

FOIA-Central

From: WEBMASTER, DOE  
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 11:20 AM  
To: FOIA-Central  
Subject: Form submission from: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request Form

Submitted on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 - 11:19  
Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]  
Submitted values are:

--Contact information--

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--Reasonably Describe Records--

Description:  
I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Please provide records that are maintained by the Department of Energy (DOE) or for the agency by a government contractor in any format, including an electronic format. Please provide:

1. [ The most recent Corrective Action Program for the Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) at the Hanford Site.
2. DOE's October 2015 Managed Improvement Plan Health Check report on Corrective Action Program backlogs.
3. Bechtel National Inc.'s (Bechtel) 2014 self-assessment of its work on the WTP. ]

Specify preferred form or format: Electronic

--Type of requestor--

Select a description of yourself and the purpose of the request to help determine your category for assessing fees: Affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.

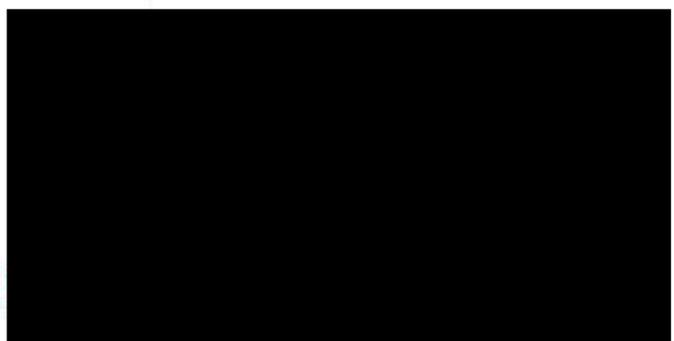
--Fees and waivers--

Please select the statement that applies: I request a waiver or reduction of fees.

--Waiver factors--

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The subject of the request:

The Department of Energy is engaged in one the world's largest environmental cleanup efforts at the Hanford Site, in Richland Washington. The centerpiece of this effort is the WTP, which is being managed by Bechtel. The plant has a current budget of \$12.3 billion dollars, but that can reasonably be expected to increase given the cost-plus nature of the contract, the 40-year lifespan of the plant, and ongoing technical and management problems.

DOE has worked with Bechtel and the Office of River Protection to remediate these problems, most recently with an Inspector General (IG) report on Bechtel's Corrective Action Program for technical issues at the WTP. However, the IG makes frequent reference to documents, including the Corrective Action Program itself, which are not part of the public domain. Access to these documents will put the public in a better position to understand the management and cost of the WTP and Hanford Cleanup, and their considerable costs.

The informative value of the information to be disclosed: POGO provides a valuable public service by taking an independent look at how the government spends taxpayer dollars and what can be done to make the system more effective, efficient, accountable, and honest. The Corrective Action Program and requested reports will provide valuable insights into the management and oversight at the Hanford Site and WTP that cannot be gleaned by reading the IG's second hand description of said documents. Any publication using these documents will build on POGO's previous work that seeks to inform the public about major DOE spending projects. All POGO publications include government reports, documents, and

other resources to allow the public to better understand how the federal government operates. POGO has established a niche in informing the general public, either through its own publications and web site or through media outlets, about the issue of nuclear weapons and cleanup spending. POGO has issued reports and offered public comments on this issue, frequently urging Congress and various agencies to embrace efficient nuclear spending.

Contribution to an understanding by the general public: POGO investigates, exposes, and seeks to remedy systemic abuses of power, mismanagement, and subservience by the federal government to powerful special interests. Founded in 1981, POGO is a politically independent, nonprofit watchdog that promotes a government that is accountable to the citizenry. POGO disseminates information about its activities to thousands of concerned citizens, policymakers, and the media via email, direct mail, and its web site <http://www.pogo.org>, the organization's primary vehicle for disseminating information to concerned citizens and other targeted constituencies. The site receives approximately one million hits and 100,000 unique visitors monthly. In addition, the "POGO Blog" has developed its own readership, averaging roughly 20,000 visitors monthly, allowing us to reach new readers in the blogosphere. The documents provided will be used for the following activities:

publication by email, on our website, in reports, and newsletters issued by POGO and disseminated to POGO supporters, the public, the media, nonprofit organizations, Congress, Executive Branch officials, and other policymakers.

The significance of the contribution to public understanding: POGO concludes that these documents will be of interest to the general public. Our hope is that transparency into operations and activities at the WTP will help us give the public a better understanding of how nuclear weapons cleanups work, the criteria by which DOE evaluates success, and the partnership between government and the private sector in their execution.

The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: N/A

The primary interest in disclosure: Public Interest.

--Expedited processing--

Justification:

Please provide your specific justification for expedited processing:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<http://energy.gov/> 