

**From:** DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov on behalf of Department of Energy  
 <DOE.WEBMASTER@hq.doe.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** FOIA-Central  
**Subject:** Form submission from: DOE Headquarters FOIA Request Form

Submitted on Tuesday, August 7  
 Submitted by anonymous user:  
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 SCIENTIFIC/EDUCATIONAL/NEWS MEDIA  
 100 FREE PAGES

==Contact information==

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==Reasonably Describe Records==

Description: All Contractor Assurance System documents related to Bechtel National Inc.'s management of the Hanford Waste Treatment Plant. Including but not limited to all records pertaining to Contractor Assessment Records, Reports of Issues Management Status, and Integrated Safety Management System Description 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 federal government allocates billions of dollars

to hire contractors and the Energy Department is the biggest civilian contractor employer in the federal government. The public should have a clear picture of whether or not Bechtel National Inc. has explicit objectives that are consistent with

the contract requirements for Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant

and if taxpayer dollars are funding a contractor with a clear framework for how to efficiently manage resources and provide data to the decision making process to improve performance.

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 objections that align with the government’s needs and goals for clean-up to take place at the Hanford Site’s Waste Treatment Plant. Further, the public should be able to know if Bechtel is achieving these objectives in a timely and safe manner while 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 Site’s 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/>