PRESS STATEMENT

Immediate Release
June 10, 2015

Hanford Whistleblower’s Complaint against Contractor
Settled by Amicable Agreement

Richland, WA: The lawsuit filed by Shelly Doss, former Environmental Specialist at Hanford, against Hanford contractor Washington River Protection Solutions, Inc. is resolved.

An Administrative Law Judge from the U.S. Department of Labor issued an Order Approving Settlement on April 9, 2015. In approving the agreement, Judge Morris penned, “I have reviewed the contents of the parties’ proposed Agreement. I find that the provisions of the parties’ Agreement are fair and adequate and are not contrary to the public interest.”

Shelly Doss—via her legal counsel, Tom Carpenter and Nikolas F. Peterson, of Hanford Challenge—filed her initial whistleblower Complaint on October 10, 2011. On July 22, 2014, the Labor Department found that Doss had been “involved in at least six protected activities” and was “subject to adverse employment actions.” The Labor Department ordered that Doss receive backpay, emotional distress damages, exemplary damages, and immediate reinstatement. However, both parties requested a hearing in front of an Administrative Law Judge. The hearing was set to take begin on June 24, 2015 in Richland, WA until the dispute was resolved in April of 2015.

Shelly Doss is hopeful for the future and Hanford cleanup. She said, “I am excited to move on to the next chapter of my life, enjoy more time with my family and friends, and continue to advocate for a safe cleanup of Hanford.”

Hanford Challenge’s Executive Director, Tom Carpenter, stated, “It is essential that Hanford establish and maintain a safety culture that both encourages and protects the raising of safety and environmental concerns. We applaud Shelly Doss for her efforts, and will continue to stand behind employees like her who report issues.”

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