



October 1, 2008

**PRESS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Worker Compensation Program Injustices Revealed
**Insider exposes Department of Labor compensation system
for sick Hanford workers is mismanaged, flawed and failing.**

What: Information and Question and Answer Session

Who: Former Dept of Labor Compensation Claims Examiner, Anne Block

Where: Kennewick Red Lion Hotel, N. 1101 Columbia Center Blvd. Kennewick, WA

When: Thursday, October 2nd from 6:00 – 7:00pm (prior to the State of the Site Meeting)

Hanford Challenge's Tom Carpenter, along with Anne Block, an experienced Washington attorney and former examiner with the Department of Labor's (DOL) Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP), will hold a public information session on Thursday, October 2 at the State of the Site pre-meeting. They will address the failing compensation systems and the current state of vapor exposures and worker illnesses at Hanford that send people to these systems seeking help. Media is encouraged to attend. Workers will be in attendance and encouraged to share their experiences and ask questions.

Not only are current and former Hanford workers continuously developing chronic illnesses from radiation and chemical exposures, but the compensation programs designed to help them are failing. Anne Block is teaming up with Hanford Challenge to help workers navigate this flawed system and receive the compensation they deserve, as well as expose the arbitrary and capricious agency actions she witnessed while working for DOL EEOICP Seattle District Office. At the Information Session, Anne will release a statement detailing her experiences within DOL and providing evidence of wrongdoing within the agency in an effort to deny meritorious claims.

Some examples of the troubling actions Anne witnessed include:

- District Directors' ordered examiners to deny claims when no review of the file had taken place;
- Medical evidence was ignored and examiners were ordered not to add medical conditions to a claimant's claim;
- An order from a senior examiner, that examiners were hired to be "guardians of the treasury;"
- Examiners who spoke up or complained experienced a hostile work environment and the threat of or actual termination;
- Rescinding of Final Agency Orders when a claimant complained to their Senator, manager, and/or when a claimant filed a lawsuit in federal court;
- District Directors purposefully held back information sent to examiners in a concerted effort to thwart pre-trial discovery requests;
- Orders to get Aging Claims (300+ days old) denied so that statistics of Seattle District Office will be the best out of all the District Offices.

Tom Carpenter, Executive Director of Hanford Challenge, will discuss the recently released [Expert Panel](#) report on chemical vapor exposures and the potential impacts on Hanford workers.