

Where's Evidence Of Higher Morale?

I WAS ASTOUNDED to read in the Journal North Friday, Oct. 20, that officials at Los Alamos National Laboratory are saying that morale is better. I noted that the official quoted in the article, Mandendra Dubey, gives no evidence to support his statement, so I assume he is speaking about his own morale and that of the people he associates with.

Until this year, LANL has conducted an employee survey each year to determine the state of morale at the Laboratory. This year LANL did not conduct the survey and is considering running it only every other year on the grounds that morale changes very slowly. So are we to assume that morale has suddenly improved in the last month?

Since no survey was conducted and since there has been widespread reporting of low morale at the laboratory, I suspect Mr. Dubey is engaging in wishful thinking or perhaps a public relations campaign. I have noted no improvement in morale among my co-workers or among the many people I contact each week in my work as an organizer for the University Professional and Technical Employees (UPTE/CWA), Local 1663. In fact, morale may have deteriorated yet further thanks to a new and widely hated method of determining employee performance and raises and to rumors that managers will suffer only slight punishment for the lost hard-drive incident while employees involved will be more harshly punished.

If Mr. Dubey has more scientific evidence of higher employee morale, he should report its origin. He is the only LANL employee I know who believes morale at LANL has improved.

Betty Gunther, President,
UPTE/CWA Local 1663
Los Alamos *Journal 10/29/00*