



November 16, 2011

Dear Friend,

I woke up this morning at 4am thinking about Hanford's [Vit Plant](#). After years of shoving technical issues under the carpet and silencing concerns, the Vit Plant is under more scrutiny than ever. Three investigations are underway and disclosures from high-level managers are mounting.

Donna Busche, the top official for assuring nuclear safety at the plant, has been raising concerns internally about nuclear safety of the design for years. Things were fine until early 2010 when the focus shifted to meeting deadlines instead of building a plant that works. Donna recently filed a whistleblower complaint related to her concerns and the reprisal she has been experiencing. [Click here](#) for more details.

Don Alexander, a high-level DOE chemist, [went public](#) for the first time in October with photos of gaping holes in pipes after a test run of simulated tank waste ate through the stainless steel. These pipes are meant to last for 40 years.

The case for Walt Tamosaitis has been heating up as the former Research & Technology Manager filed a [complaint](#) against DOE in Federal Court. There is [evidence](#) that DOE played a role in ousting Walt after he raised safety concerns about the Vit Plant last July.

To me, Hanford's Vit Plant is running a real risk of becoming Washington's Nuclear White Elephant. This \$12.3 billion, technically challenged project is the cornerstone of Hanford's cleanup. We are at a critical juncture. I have hope that the current investigations and disclosures will lead to a course correction by DOE leadership. This needs to start with independent oversight of the plant and dealing with those who suppress the raising concerns and retaliate against those who bring them forward.

[Join us](#) and support our efforts to bring accountability, transparency and positive change to a situation that desperately needs a new direction.

Sincerely,

Tom Carpenter
Executive Director

Media Links

[Second Hanford vit plant official files whistleblower claim](#), Tri-City Herald, November 13, 2011

[Hanford Whistleblower Files Lawsuit Against Department of Energy in U.S. Federal Court](#), Seattle Weekly, November 9, 2011

[Hanford Whistleblower Launches New Lawsuit Over Safety Concerns](#), NPR, November 9, 2011

[Hanford subcontractor, DOE being sued by former vit plant executive](#), Tri-City Herald, November 10, 2011

[Hanford's nuclear option](#), Seattle Weekly, October 19, 2011

More info and updates on Walt Tamosaitis and the Vit Plant [on our webpage](#)