

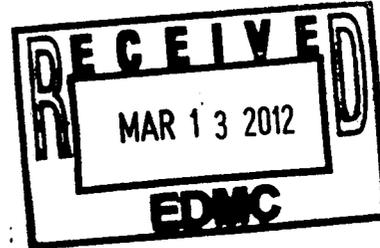


**U.S. Department of Energy**  
P.O. Box 450, MSIN H6-60  
Richland, Washington, 99352

11-WTP-249

JUL 11 2011

Mr. R. W. Bradford  
Deputy Project Director/Project Manager  
Bechtel National, Inc.  
2435 Stevens Center Place  
Richland, Washington 99354



Dear Mr. Bradford:

**CONTRACT NO. DE-AC27-01RV14136 – ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUIRED TO ADDRESS  
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT STRIKES**

- References:
1. BNI letter from S. L. Sawyer to D. E. Knutson, DOE-WTP, "Bechtel National, Inc. Quarterly Performance and Recurring Events Analysis Report – Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2011-Deliverable 1.8," CCN: 207923, dated April 28, 2011.
  2. DOE-WTP letter from D. L. Noyes to R. W. Bradford, BNI, "Concurrence of BNI Quarterly Performance and Recruiting Analysis Report – Second Quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-Deliverable 1.8," 11-WTP-186, dated May 19, 2011.
  3. BNI letter from R. W. Bradford to D. E. Knutson, DOE-WTP, "Concurrence of Bechtel National, Inc. Quarterly Performance and Recurring Events Analysis Report – Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 Program," CCN: 207925, dated June 20, 2011.

The U.S. Department of Energy, Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant Project (DOE-WTP) continues to be concerned with the frequency and severity of equipment strikes at the WTP construction site. As a result, DOE-WTP request Bechtel National Inc. (BNI) to take immediate actions to address these preventable events. As part of these actions, BNI is requested to complete an independent evaluation and develop corrective actions to immediately improve the safety performance associated with aerial lifts and self-propelled mobile scaffolds.

In April 2011, BNI closed the emerging trend for construction equipment strikes in its Quarterly Performance and Recurring Events Analysis Report (Reference 1). In Reference 2, DOE-WTP communicated to BNI that it did not concur with the closure of the emerging trend for construction equipment strikes. In response, BNI committed to provide DOE-WTP the reasons why the trend was closed, along with data used to close this trend; BNI also agreed to provide DOE with more information on the measures taken to minimize vehicle strikes (Reference 3).

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DOE-WTP recognizes the value of reporting events and it is evident BNI has collected and monitored equipment strikes on an on-going basis. However, it is not clear that the efforts taken have resulted in fewer equipment strikes related to aerial lifts and self-propelled mobile scaffolds.

Since start of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2011, DOE-WTP has been informed of 20 equipment strike events. Fourteen of the events related to aerial lifts and self-propelled mobile scaffolds and were of sufficient force to necessitate repairs and or replacement of parts. Two OSHA recordable events (chipped tooth and fractured hand), associated with aerial lifts and self-propelled mobile scaffolds equipment strikes, have occurred since the beginning of March 2011. All of these events were preventable and can be viewed as human performance improvement leading indicators.

Within 14 days of receiving this letter, BNI is requested to provide DOE-WTP a date for completing the requested independent evaluation and a date for providing DOE-WTP a briefing of the evaluation results. DOE-WTP continues to consider BNI to have rigorous procedures and processes in place for controlling work place hazards and looks forward to BNI addressing this unfavorable performance.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or you may contact Kenneth G. Wade, Director, WTP Construction Oversight and Assurance Division, (509) 373-8637.

Sincerely,



Ashley Morris, Contracting Officer  
Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant

WTP:PAS

cc: BNI Correspondence