters on various tanks. Mr. Lassao's cell phone rang. I immediately told him not to answer the phone. He looked me dead in the eye and went ahead and answered it anyway. I should have used my "Stop Work Authority" but because of the chilling effect I didn't. I did file a PER on this and this is what happened. A safety representative named Rick Ennis called a meeting to try and wipe out this PER. I thought Dave Strasser (shift manager) had called for it since he was the one who contacted me. I took my chief steward at the time, Scott Roberson, to the meeting. When the meeting started I asked why the whole crew wasn't there. Mr. Strasser told me that it wasn't a "Fact Finding" meeting so we didn't need the whole crew. I told him that I thought we did need them. About this time Mr. Lassao spoke up and said he never heard me. I rose up and told the group that I needed a break because I didn't like someone lying to my face. What they didn't know at the time is that I had talked to everyone on the crew prior to this meeting and they all said that he had to have heard my instructions. A couple weeks went by and I was told by Steve Henneman (1st line supervisor) that I was to meet right away with Vice President Wilkerson and Brian Williamson (my 1st line supervisor) in Wilkerson's office. I asked if it was for disciplinary action. He said he didn't know so I went up to 274-AW with the thought that if it was for disciplinary action I would stop it until I got a union steward there. When I got there Wilkerson and Williamson weren't there. Instead it was a man and a woman I had never seen before. When I asked them who they were one was an Industrial Relations Representative and the other was from Human Resources. I asked if they had brought me

there for disciplinary reasons and they said no. It was about my PER for the cell phone incident. They asked if I wanted to file a employee concern. I told them that I had received a E-Mail that said my PER was "Invalid". They told me that wasn't true so later that day I forwarded the E-Mail to Len Morgan (Industrial Relations). I then told them that I wanted to file the employee concern. A week or two went by and it was just after the 4 SHPTs were fired. Ed Kennedy (Vice President Human Relations) called me at work and asked me if I wanted to talk to him (presumably about the PER, apparently no employee concern had been filed). I told him no, that I didn't want to talk to him about anything because I was afraid of being fired. He said if I changed my mind to call him. I found this odd because I just told him I was afraid to report a violation through the channels that go throught his office and yet he didn't say that WRPS has a no retaliation policy and that I should feel free to report any problem.

I have a lot more stuff to tell but it would take an hour or two to go over it with you or one of your representatives. Feel free to contact me if you want to pursue my observations.

Allen Fridlund
509 N. Quillan Ct.
Kennewick, Wa. 99336

509-735-4929
AFridlund@msn.com