

Nov. 15, 2012

WSDOT would like to acknowledge that the allegations from an anonymous source are very serious. These allegations, however, are vague in a number of ways:

- There is no specific information as to the timing, location, or which pontoon is being discussed;
- We do not know the role or level of the person making these accusations and whether that person understands that entire quality program in place;
- We understand from you that the person making these allegations was fired, but we cannot confirm that or address why the person was fired since we don't know who it is; and
- We just don't know enough about this person's previous role on the pontoon project to respond in a meaningful way to the assertions he (based on your verbal description) has made.

It is important for you and KOMO to understand and convey to your audience that there is a rigorous quality program in place at the pontoon project as required by the WSDOT contract with Kiewit-General. The June 2012 quarterly update of the Quality Management Plan is linked here for your review, and is comprised of three key elements:

- Quality Control and Quality Assurance (QC/QA): These are two separate functions conducted by the contractor to ensure checks and balances for accepting materials and workmanship, as well as maintaining a tracking system to monitor any issues with materials and/or workmanship.
- Quality Verification (QV): The QV role is conducted by WSDOT as an independent verification that the contractor is meeting WSDOT construction standards.

As recommended by the pontoon Expert Review Panel's report in August 2012, WSDOT is hiring additional QV staff to ensure greater oversight.

The QC/QA/QV staff each has separate and independent procedures they implement regarding testing, inspections, ensuring inspection opportunities for WSDOT review at pre-determined hold points, as well as reporting and tracking requirements to ensure that any issues identified in materials or workmanship are reported and reconciled.

I hope this information is helpful in addressing your question.

Steve Pierce
WSDOT Communications Director