
Bechtel files protest over River Corridor Closure Contract award

Bechtel National filed a protest with the General Accounting Office on May 5 over the award of the River Corridor Contract.

On April 25, the Department of Energy awarded the \$1.05 billion contract to the Washington Closure Company, LLC, a team of companies comprising Washington Group International, Inc., Fluor Federal Services and Earth Tech, LLC. The River Corridor Closure Contract replaces work currently being done by the Environmental Restoration Contractor team, led by Bechtel Hanford, and the 300 Area decontamination and decommissioning work led by Fluor Hanford.

The protest brings to a halt the 90-day transition from Bechtel Hanford and Fluor Hanford to the Washington Closure Company. Actual cleanup work will continue under Bechtel Hanford and Fluor Hanford through the General Accounting Office's 100-day protest review period.

Bechtel Hanford, a part of Bechtel Corporation, has been doing the environmental cleanup work along the Columbia River corridor for the past nine years, earning 13 straight outstanding ratings in annual and semiannual reviews.

Bechtel and Fluor employees were notified of the protest in separate company messages. In their respective messages, both Mike Hughes, president of Bechtel Hanford, and Dave Van Leuven, president and chief executive officer of Fluor Hanford, urged employees to continue working at the same professional and safety levels as before the protest was filed. ■