

**Morris, Alexander**

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**From:** DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov on behalf of Department of Energy  
<DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2018 1:34 PM  
**To:** FOIA Central  
**Subject:** Form submission from: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request Form

Submitted on Tuesday, August 7  
Submitted by anonymous user:  
Submitted values are:

==Contact information==

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==Reasonably Describe Records==

Description: The Department of Energy's Performance Evaluation Plans and Performance Evaluation Reviews (PEPs and PERs) for Bechtel National Inc.'s management of the Hanford's Waste Treatment (Vitrification Plant) from 2016 to present. Bechtel is under the jurisdiction of the DOE Office of River Protection.  
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: A representative of the news media and the request is made as part of news gathering and not for commercial use.  
Affiliation: Project On Government Oversight  
Type of media: Other  
Other media type: Blog

==Fees and waivers==

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

==Waiver factors==

The subject of the request: As a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to good governance, it is our mission to help the general public better understand whether the government is holding contractors accountable for the work completed in

the

interest of citizens—work that is funded by taxpayer dollars.

Every year, the Department of Energy allocates billions of dollars to hire contractors. The public should have a clear picture of whether or not Bechtel National Inc. has explicit objectives for Hanford’s Waste Treatment Plant, and if they have clear metrics to measure success and resolve problems.

The

public also deserves to know if the Department is effectively holding its contractors accountable.

The informative value of the information to be disclosed: POGO is uniquely positioned to provide the public with a

better

understanding of how government agencies and the contractors themselves perform oversight to hold contractors accountable.

Contractor oversight and accountability is especially crucial with the Hanford Site Cleanup. Misconduct or ineffective work could have major implications such as, but not limited to, putting the health of citizens at risk, harming the

environment,

damaging air and water quality, and costing to taxpayers exorbitant amounts of money that could make a greater impact elsewhere.

The legislative history of the fee waiver standard “clearly indicates” that Congress intended to create a public interest/benefit test for granting FOIA fee waivers that is

to be

“liberally construed,” and is “consistently associated

with

requests from ... non-profit interest groups who it was intended

to benefit.” (Emphasis added.) *Ettlinger v. FBI*, 596 F.

Supp.

867, 872 (D. Mass. 1984); *Nat’l Treasury Employees Union v. Griffin*, 811 F.2d 644 (D.C. Cir. 1987); *Lybarger v. Cardwell*,

577

F.2d 764 (1st Cir. 1978).

Contribution to an understanding by the general public: Disclosure of the requested information will further the “public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest” of the requester. POGO will use the requested information to expand the public’s knowledge

about an

issue of great importance—specifically, whether Bechtel National Inc. has outlined clear objections for the Hanford Site’s Waste Treatment Plant and if they are achieving

these

objectives in a timely manner while proceeding safely and

using  
resources efficiently.

Founded in 1981, POGO is an independent nonprofit that investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order

to achieve a more honest, open, and accountable federal government. As such, POGO closely observes the activities of federal agencies, Congress, the federal courts, and government

contractors. Over the years, POGO has built up considerable expertise—and international prominence—in the areas of government spending, contracting, transparency, and accountability.

The significance of the contribution to public understanding:

The requested information will expand the public's knowledge of the

current state of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant and cleanup

progress. All of POGO's investigations are available for free

to the public on our website, our primary vehicle for disseminating information to the public. The site receives 87,000

unique visitors monthly. Our blog has developed a devoted readership, averaging roughly 14,000 visitors monthly. Our collaborations with other organizations and the news media amplify our reach and increase public understanding of government activities.

The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest: POGO holds

no commercial interest in the requested information. The information will be used strictly for the public interest. We

do not charge for access to information posted on our website,

or for reports, newsletters, and other printed materials.

The primary interest in disclosure: Founded in 1981, POGO is a

nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government

reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and

conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government. POGO disseminates information about its activities to thousands of concerned citizens, policymakers, and the media via email, direct mail, and

its website, which receives over 107,000 page views monthly.

The

information provided will be used for the following activities:  
publication by email and on our website; publication in reports and newsletters issued by POGO or by affiliated nonprofit organizations; efforts to educate Congress, the Executive Branch, and other policymakers in Washington, D.C.; and investigations conducted with the news media. POGO undertakes all of these actions to ensure the public is well-informed about the actions and operations of the federal government.

==Expedited processing==

Justification:

Please provide your specific justification for expedited processing:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://www.energy.gov/>