



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Inez Austin's Message to the Public

Author(s)

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Description

A message from Inez Austin to the general public.

Body

Looking back at her experience with Westinghouse Hanford Company, Inez only holds one true regret. "I regret being so naive ... I think the American public needs to realize that very few federal protection policies are actually really followed. It seems if you see no evil, hear no evil, no harm has really been done. But, if you are really ethical, it is hard to have an easy life. I tried to get some protection but there were so many problems with Hanford. ... The sad fact is that there are so many environmental crimes that will affect our families ... everyone will suffer in the long run ... in health and also the expensive health bills will have to be paid; the environment will be damaged. People will not hold anyone responsible, partly because companies don't have the money to clean up this big mess that could have been prevented."

She is also troubled by what could be best described as a cultural phenomenon: "People have to stop seeing whistleblowers as tattletales. ... I don't know what you do, living in a culture that thinks if you have standards that you're a tattletale."

Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Case Study / Scenario