

## **Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing**

### **“The Exposure at Qarmat Ali: Contractor Misconduct and the Safety of U.S. Troops in Iraq”**

Friday, June 20, 2008  
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
608 Dirksen Senate Office Building

#### **Witness Biographies**

##### **Danny Langford**

Former KBR Employee

Danny Langford worked for Halliburton/KBR as a technician on the Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) contract in 2003. The company assigned Mr. Langford to work at the Qarmat Ali Water Treatment Plant near Basra, Iraq, where he repaired water intake, injection, and backwash pumps. Prior to working in Iraq, Mr. Langford served as a rotating equipment technician at the Union Carbide plant in Texas City, Texas, where he repaired and maintained pumps, turbines and other rotating equipment for 23 years.

##### **Edward Blacke**

Former KBR Employee

Edward Blacke worked for KBR as a Health, Safety, and Environmental Coordinator at the Qarmat Ali Water Treatment Plant near Basra, Iraq in 2003. Prior to working in Iraq, Mr. Blacke served as a Safety Manager for American firms on oilfield development projects in Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the Republic of Chad. He is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and has had training in hazardous material identification and spill mitigation. Mr. Blacke has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at the National Fire Academy and the Louisiana State Fireman Training Program. He is a veteran of the United States Navy.

##### **Dr. Max Costa**

Chairman, Department of Environmental Medicine  
NYU Medical School

Dr. Max Costa is Chairman of the Department of Environmental Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Costa has published over 300 articles about the toxicity of heavy metals, including Sodium Dichromate, and served as an expert witness in the case featured in the movie *Erin Brockovich*. He directs the NYU School of Medicine's Nelson Institute of Environmental Medicine and is the Associate Director of the NYU Cancer Institute. Dr. Costa received his Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Biochemistry from the University of Arizona Medical School and has been a professor of Pharmacology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas Medical School.