

U.S. Department of Energy Cites Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC for Worker Safety and Health Program Violations

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today issued a Preliminary Notice of Violation (PNOV) to Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) for violations of worker safety and health requirements. DOE’s enforcement program holds contractors accountable for meeting regulatory requirements and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace.

The violations are associated with a worker experiencing heat exhaustion while supporting the corrugated metal pipe retrieval operations at Pit 29 in Area G of Technical Area 54 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory on September 8, 2022. The PNOV cites two Severity Level I violations and two Severity Level II violations of requirements enforceable under 10 C.F.R. Part 851, *Worker Safety and Health Program*. N3B is cited for violations in the areas of: (1) management responsibilities, emergency response and occupational medicine, (2) hazard prevention and abatement, (3) training and information, and (4) recordkeeping and reporting.

DOE administered a contract fee reduction of approximately \$130,000 on N3B for worker safety and health performance deficiencies associated with this event. Therefore, in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 851.5(c), DOE proposes no civil penalties for the Part 851 violations cited in this PNOV.

Section 234C of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, authorizes the Energy Department to pursue regulatory enforcement under 10 C.F.R. Part 851 against DOE contractors for violations of worker safety and health requirements. DOE’s enforcement program encourages contractors to identify and correct worker safety and health program deficiencies at an early stage, before they contribute to, or result in more serious safety and health events.

N3B is the contractor that manages the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract for DOE’s Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office located in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Additional details on this PNOV are available on the DOE website at:
<https://www.energy.gov/ea/listings/notices-violation>