



Northwest Resource Information Center

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Gregory H. Friedman, Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
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March 25, 2014

Inspector General Friedman:

On March 4, 2013 NRIC sent your office a request for investigation of systemic scofflaw behavior by upper management of Bonneville Power Administration.ⁱ

NRIC documented a wide range of unethical and illegal behavior extending over a period of three decades, including the use of billions of dollars in federal funds to subvert multiple federal laws, to dupe the Obama Administration into adopting the corrupt Endangered Species Act and Northwest Power Act policies of the G.W. Bush Administration, to suborn state and tribal governments into becoming accomplices to subverting federal laws, and to systematically subvert science.

Months after NRIC submitted its investigation request, Bonneville whistle blowers provided a smoking gun vis-à-vis violations of veterans' hiring preference that validated NRIC's allegations of corrupt behavior by Bonneville upper management. Top Bonneville executives were purged. However, under political pressure from the Northwest congressional delegation, DOE pretended that what Secretary Moniz called the "serious, systemic hiring problems at BPA" was an isolated incident. The Secretary assured Oregon Senator Ron Wyden that DOE had no intention of taking over or micromanaging Bonneville. Secretary Moniz also stated that it was DOE's intent to ensure "that BPA complies with the law".ⁱⁱ Apparently that statement was false.

In the interim since March 4, 2013 NRIC has sent your office and that of the DOE Secretary several follow-up letters and supporting documents.ⁱⁱⁱ It is March 25, 2014. You have taken no action.^{iv} It is now reasonable to conclude you intend to ignore NRIC's request, and continue to ignore the ongoing scofflaw behavior and compounding damage to the Northwest region and the Nation that is occurring in real time in plain view (see *smoking gun alert*).^v

The limited purpose of this letter is to document your refusal to act for the record which will be useful in getting alternative investigative action from the Congress and/or relief from the federal courts.

The stonewalling by your office and that of Secretary Moniz is extremely discouraging coming from senior representatives of an Administration which held out a much different promise. Nonetheless, I remain convinced that if President Obama is ever allowed to discover the egregious betrayal of the public trust and concomitant damage being done in his Administration's name, he would take aggressive action against those responsible for that damage and for covering it up. NRIC will redouble its efforts in the hope of making that happen.

Sincerely,

Ed Chaney

Endnotes

ⁱ *Request for U.S. Department of Energy Inspector General Investigation of Waste of Federal Funds and Violations of Other Federal Laws by Scofflaw Culture in Upper Management of Bonneville Power Administration*, 42 pp. NRIC, March 4, 2013.

ⁱⁱ November 15, 2013 letter from Secretary of Energy Ernest J. Moniz letter to Oregon Senator Ron Wyden.

ⁱⁱⁱ October 4, 2013 letter to Secretary Moniz with attachments/links; October 4, 2013 letter to Office of Inspector General with attachments/links; October 14, 2013 letter to Daniel Poneman, DOE Deputy Secretary with attachments/links; December 10, 2013 letter to Secretary Moniz with attachments/links; December 10, 2013 letter to Gregory Friedman, DOE IG with attachments/links; December 10, 2013 letter to Eric J. Fygi, DOE Deputy General Counsel with attachments/links.

^{iv} NRIC's October 4, 2013 letter to Secretary Moniz forwarding the request for IG investigation of the scofflaw culture in Bonneville upper management was forwarded for reply to the head of that scofflaw culture Elliot Mainzer, then acting and now Bonneville Administrator and Chief Executive Officer. Mainzer's reply to NRIC was a pro forma canned infomercial in support of the corrupt actions NRIC sought to have investigated.

It should be telling that—consistent with NRIC's charge of an incestuous scofflaw culture—Mainzer recently appointed Greg Delwiche to be his Deputy Administrator. As Bonneville's VP for Environment, Fish, Wildlife 2004-2010, Delwiche was a key player in the successful effort to dupe the Obama Administration into adopting the corrupt ESA and Northwest Power Act policies of the G.W. Bush Administration. He was the front man for Bonneville's conspiring with a U.S. Senator to illegally (so held the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) muzzle scientists that Bonneville couldn't bribe or intimidate. All of this NRIC previously documented.

^v Letters and documents NRIC submitted to you and Secretary Moniz described how Bonneville in plain view currently is using federal funds to corrupt ongoing legal and administrative proceedings. This notably includes the recent cosmetically updated Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion serially rejected, and often ridiculed, by the federal courts, and which may well be the most costly and destructive government-funded pseudo-scientific hoax in U.S. history.

On a parallel and interrelated track, Bonneville currently is using a billion dollars in federal funds to suborn state and Native American Indian governments to support the corrupt BiOp and to help subvert ongoing proceedings that purport to fulfill the unrequited salmon restoration mandate of the Northwest Power Act of 1980. (Details in attached examples not previously provided.)

Smoking gun alert: Bill Booth, Idaho member of the regional council established (in 1980!) to implement that mandate, recently stated publicly, in effect, that he was bound by Idaho's contract with Bonneville to vote against anything that was not contained in the BiOp. (See e.g., minutes of December 10-11 meeting of Northwest Power and Conservation Council.) As previously documented, that contract requires Idaho—and similarly other states and Native American Indian governments—to agree to and support the incontrovertible fiction that the BiOp "satisfies" the Northwest Power Act and Clean Water Act.