

Objections to LARA MERC

August 14, 2019

Honorable Members of the Commission:

I am George T. Vannilam, one of the members of the Charging Party of the MERC Case No. C15 K-144.

I was shocked when I received the Decision by the ALJ Julia C. Stern in this case. I felt that the ALJ deliberately closed her eyes and ears to all the testimonies given by the Charging Party and accepted the Respondents' words without even blinking her eyes. MY shock has crossed all boundaries and I became dumbfounded when I received your Decision fully accepting the ALJ's verdict.

Throughout the testimonies from us, we narrated incidents after incidents that the Analytical Lab of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) has been managed by inefficient supervisors and it has been producing inexact and insufficient results in the analyses of the water samples, thereby hurting the environment and citizens. As a union official, I had written to the DWSD management, US EPA and MDEQ regarding the inadequacy in sampling and testing by DWSD/Analytical Lab. I was discriminated and terminated just because of my union activities explained above. How can you all be that blind not to see such obvious discriminatory acts big enough as an elephant in a small room? All the facts and testimonies clearly reveal it.

I had worked in the Water Department from January 1989 till I was laid off (or fired) in October, 2015. I possessed a Master of Science (MS) degree in Chemistry, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with specialization in Hazardous Waste Management, a Postgraduate Certificate in Hazardous Waste Management, and am a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) at the Master Level. There are no negative remarks against my performance or attendance. I also work as an adjunct professor in Chemistry at the Wayne County Community College in Detroit. I was the second senior most analytical chemist and, may be, the highest qualified individual in the Lab when I was laid-off! All these are revealed in my testimony and none of these were contested by the Respondent. Still, I was simply thrown out! If the action was not discriminatory because of my SCATA activities, please tell me how my name ended up in the termination list? I strongly contend that the discrimination could not be overlooked and dismissed as it is against PERA in prohibiting discrimination against employees, especially when US Constitution is involved!

I had raised many concerns about the inadequacies of the Analytical Lab functions and especially about the ineptitude of the Lab Supervisor Michael Jurban. And, my non-inclusion in the Retention List of Chemists by none other than Michael Jurban himself is non-discriminatory!! And, my self-assessment form for the new Chemist position was reviewed by Kuriakose Cheeramvelil against whom I had made many complaints, is also accidental? We have to remember that Mr. Cheeramvelil himself was another contender for the new Chemist position and he was retained!

I strongly believe that the Decision by the ALJ was absolutely against the facts and evidence presented and brought out in the trial and your corroboration of the verdict is only a rubber-stamping! I may ardently request you to reverse your decision just to prove that Truth Shall Prevail!!

George T. Vannilam

3098 Bennington Dr

Wixom, MI 48393

Ph: (248) 921-9941, Email: gtvann@aol.com