October 8, 2010

Department of Energy Cites Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc. for Worker Safety and Health Violations

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of Energy has issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, Inc. for violations of DOE's worker safety and health regulations with a proposed civil penalty of $70,000. The violations are associated with an October 6, 2009, hand injury event that occurred while a Parsons worker was performing crane lubrication on a moving cable at the Salt Waste Processing Facility at DOE's Savannah River Site, resulting in the loss of three fingers.

The PNOV cites two violations of DOE worker safety and health regulations in the areas of hazard assessment and abatement related to crane maintenance operations, and worker training and information. Parsons is cited for failure to comply with 10 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 851, Worker Safety and Health Program. DOE has grouped and categorized the deficiencies as two Severity Level I violations with a total base civil penalty of $140,000.

In response to the event, Parsons conducted internal evaluations to identify the root and contributing causes of the circumstances that ultimately resulted in the hand injury. Parsons has implemented corrective actions to address these deficiencies as well as the violations identified in the attached PNOV. In light of the promptness and extent of Parsons' response to the event and consistent with the factors established in Appendix B to 10 C.F.R. Part 851, General Statement of Enforcement Policy, DOE decided to grant 50 percent mitigation of the base civil penalty for both Severity Level I violations.

The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 authorizes the Department to take regulatory actions under 10 C.F.R. Part 851, against contractors for violations of its worker safety and health requirements. DOE's Enforcement Program encourages contractors to identify and correct worker safety and health deficiencies at an early stage, before they contribute to or result in more serious events.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available from the Office of Enforcement (http://www.hss.doe.gov/enforce/).

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