



## Hanford's Environmental Restoration Project News Releases



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### Bechtel Hanford to Pay Civil Penalty

**For Immediate Release:** May 16, 2000

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The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters has issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation, including an \$82,500 civil penalty, to Bechtel Hanford, Inc. (BHI) for a radiologic event at Hanford's B Reactor in June 1999. The event involved a failure to follow BHI's established work processes and procedures that resulted in a contaminated area not being properly posted. As a result, employees entered the area without appropriate protective equipment. There were no negative health impacts. An additional concern was that the incident was not promptly reported to senior management.

BHI takes responsibility for this incident and understands the significance of the event and agrees with the conclusions from the DOE.

Although there were no negative health impacts as a result of the event, BHI takes this as a failure to follow BHI's established work processes and procedures seriously.

BHI discovered the violations and reported them to the DOE. And as noted by the DOE, the monetary civil penalty was reduced by half due to BHI's thorough investigation of the event. Following that investigation, BHI took broad corrective actions to address the specific causes of the event and prevent a recurrence.

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