

# American Federation of Government Employees

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

## Local 2505

**Ralph C. de Juliis**  
President



**Carol A. Lewis**  
Executive Vice President

28 July 2009

Ms Ramona J. Schuenemeyer  
Regional Commissioner - Dallas Region  
Social Security Administration  
1301 Young St., STE 130  
Dallas, Texas 75202

BY FAX: (214) 767-4259

Dear Regional Commissioner Schuenemeyer:

By this letter, AFGE Local 2505 files a Section 10 grievance over spraying insecticides in the Oklahoma City Social Security Field Office while employees were present. The most recent occurrence was within the last 5 weeks. The Union found out about the most recent occurrence yesterday.

By its actions, SSA violated Article 9 - Health and Safety

#### **Section 11. Indoor Air Quality**

- B. To the extent the employer has control, there will be no applications of insecticides during work hours in leased space. In SSA-controlled buildings, there will be no application of insecticides during work hours. Whenever pesticides are used in a large scale application, the designated health and safety representative, as well as the employees, will receive advance notice. Individuals with special health needs will be reasonably accommodated.

SSA has also violated its own guidance. Regarding this section of the contract, its management guidance clearly states:

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c/o Social Security Administration  
4750 South Garnett Road ♦ Tulsa, Oklahoma 74146-5233  
Voice: 866-931-7110 ext. 27873 ♦ CELL: (918) 781-3096 ♦ SSA FAX: (918) 641-2446  
SSA E-mail: [ralph.dejuliis@ssa.gov](mailto:ralph.dejuliis@ssa.gov) ♦ Internet E-mail: [ralph.de.juliis@suddenlink.net](mailto:ralph.de.juliis@suddenlink.net)

This section deals with insecticides only and continues to prohibit application of insecticides during work hours in leased space and SSA controlled buildings.

In addition to spraying while employees were present, SSA also failed to provide advanced notice to (1) the designated health and safety representative and (2) the employees.

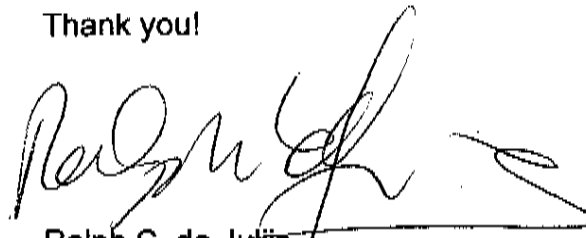
As remedy, the Union seeks an apology (1) to the Union (2) to the Oklahoma City employees and (3) a reaffirmation from management that it will cease and desist from allowing application of insecticides during work hours in leased space and SSA controlled buildings.

In order to prepare for its presentation of this grievance, the Union request, per 5 USC 7114(b)(4), the pesticide spraying schedule for the Oklahoma City Office since August, 2005 when the current contract went into effect to see how long this illegal practice has been occurring. In addition, the Union wishes to know what pesticides were applied and wishes the Material Safety Data Sheets for each of the pesticides applied. The Union also requests a copy of the Pesticide Application Plan for the pesticides used in the Oklahoma City Field Office. See: <http://ssahost.ba.ssa.gov/ofm/documents/Digital%20form,%20Pesticide%20Application%20Plan.doc>

The Union's particularized need for this information is to determine if Union believes the remedies requested are sufficient for the violation(s) and Agency's utter disregard for the employees' health and safety.

The Union wishes to make an oral presentation of this grievance. I will be the Union's representative.

Thank you!



Ralph C. de Juliis  
AFGE Local 2505

cc: Local 2505 Executive Board

**TRANSMISSION REPORT**

(TUE) JUL 28 2009 16:40

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DESTINATION : 912147874259  
DEST. NUMBER : 912147874259

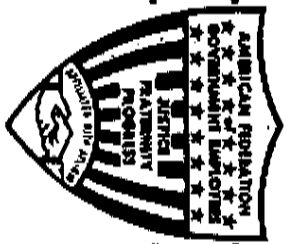
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DOCUMENT# : 6802058-985  
TIME STORED : JUL 28 16:40  
TIME SENT : JUL 28 16:40  
DURATION : 22sec  
MODE : ECM

PAGES : 2 sheets  
RESULT : OK

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