

Statement sent to KING 5 via email on 7/28/17

Our fundamental goal at CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CH2M) is employee and environmental safety.

Radiological experts will meet with any employee who has a positive bioassay to better understand how that employee may have been exposed. That employee's work location on June 8, work activities on June 8 and work history combined with air monitoring and sampling will provide a clearer picture of how that employee was exposed. All results become part of that employee's radiological exposure history at Hanford. For context, CH2M has an administrative dose limit of 500 millirem per year, which are well below the legal limits of 5,000 millirem per year. The results received show a very low internal contamination dose that is significantly less than a typical chest x-ray.

The results for the bioassay kits are expected to take up to another four to six weeks, though these first results came in sooner than expected. We expect additional positive results because analytical tests like a bioassay can detect radiological contamination at levels far lower than what field monitoring can detect.

During the event, field monitoring showed levels of contamination not considered harmful; we expect any future positive bioassays also not to be harmful. As results come in, we will manage communications with the affected employees. After June 8th, we worked with the employees involved, technical staff, radiological experts, engineers and others to evaluate the incident and identify actions that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of recurrence, including: adding additional dust suppression capability; implementing negative ventilation on the canyon during demolition; and reducing the proximity of nearby employees to the canyon.

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