

# DOE Cites Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC for Price-Anderson Violations

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For Immediate Release  
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**WASHINGTON, DC** The Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Bechtel BWXT Idaho (BBWI), the operating contractor at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). BBWI responsibilities include transuranic and low-level radioactive waste handling and disposal operations at the INEEL Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC).

The PNOV was issued for violations of DOE nuclear safety rules and procedures identified in association with an event occurring at the RWMC in July 2003. During that event, a column of low-level radioactive waste containers placed in a pit for burial toppled over, with several containers striking the forklift used to stack the containers. Fortunately, no one was injured during the event, and there was no release of radioactive material. The subsequent investigation identified deficiencies with procedural adequacy, procedural compliance and training of the workers. The investigation also identified that BBWI failed to adequately respond to a similar event during 2002.

To emphasize the importance of maintaining a quality program for DOE activities that comply with all requirements, DOE has issued a proposed civil penalty to BBWI in the amount of \$41,250. Significant mitigation of the maximum potential civil penalty was granted to BBWI for their comprehensive investigation into the event and their broad corrective actions.

The Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988 authorized DOE to undertake enforcement actions against contractors for violations of DOE nuclear safety requirements. The enforcement program is designed to promote proactive efforts by contractors to correct procedural violations so that more serious events are prevented.

Additional details on this and other enforcement actions are available on the Internet at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/enforce>.

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