

# **FEDERAL WHISTLEBLOWER FEE CLAIM**

**For Agencies: FTC, FBI, SEC, FCC, GAO, DOE, EPA, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and related**

**Provided by Witness #267-DOE-99**

**Oct. 27, 2016**

**PROVIDED TO: Each Agency IG and Executive Office referred**

**INVOICE # 267-DOE-99**

**Amount: \$5,000,000.00 plus 10% interest per annum**

**Contact:**

**Payable per arrangement via contact at [legal@xyzcase.xyz](mailto:legal@xyzcase.xyz)**

**and your existing contacts with witness and their agents.**

## PRECEDENTS:

### Hanford nuclear weapons site whistle-blower wins \$4.1-million settlement

Workers at the Hanford nuclear site in Washington state.

(Shannon Dininny / Associated Press)



[Ralph Vartabedian](#) [Contact Reporter](#)

When Walter Tamosaitis warned in 2011 that the Energy Department's plans for a waste treatment plant at the former Hanford nuclear weapons complex were unsafe, he was demoted and put in a basement room with cardboard boxes and plywood for office furniture.

Tamosaitis had been leading a team of 100 scientists and engineers in designing a way to immobilize millions of gallons of highly toxic nuclear sludge as thick as peanut butter. The sludge, which could deliver a lethal dose of radiation to a nearby person within minutes, is stored in leaking underground tanks near the Columbia River in Washington state.

Two years later, Tamosaitis was fired after 44 years with San Francisco-based engineering firm URS, which was later [acquired by Los Angeles-based AECOM](#). He filed a wrongful termination suit but encountered some initial legal setbacks, and it looked as if he had been blackballed from the industry.

But on Wednesday, Tamosaitis won a \$4.1-million settlement from AECOM, among the largest known legal damages paid out to a whistle-blower in the Energy Department's vast nuclear waste cleanup program.

"It was something I lived with every minute of every day over the last five years," Tamosaitis, 68, said in an interview. "Hopefully, I have sent a message to young engineers to keep their honesty, integrity and courage intact."



### [Energy Dept. faces major hurdles to reopen New Mexico nuclear dump](#)

AECOM spokesman Ed Mayer said the company reached its resolution with Tamosaitis "in order to avoid the cost and distraction of litigation relating to events that occurred over five years ago. The company strongly disagrees that it retaliated against him in any manner."

Mayer added that safety is the company's top priority and that it encourages "a questioning attitude."

Tamosaitis led the research into the complex technology of transforming the toxic and radioactive sludge into solid glass that could theoretically be buried safely for thousands of years. The work is to be performed at a massive industrial complex at the Hanford site that will cost more than \$12 billion for construction alone.



### [Fired nuclear whistle-blower wins reinstatement order](#)

As the research continued, Tamosaitis said he began to worry that the technology for chemically mixing the sludge was flawed, potentially allowing explosive hydrogen gas to build up inside large tanks and clumps of plutonium to form that could start a spontaneous nuclear reaction.

His warnings, although disputed by his employer, were taken seriously by independent federal safety investigators and by senior Energy Department officials. Within months, department officials said the plant's design and construction failed to meet federal safety standards.

In 2013, then-Energy Secretary Steven Chu ordered a halt to the construction of two massive processing facilities at Hanford: the pretreatment plant and the high-level vitrification plant that would turn the waste into glass. The suspension continues to this day amid doubts about whether the plants could operate as designed. So far, more than \$13 billion has been spent on the project.

Chu met with Tamosaitis in 2013 and decried Hanford's poor safety culture. But a few months later, URS fired Tamosaitis, triggering his lawsuit.

Tamosaitis was not alone in raising concerns about the plant's design.

[Donna Busche](#), head of nuclear safety and a URS employee, asserted in a 2013 lawsuit that her own warnings about safety problems had been suppressed and that URS had retaliated against her.

Gary Brunson, who was the federal engineering chief at Hanford, quit in 2012 and recommended in a lengthy memo that the top contractor at the project, San Francisco-based Bechtel, be replaced as the plant designer. Brunson cited 34 instances of safety and engineering errors.

[Shelly Doss](#), who worked for Washington River Protection Solutions as an environmental specialist, was fired in 2011 after reporting environmental violations at Hanford. The U.S. Department of Labor ordered her reinstated last year, awarding her \$20,000 for emotional distress and \$10,000 for "callous disregard" of her rights.

But Tamosaitis, who is well-known within the small community of experts in chemical mixing technology, had the largest national impact. The concerns he raised led the Energy Department to order a full-scale test of the mixing system, which has yet to be completed.

"The safety culture in the entire Energy Department complex is bad," he said. "The Energy Department needs to clamp down on the contractors. It is systemwide."

Tom Carpenter, executive director of the Seattle-based watchdog group Hanford Challenge, said the settlement may be the largest paid out to an Energy Department whistle-blower. He called Tamosaitis a hero whose concerns about nuclear safety would have a positive impact not only at Hanford but at more than half a dozen other nuclear weapons sites across the nation.

Jack Sheridan, the attorney who represented Tamosaitis, said a trial had been scheduled for next year in federal court in Richland, Wash. The trial date was set only after Sheridan appealed a ruling by U.S. District Judge Lonny Suko, who had denied Tamosaitis a jury trial.

Tamosaitis said he was anxious to return to his career after the four-year hiatus. In addition to worrying about his lawsuit, he has spent part of the last four years restoring a 1930 Model A Ford and a 1976 Chevy pickup truck.

"My plan is to wake up tomorrow morning and pinch myself to see if it is really over," he said. "I feel like I have a lot of energy left. I am going to let the Lord lead the way."

# Hanford Whistleblower Settles With DOE Contractor

By [John Kennedy](#)

Law360, New York (June 11, 2015, 8:50 PM EDT) -- A whistleblower on the Hanford nuclear site has settled for an undisclosed amount with Washington River Protection Solutions, a contractor that fired her after she raised nuclear and environmental safety concerns, the Associated Press reported Thursday.

Shelly Doss, an environmental specialist who worked at the site's nuclear waste tank farms, which WRPS operates, was fired in October 2011 after she reported repeated safety, permit and record-keeping violations.

Almost a year ago, the U.S. Department of Energy contractor was ordered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration...

## [Whistleblowers recount retaliation by Department of Energy | Tri-City ...](#)

Jul 14, 2016 ... The Department of Energy's nuclear program rarely holds its civilian ... Hanford didn't implement pilot program to boost whistleblower ...

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<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/hanford/article89741082.html>

## [Whistleblower Cases | Department of Energy](#)

The DOE's Brookhaven Site Office (BHSO) dismissed the Complaint on the ... a DOE prime contractor that coordinates the construction of DOE's Hanford Site's ...

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<http://energy.gov/oha/whistleblower-cases>

## [GAO-16-618, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY: Whistleblower ...](#)

Jul 11, 2016 ... whistleblower pilot program available to DOE and other government .... DOE's Hanford Site near Richland, Washington.6 DNFSB received an.

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<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678332.pdf>

## [GAO Report Confirms DOE has Failed to Protect Whistleblowers](#)

Aug 4, 2016 ... Historic photo of the Hanford North Reactor - Department of Energy ... a whistleblower who claims the contractor he worked for retaliated ...

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[http://www.pogo.org/blog/2016/08/gao-r\[...\]-failed-to-protect-whistleblowers.html](http://www.pogo.org/blog/2016/08/gao-r[...]-failed-to-protect-whistleblowers.html)

### [SRS whistleblower fired for revelations | The Herald](#)

Mar 13, 2016 ... The probe broadened to review other DOE sites, including SRS near Aiken. ... Last year, Hanford contractor URS agreed to settle a lawsuit by a ...

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<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/state/article65882127.html>

### [Federal report condemns Department of Energy, Savannah River ...](#)

Jul 14, 2016 ... “The report makes it clear that the DOE has utterly and completely failed to ... two of the Energy Department's nuclear sites, one from the Hanford Site in ... of a safety whistleblower and had referred to that individual as a “rat.”.

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<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20160714/AIK0101/160719741>

### [GAO report criticizes Energy Department's handling of whistleblower](#)

Jul 14, 2016 ... The Department of Energy's nuclear program rarely holds its civilian ... Savannah River Site and Hanford are among the sites with concerns.

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<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article89471017.html>

**In one of the more compelling precedents: The U.S. Federal Court has issued the first ruling in U.S. Court history which specifically states that witness was the victim of targeted attacks by corrupt federal employees.**

# WHISTLE-BLOWER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## WHISTLE-BLOWER AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION BY WITNESSES IN THIS CASE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING VALUE-ADD TO THE U.S. TAXPAYERS AND THE UNITED STATES TREASURY:

Results directly attributable to **Witness #267-DOE-99**

- Termination of illegal activities by federal employees and federal contractors
- Documentation of illegal activities by federal employees and federal contractors
- Placement, on permanent court and public record of the step-by-step illicit actions taken by corrupt federal employees and contractors so that those crimes cannot easily be engaged in again
- The first federal court ruling in U.S. history in which the federal courts confirmed that members of the public were targeted by corrupt federal employees
- The creation of record breaking legal precedents which assisted the public interest
- The cooperation in a “sting operation”, by witnesses, which resulted in high law enforcement productivity
- The savings of over \$800 million dollars, and up to \$2 trillion, for the U.S. Treasury and the American taxpayers
- The provision of information resources to the United States Congress in support of active investigations
- The aggregation of information in support of active cases and investigations at multiple state and federal agencies
- and more...

# BACKGROUND

See the attached document: *“An Investigation Of Solyndra And The Department Of Energy Disasters 1.5.pdf”* (ALSO LOCATED AT THE LINKS BELOW)

and the evidence at <http://xyzcase.xyz> and <http://urtube.org>, FBI and Senate Case files and related U.S. Court files on this matter.