

Martin Wencek Interview

Recording Name:
[WS Martin Wencek 1]

Transcript Prepared By:



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1 Wencek: They are looking to replace some of them. I don't
2 know about how many.

3 Ratigan: Yeah.

4 Wencek: We've lost, we've lost some key players, like one guy
5 runs the whole program kind of thing?

6 Ratigan: Yeah.

7 Wencek: So they have to replace those people 'cause you can't
8 give a program -- Shouldn't say that.

9 Ratigan: No. No (inaudible - 00:00:14)

10 Wencek: They shouldn't really give a program to one other
11 person that already has a job. So they they're gonna
12 have to replace people.

13 Ratigan: Yeah.

14 Wencek: But I don't know how that's --

15 Ratigan: It's been --

16 Wencek: -- gonna

17 Ratigan: -- 10 months and uh --

18 Wencek: There's been several people. We just lost a couple
19 people last week 'cause they somehow got an extension
20 to go to end of September --

21 Ratigan: Yeah.

22 Wencek: -- through the program.

23 Ratigan: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

24 Wencek: So, you know, those are the people that had their one
25 man programs.

1 Ratigan: Yeah.

2 Wencek: We'll see what happens with that. Um, but my program,
3 the Wetlands Program didn't lose anybody.

4 Ratigan: Okay.

5 Wencek: If anyone was gonna go would've been me.

6 Ratigan: Yeah. Yeah. Um --

7 Salisbury: Before we start, I just wanna get some basic
8 information from you --

9 Wencek: Yep.

10 Salisbury: All right. Um, Gerard Ratigan, Investigator.

11 Wencek: I couldn't remember your name, man.

12 Ratigan: Sorry. I'm sorry I should have reintroduced myself.

13 Salisbury: Um, I'm Matt Salisbury, Lieutenant in Financial
14 Crimes.

15 Wencek: Okay.

16 Salisbury: And John's already introduced himself to you.

17 Wencek: Okay.

18 Salisbury: Um, we, we are recording this, um, so that --
19 because there's three of us involved in this
20 investigation --

21 Wencek: Yeah.

22 Salisbury: -- we make sure we --

23 Wencek: Everyone's has the same story.

24 Salisbury: --all have the same information --

25 Wencek: Yeah.

1 Salisbury: Um, so your date of birth, Mr. Wencek?

2 Wencek: █████/1957.

3 Salisbury: Okay. And how about a good contact number for you?

4 Wencek: Uh, home number or work number?

5 Salisbury: Whatever's best?

6 Wencek: Uh, I'll give you the work number it's █████
7 extension got a lot ink in that pen?

8 Salisbury: Yeah.

9 Wencek: █████.

10 Salisbury: Okay. All right. Um, what is your official title
11 at DEM?

12 Wencek: Supervising Environmental Scientist.

13 Salisbury: How long have you been in that position?

14 Wencek: As a Supervising Environmental Scientist? Since 1994.

15 Salisbury: Okay. And how long have you been employed by DEM?

16 Wencek: Forty one plus years.

17 Salisbury: Wow.

18 Wencek: Why didn't I go out with that incentive? I don't
19 know. I don't know. It's all good. It's good, it's
20 good job.

21 Salisbury: All right. So we can start asking questions now.

22 Wencek: Fire away.

23 Ratigan: Um, we've got a full copy of these applications --

24 Wencek: Okay.

25 Ratigan: -- if you need them to reference.

1 Wencek: I'll probably will.

2 Ratigan: I didn't, I didn't uh, didn't bring them in, but we
3 can grab them

4 Salisbury: They are on your desk?

5 Ratigan: Uh, no. I thought, I thought you have, have them
6 back, no? The binder --

7 Salisbury: The binder's a- --above your --

8 Ratigan: Oh I -- Okay.

9 Salisbury: Okay.

10 Ratigan: Um, I just want- --wanted -- We've, we've had this
11 conversation on the phone, but I just, I just wanna
12 put it on the record again, it, that this is not an
13 investigation that we asked for or initiated, nor did
14 the Attorney General's Office --

15 Wencek: Yeah.

16 Ratigan: -- you know, the Governor did it for whatever reason -
17 -

18 Wencek: He felt, he felt it was necessary, yeah.

19 Ratigan: Felt it was necessary, you know? Great. Um, and uh,
20 our, the scope of our investigation is limited to
21 whether his former Chief of Staff, uh, exerted
22 influence --

23 Wencek: Mm-hmm.

24 Ratigan: -- on DEM.

25 Wencek: Mm-hmm.

1 Ratigan: And that's it. I do have these lovely copies, uh, uh,
2 iSite Testing (ph) uh plans --

3 Wencek: Beats (inaudible - 00:03:38)

4 Ratigan: -- right from the first ones from the second ones from
5 the second -- Here's the first application --

6 Wencek: Okay.

7 Ratigan: -- second application. So if at any point, uh, you
8 feel like to answer a question that you'd like to
9 review --

10 Wencek: Okay.

11 Ratigan: -- you know, we'll, we'll -- well feel free. Um --

12 Wencek: Thank you.

13 Ratigan: If, if we could start just by, in general what -- I
14 think we have, uh, some idea now about your process,
15 but if you could explain it to us, if someone wants to
16 build on a site in Rhode Island, uh, what kicks in
17 that they have to make an application? You know, what
18 would be the trick?

19 Wencek: The litmus test is, is there a wetland involved? Is
20 there, is there a freshwater wetland on the subject
21 property or immediately adjacent to the property? So,
22 um, due to the Freshwater Wetlands Act, um, anyone
23 that is planning on or contemplating, uh, a, a
24 disturbance of any kind and it happens to be
25 immediately adjacent to a wetland or will change the

1 hydrology to a freshwater wetland, freshwater, not
2 saltwater, um, they would be required to get a permit
3 before they could do that work. And the issuing
4 agency for that permit would be the Department of
5 Environmental Management.

6 Ratigan: Is, is it the landowner's obligation to say "Yes, I
7 have a piece of property that borders a wetland." Or
8 so it's possible that people could be building without
9 any knowledge --

10 Wencek: It's possible, all right.

11 Ratigan: Uh, and you suggest maybe it's beyond possible and
12 it's been done.

13 Wencek: It happens.

14 Ratigan: It happens --

15 Wencek: But I don't know about the not knowing, but it
16 happens.

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