

Independent Review Panel

Comments by Christina Walsh 9/20/16 Chatsworth Office — DTSC

Why am I here?

I'm one of the people who has been long involved, and has seen a public process that is by design, difficult to navigate in order to keep the voice of the affected, out of the process.

Long involved in public process:

- What is the purpose of public participation?
 - Too much of this has become about how to win, or win it back. Fight the other guy because THEY are to blame.
- The role of the regulator has been squandered by allowing the two extreme sides run the story for so very very long.

Other examples

- Actually, when I look at many other sites under DTSC's oversight, I see the same, systematic problems, all stemming from the tone from the top: That the people affected are just something to be navigated to "get around"
- We do not accept this. The curtain has been revealed and we see what's inside. Trump has shown us that by having two distinct versions of the truth and the leadership silent, or ineffective, or unwilling to stand as leader, we have the polluters running the show, and deals made on both sides, all to PROTECT DTSC instead of protecting the people.

The world turned upside down...

Many look at Trump politics that we currently live in, as new or unusual. I don't think it is. I think it has been part of the DTSC playbook for years.

Alt-RIGHT Environmentalism

- We have the name calling, the labeling of people as if people with cancer are somehow disloyal.
- That's been the game for decades by the “employer” which is why people like Bonnie Klea have fought for years to bring attention from the Federal government, to the cancer impacts on the employees that did this work.
- In other words: Blame the victim.

ALT-RIGHT-Delete

The workers aren't disloyal, they were harmed.

- It is we, who were disloyal. We choose blame instead of helping them. We make them fight for their rights, and then we call their protest, a betrayal of some sort. I think after spending time with someone who just got out of her third brain surgery at the age of 26, all because her dad was a rocket scientist, freshly snatched from the “Russians.”
- The truth is that we are part of a bigger fight to deny that truth.

We need to be loyal, and honor their work
and also understand the impact of that
work:

- They shouldn't have to fight for care. But that's how it's done. It's a fight that extends generations.
- You know you're out-gunned and out-planned by your official opponent — which should be the “polluter” or “responsible parties” but instead, blame the other community people who believe the ALT version of the truth.
- Blame them. Because if they are liars, we don't have to do anything. That's the game, and that's why implementation is so important. This is NOT about whether or not it happened and it's time for the regulator to push back at that notion that there is nothing to be done.

“The discharger”

This was considered unacceptable language because it made them feel bad about ourselves. We all feel bad about ourselves.

We should feel bad about ourselves,
because this cleanup was supposed to
start 10 years ago....

- Yet the public is supposed to go on a three-decade journey to make sure this is done. These agreements were signed almost 10 years ago, and yet they are diminished at every turn.
- Instead of tearing down the agreement like we've seen since the AOC was signed in 2010, we should be figuring out how to make it work.
- As the regulator, DTSC never provided that possibility. Instead they've whispered "moon-scape" as a dog-whistle scare tactic to make people think the mountain will be removed.

If the level of commitment to
“denial” was applied to the actual
cleanup, we would have been
done decades ago.

And it would have been reasonable, protective, and doable. Instead,
here we sit nearly a decade later pretending that we can't start.

Who do you think is
pushing for that?

There are two camps

Nothing in the middle, very little from the 'regulator' because they spend nearly their entire job, trying to keep their job instead of doing their job.

It is DTSC's job to provide the public with the center camp, with accurate, digestible information.

ALT versions from both sides MUST be moderated and corrected when gone astray. [CORRECTION should be from the Regulator]

DTSC should not tolerate this bullying climate.

- As a community member, I should not be bullied into a particular point of view, nor should I be slandered.
- It should not be tolerated by DTSC that other comments are made to UN-DO the statements of community members. Each comment should stand on its own.

When I look at Trump and the two versions of reality shown today, I think of DTSC as the “dis-interested media.”

Who plays the role of defending the public?
That's supposed to be DTSC. What happened???

That shouldn't be on
US.

That's on you. That's why you were assembled, to look at the inaction, and seeming capture of the agency by the polluter.

You should be working
toward a “credible”
cleanup

But since “truth in context” has been completely missing
from this project — by design.

REALITY CHECK

Think of the SSFL CAG as the Alt RIGHT, or Breitbart denial,
and then you have an “Alt LEFT as well, in the Workgroup

BLAME.

Except this isn't about
blame. It can't be.

We need a cleanup that both sides can believe in.

DTSC:

If you don't stand up
for the truth, who will?

By design:

- The last groundwater report I read from Boeing was several thousand pages, and was so big, that it could not be opened on any of my computers except my newest.
- DTSC's job is to summarize those claims from both sides and provide correction to false and inaccurate information peddled by the extremes.

By design:

- Expecting the public to become epidemiologists in order to understand the conversation is not only wrong, unethical, but is a complete failure by the regulator who's job it is to understand and present this.
- NOT to stand next to the polluter while they provide false information to the public.
- This practice has contributed to the Trumpian regulatory universe we currently live in.

By design:

- The few presentations in an effort to “explain” are usually formatted as if it’s a class on how to become an epidemiologist, or a toxicologist.
- A serious focus on how to communicate is needed.

When I had my museum about environmental advocacy...

The instructions on how to handle deadly materials were communicated to employees in very simple and direct terms, even using 7th grade and below language and cartoons.

That's because it's CRITICAL that it be understood,
and that is how it should be treated here as well.
People are moving their families in, without critical
knowledge of what might be above and below them.

Yet the cleanup...by design

- is presented as if to the UN General Assembly.
- DTSC is missing the point, so that no one affected has any idea of what the issues that they should be worried about.
- You all are too busy telling them there is nothing to worry about. Nothing ever got out....
- Denial

FACTS not SPIN or BLAME

Fact: Cancer is deadly and cancer causing materials were used, burned, and washed away from up there for more than half a century.

Yet the public is told to go
to the ISRA meeting to talk
about CEQA and the SRAIP

Those are not words, and therefore, it should not be
expected that the public would understand — by design.

We need a credible
center, and that should
be DTSC.

Communication to the public and holding the dischargers/polluters accountable are both your jobs.

PAY FOR PLAY

When the polluter pays a group in secret to defend them to the public.

SSFL CAG

These facts are now confirmed.

You cannot expect us to continue to be stupid. We can see you.

FLINT

Finally, and rightly, people are starting to go to jail.

We don't want to be
your FLINT

DTSC needs to be accountable for implementing and defending the agreements signed FOR the public, period.



There are workable solutions:

- Building a credible cleanup with transparency will provide a possibility for a future that is safe, and honors the important past of this site — both American Space history as well as the sacred native cultural sites that are located throughout.
- We don't have to sell out the cleanup, but we have to be willing to WANT a protective future, and not just proof of a previous failure. We deserve better.
- Unfortunately, there is one side that only wants to use this site as proof of a failure. We get that. Making future generations pay for this greed, is truly deplorable. Damaging sacred cultural sites that don't need to be damaged, is equally deplorable.
- There is plenty of that here.

It's not a one page agreement that says background.

The agreements are in

Implementation is one page at a time, and can be done,
and must be done.