

Governing Energy

Sergeant Schultz 2.0

Volume 1 Number 2—February 16, 2012

Many readers will recall the 1960s era sitcom wherein the German prisoner of war camp guard, Sergeant Schultz repeatedly refrains, “*I see nothing*” in an attempt to inoculate himself from the antics of the Allied prisoners under his watch.ⁱ This common defense continues to manifest itself across all societies and at all levels. Does it still work—has it ever worked?

Plausible deniability has made its way into the lexicon.ⁱⁱ A lowering of standards with roots in the legal code, this statement attempts to deflect accountability away from oneself and perhaps towards others. Many in the U.S. will have teachable moments on this subject as we endure the political silly season until November 6th.

However, attempts to dummy down accountability have been exposed. The current legal framework for organizational accountability can be traced to The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 and SOX threw down an accountability gauntlet that the U.S. Deepwater sector recently picked up.

In an era of flash mobs and viral videos, isn't it logical that demands for increased transparency, accountability, safer behavior and greater environmental responsibility will go viral across all heavy industrial segments? Chances are, it already has but those in the 1.0 world haven't yet got the memo.

The Sergeant Schultz defense is passé. In reality it was never a very good one anyway or why is management paid the big bucks!

What is happening on your watch right under your nose?

About the Author

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ⁱ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34ag4nkSh7Q>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=plausible%20deniability>