

To the U.S. Office of Special Counsel Re: OSC File No. DI-08-0497

Comments by David L. Parker

Detroit Metro Mold Case – Sick Building, Sick People

From the day I walked into (June 2002) Detroit Metro control tower (DTW) I could tell something was wrong with the facility – my coworkers were chronically ill, using excessive amounts of sick leave. I gauged sick leave usage on that used at my last facility and what I noted from over 30 years of government service. I found myself working with sick people at DTW using unusual amounts of sick leave compared to that used at my last facility. Initially, I wrote this high amount of sick leave use as a coping mechanism for working at a busier, more complex work environment – a way to recover due to excessive workloads. Then, as I became more experienced with working at DTW, I learned the workload was in fact lighter than my previous facility – more controllers at DTW generally doing the same or less work. I then began to wonder as to the real cause of the abundance of sick leave use. At first it appeared air controllers were avoiding work because management styles at many levels fluctuated wildly – from managers who could get along with some to those who were complete nincompoop to all. I again went back to my several decades of government work and knew one would generally have to tolerate obnoxious and inept managers – knowing those managers would soon retire or would hopefully be removed.

The majority of my co-workers were true professionals. Therefore, I figured my co-workers knew how to deal with the multiple levels of poor management at DTW. Up until 2004 I continued to wonder why DTW experienced unusually high levels of behavioral issues – high sick leave, face to face confrontations, falls, pushing and shoving, self centered anger, chronic and annoying coughing. Often as high as 70% of my shift workers were sick at the same time and still reporting for duty – or else face administrative punishment.

Why would I accuse DTW's management as being inept? One would simply have to read the writings of Dr.'s Harbut, Pinto, and Shoemaker to name a few – work all but ignored by

FAA managers at DTW and higher levers in the FAA chain. Failure of FAA management to take serious accusations of facility troubles makes these managers either ignorant or criminals. I believe it to be a combination of the two. There is simply no excuse for the horrible treatment and working conditions including the deplorable maintenance history at DTW. There is no excuse for the waste of millions of dollars in resources to attempt to rehabilitate the facility and its workers – three hours of congressional testimony in 2007 verify this.

So, what has happened to me and what am I left with? Every system of my body has been affected: Dermal sores, skin easily bruised, rough cracking skin, slow healing wounds, an unusual cancer in an unusual location – the doctors own words. Ocular invasion to include repetitive and painful Keratitis with dry eyes. Neurological issues from twitching of areas around the eyes (classic toxic poisoning), sleep depriving neuropathy, and painful large muscle group cramping. Digestive issues including enough internal bleeding causing severe anemias. A multitude of breathing disorders – never experienced before in my life – including shortness of breath, asthma, periods of uncontrolled coughing leading to disc herniation along several locations of my spine.

The herniated disc have required multiple bouts of painful injections to seek some level of relief – so many injections, now the pain doctor is starting to give up referring me on for recently completed C6-C7-T1 surgery – a painful procedure in itself. This spine location has suffered the most from chronic bouts of uncontrolled coughing. Future surgery is planned for other locations of my spine. Drugs, drugs and more drugs. A simple review of my post DTW medical history will show that I have been seen by nearly 60 doctors all with their bag of tricks to include at times more than 30 prescription medications, over the counter medications and vitamins, minerals and this and that potion. Many were baffled by the multitude of my systems affected. TOXIC MOLD works that way – it is design to reduce one to its level. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on doctor visits, lab work, ER treatments, medications, transportation and more. My guess is there has been more likely a quarter of a million dollars

spent – on me alone! Now, imagine the cost of the purported sick leave abuse of my co-workers and the cost of others with Workers' Compensation claims.

I have experienced lies, denials and distortions by local management – obviously guided by higher sources. Initial denials of early claims – taking several months for approvals – multiple claims causing profound confusion. It has taken congressional intervention for claims resolution and to push for major structural repairs at DTW.

FAA has offered me not a single word of consolation. Deny is the name of their game. FAA has never seriously offered me work other than my primary duty as an air controller – a duty I can no longer fulfill due to the illnesses and ailments -- caused by my employer. Never did my employer try to make my career whole – just the opposite. FAA retaliated against me – interviewing me once – for an out of state position, a position I qualified highly for – only to be later denied the position. Nothing short of pure retaliation – from the Administrator and top managers to FAA flight doctors down to the lowest level managers. All of these people deny mismanagement of the facility and its workers. Strikingly, warnings over sick leave abuse abruptly stopped upon the discovery and acknowledgment of molds in the facility.

Unfortunately, the above statements are true and just a small segment of a much larger story – not worth putting any more of my energy into at this time.



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Date