

Today's Meeting

This material is part of a collection that documents the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation perpetrated against Alaska's women research scientists by their supervisor, with full knowledge (and arguably, "tacit approval") of their federal employer, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

From: "Bower, Cindy" <Cindy.Bower@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Subject: Today's Meeting

Date: Fri, May 7, 2010 11:22 am

To: "Pantoja, Alberto" <Alberto.Pantoja@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Cc: "Bechtel, Peter" <Peter.Bechteler@ARS.USDA.GOV>,"Contento, Janis" <Janis.Contento@ARS.USDA.GOV>,"Hammond, Andrew" <Andrew.Hammond@ARS.USDA.GOV>,"McLellan, Don" <Don.McLellan@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Alberto,

This email is to confirm that we met today to discuss the upcoming program move to Kodiak. It's unfortunate that so much was left unresolved.

The purpose of this email is to document your attempt to humiliate me and to ask that you stop that behavior immediately. To summarize the situation:

- you passed out "Request for Travel Authorization" forms to Peter Bechtel and me
- you asked me directly if I understood how to use the travel form
- later (after Peter left the room) you indicated that you had not acted on my IDP-approved training request (submitted to you on January 4th) solely because I had not submitted a Request for Travel Authorization form
- your statement is in direct contradiction to ARS protocols, since I needed the approved SF-182 log # to correctly fill out the travel request form (i.e. you needed to approve my training prior to a travel request form being submitted)
- you then proceeded to humiliate me by suggesting that I (not you) had caused the 4-month delay
- you also implied that there might not be sufficient funds to allow the training this year
- (Well which is it, no travel paperwork or no funds?!)
- The situation was left unresolved

I hope that someday ARS will recognize the importance of creating a non-hostile work environment for women research scientists.in Alaska.

Cindy Bower, Ph.D.

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