

# Judge supports DOE in FFTF ruling

In a Feb. 25 ruling in a federal court in Richland, Judge Edward Shea sided with the Department of Energy in a suit filed by Benton County over DOE's plan to permanently shut down Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility. He then granted a request to allow another 30 days before shut-down work can begin, while Benton County decides on a possible appeal. County officials want the facility to be privatized for energy research and the production of medical isotopes.

Shea rejected an argument that DOE had failed to follow environmental regulations, and accepted DOE's contention that a statute of limitations was applicable to the case. The judge said that, if Benton County had concerns, it should have filed suit just after DOE completed an environmental analysis in 1995. ■