

Brandy Moore-White – President
council33pres@gmail.com
870-588-6700
Steve Markle – Secretary/Treasurer
cpl33.treasurer@mail.com
812-798-1050
William Boseman – Vice President WFP
wboseman67@gmail.com
919-667-5556



COUNCIL OF PRISON
LOCALS 33
220 CLEVELAND AVE
FORREST CITY, AR 72335
OFFICE: 870-633-0508
FAX: 870-633-0717
WEBSITE:
www.afge.cpl33.org

COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS 33
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFL-CIO

DATE: Friday, March 7, 2025

FROM: John Kostelnik, Vice President, Western Region

THROUGH: Brandy Moore-White, CPL-33 President

TO: Melissa Rios, Regional Director, Western Region

SUBJECT: Western Region Informal Resolution- Environmental Hazards FCI Dublin

This letter is an attempt at informal resolution that is being offered by the Council of Prison Locals (the Union) to the Bureau of Prisons (the Agency). Informal resolution is being sought in the spirit of good Labor-Management relations, and in accordance with the requirements of Article 31 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (the Master Agreement). The Union is seeking to resolve these matters at the lowest possible level and avoid filing a formal grievance(s) on the subject contained.

Background and nature of complaint:

On March 1, 2025, while visiting FCI Dublin, I John Kostenik, Western Regional VP, observed many environmental hazards across the grounds of FCI Dublin as related to asbestos and mold. FCI Dublin has a history of asbestos and mold issues across many areas on the property. Though the agency previously claimed abatement to the underlying issues, it is quite evident at the facility that these conditions are not only present again, but the improper removal of property led to much of the new contamination of these conditions.

On February 10, 2025, I was notified by whistleblowers at FCI Dublin that staff from the regional office and designated staff from facilities across the region were present and had been coming to FCI Dublin to remove property from the facility. The removal of the property was done in a fashion that disrupted the settled asbestos, such as by breaking many tiles where tests have provided evidence that asbestos is present. I emailed the regional office on this date where I requested the removal of property cease and desist, which was denied by the region.

Additionally, those staff sent to FCI Dublin to remove property were not provided necessary PPE nor were they advised of the factor that asbestos and mold were present in many areas. As they removed the property, often without any protocol to ensure asbestos was not disrupted in the tile, and breaking tiles in the process, they then moved the property to their designated facility, therefore contaminating those facilities and anyone who has come in contact with that property.

The union has an extensive history of addressing the conditions at FCI Dublin. This includes outside entities identifying serious issues such as asbestos, mold, etc. One building had been condemned due to these factors, and as recent as August 2024 C/D units were closed to staff due to unsafe conditions. During testimony by the agency related to lawsuits filed by inmates, the agency cited the need of tens of millions in upgrades and updates and in the closure notice cited the facilities backlog of maintenance, which includes the need for abatement of the aforementioned conditions. Inmates were removed from the facility in May 2024, however since that time staff have continued to work in these dangerous environmental conditions. To provide further evidence of the agency's disregard for staff safety and wellbeing, is the fact that PPE is not available at FCI Dublin. The agency has turned a blind eye to the facility and the staff assigned there, and now on top of the previously stated issues, the facility is infested with rats and many areas in the facility appear to have an abundance of animal feces. This is unacceptable on many levels, and no staff member should be forced to endure such dangers.

Due to the exposure to unsafe environmental factors to staff from all over the region, the union is requesting a list of staff who have been to FCI Dublin since January 2025, and a list of property removed from the facility and where it was taken to and where it was taken from. The union demands the agency immediately put out public notice to all staff of the exposures they

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were forced into, but also notifying staff of the conditions for awareness to the potential dangers for those staff visiting FCI Dublin. The union is requesting all property removed from FCI Dublin immediately be quarantined and tested for any environmental hazards and notice to staff of awareness to potential symptoms of any such exposure. The union requests that removal of property from the facility immediately cease. The union further requests that the agency cooperate with OSHA and other entities to test, abate, and ensure transparency in the process of getting the conditions of the facility to standards of proper safety for the staff and the surrounding community.

The Union looks forward to swiftly resolving these matters with you, and requests the agency provide a written response to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.