NORTHWEST

Thursday, August 13, 2015

Hanford whistleblower settles with employer for \$4.1 million

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A whistleblower on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation has reached a \$4.1 million settlement with his former employer on the former nuclear weapons production site in Washington state, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Walter Tamosaitis was a former manager at Hanford's Waste Treatment Plant, where he worked for subcontractor URS, Inc., which is now known as AECOM.

He was removed from his position in 2010 after raising safety concerns about the construction of the giant plant. He was eventually fired in 2013.

AECOM, which acquired URS last October, said it reached the settlement to avoid the cost of litigation.

"The company strongly disagrees that it retaliated against him in any manner," AECOM said in a press release.

> "The company has

not tolerated, and will not tolerate, retaliation or harassment in any form against anyone who raises a safety issue in good faith," AECOM said. "The company is pleased to put this matter behind us and continue with the important cleanup work at the Hanford

site." The settlement followed five years of legal fights. A trial had been scheduled in 2016

Hanford, located near Richland, for decades made plutonium for nuclear weapons and now is engaged in the cleanup of the nation's largest collection of radioactive waste.

The \$12.2 billion Waste Treatment Plant, whose construction is stalled, is intended to convert the most dangerous wastes into glass for eventual burial.

We are very pleased that Walter can get on with his life after five years of litigation, and that he has been vindicated," said his attorney, Jack Sheridan of

"We are very pleased Walter can get on with his life after five years of litigation, and that he has been vindicated."

> - Jack Sheridan, Attorney for Walter Tamosaitis

Seattle. "This settlement sends a message to whistleblowers everywhere that integrity and truth are worth fighting for, and that you can win if you don't give up.'

In November, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated a lawsuit filed by Tamosaitis against URS and said he was entitled to a jury trial.

The appeals court ruled that a lower court wrongly dismissed the case against URS, the primary subcontractor on the plant.

Tamosaitis contends that URS removed him as the research and technology manager of the unfinished

plant after he said more time was needed to resolve complex technical issues. Construction on the plant has since stopped because of technical and safety issues.

URS disagreed, saying Tamosaitis had completed his work and sent inappropriate emails discussing the issue.

U.S. District Court Judge Lonny Suko dismissed the case in 2012 after ruling that Tamosaitis had not followed legal requirements to wait one year after filing an administrative claim with the Department of Labor before proceeding to a federal court case.

Growing number of Oregon cities, counties are banning marijuana

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

SALEM — At least a dozen Oregon cities and counties have taken steps to ban marijuana businesses from their boundaries as the state prepares to begin retail sales in October.

Four counties and eight cities have informed the Oregon Liquor Control Commission that they plan to ban marijuana producers, wholesalers processors, and retailers. In some jurisdictions, the ban must go before voters.

Oregon lawmakers gave governments the local ability to keep out marijuana businesses, which were authorized by voters under last year's Measure

Periodicals posta

Sunset toniaht

Moonrise today

Moonset today

First

Aug 22 Aug 29

New

Aug 14

8:07 p.m.

5:05 a.m.

7:25 p.m.

Last

Sep 5

Full

91. In counties where at least 60 percent of voters opposed the measure, local governments can ban the marijuana businesses outright; elsewhere, a ban is temporary until voters weigh in.

Even in jurisdictions that opt out, adults can still grow and use marijuana subject to the same limits that apply in the rest of the state. But if they want to buy the drug from a retail store, they'll have to travel to somewhere that allows them.

The strongest opposition so far has come from far-eastern Oregon, where Malheur County and three of its five incorporated cities have adopted bans. "I think some of our

problem here really is our

proximity to Idaho, where it's totally illegal," said Larry Wilson, a Malheur County commissioner. "We even had testimony from police agencies on the other side of the river asking us to please opt out, or restrict it as much as we can, because that's a problem with people going back and forth across the river.'

Elsewhere, Douglas County opted out of allowing marijuana businesses, but its largest city, Roseburg, voted to allow existing medical marijuana dispensaries to sell pot to recreational users.

The cities that have notified the Oregon Liquor Control Commission that they're opting out are: Vale, Nyssa, Ontario,

Brownsville, Sandy, Island City, Sutherlin and Junction City. The counties are Douglas, Umatilla, Harney and Malheur.

Other city councils or county commissions may have voted to ban pot businesses but haven't formally notified the commission.

State law gives local governments until Dec. 27 to adopt a ban, said Mark Pettinger, a spokesman for the commission.

Marijuana possession and use became legal on July 1, but the state won't be ready to begin regulated sales until next year.

As a temporary stop-gap, medical dispensaries are allowed to begin selling the drug in some forms on Oct. 1.

Brown signs 846 bills, vetoes none

BRIEFLY

SALEM (AP) - Gov. Kate Brown won't be issuing any vetoes in her first year in office.

The Democratic governor signed all 846 bills sent to her by the Legislature, the last 43 of them on Wednesday, including one creating a special license plate honoring the Portland Trail Blazers. Proceeds from the plates will go to the Trail Blazers Foundation.

With the House, Senate and governor's office all controlled by Democrats, Oregon governors have issued few vetoes during the past decade.

Coast drowning victim identified as missing man

PACIFIC CITY (AP) — A drowning victim discovered on the Oregon Coast has been identified as a missing man.

A hiker spotted the body in the area of McPhillips Beach north of Cape Kiwanda in Tillamook County on Monday morning.

KPTV reports the medical examiner identified the man as 22-year-old Sean Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi had been reported missing out of Benton County on July 29. His death was ruled a drowning. Investigators say Yamaguchi was assumed to be with his girlfriend. She also was reported missing and has not been located.

State complaint alleges strip club employed minors

SALEM (AP) - State regulators have launched an investigation into a Beaverton strip club over allegations it employed underage dancers. Oregon Labor

NEWS

Commissioner Brad

Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

Avakian on Wednesday filed a complaint against Stars Cabaret in Beaverton alleging sexual harassment of minors.

The complaint alleges that from July to September 2014 the club employed a girl under 16 years of age. This came after a former manager of the strip club was arrested in 2013 for his role in the prostitution of another minor, a 13-year-old girl, hired in 2012 to dance nude for customers and have sex with them in a back room.

That manager was sentenced last year to 15 years in prison.

Avakian's complaint says the company failed to take action to prevent future sexual exploitation of minors.

Nonprofit claims Wash. company polluting river

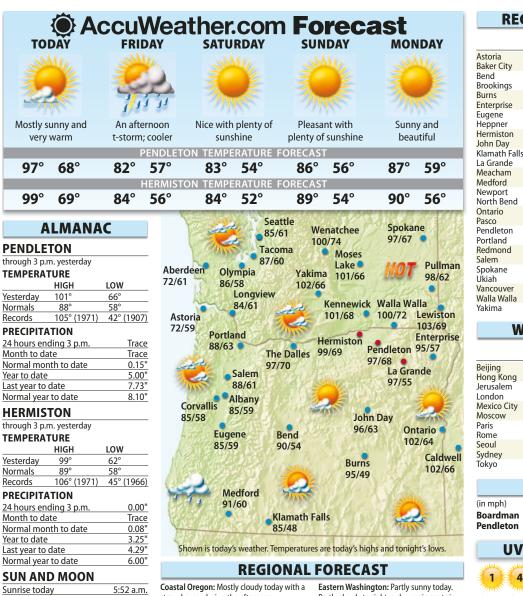
TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — A Portland-based nonprofit group called Columbia Riverkeeper has filed a federal lawsuit against a Washington state heavy equipment company claiming it's polluting the river with industrial waste.

The group claims Vancouver-based Electro Incorporated is violating its state-issued Industrial Storm water General Permit and the federal Clean Water Act.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Tacoma says Electro's facility discharges pollutants via storm water that ends up in the Columbia River. The lawsuit says the company has also violated monitoring requirements by failing to collect, analyze and discharge samples.

Électro's website says it specializes in machinery used in mining and forestry as well as offshore equipment. A message left with the company seeking comment was not immediately returned.

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stray shower during the afternoon.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny and hot today, except some clouds near the Cascades

Western Washington: Clouds and sun to day. Cloudy tonight with a shower in spots. Showery tomorrow.

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REGIONAL CITIES Today Hi Lo W Fri. Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day Hi Lo W 72 59 pc 96 51 s 70 57 sh San Francisco 72/59 Los Ange 90/68 -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 10,000 National Summary: Drenching storms will focus on Florida today, while most areas from 86 61 t 84 50 pc the southern Plains to New England are dry. Storms will erupt over part of the North Central states. Heat will build over the West.

WORLD CITIES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 108° in Thermal, Calif.

El Pas 98/74

Low 29° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

NATIONAL CITIES

Houston 97/77

50s

cold front

NATIONAL CITIES														
			day Fri		Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	94	68	S	96	69	S	Louisville	84	63	S	86	68	рс	
Atlanta	88	70	S	86	69	S	Memphis	88	68	S	89	71	S	
Atlantic City	81	67	S	83	69		Miami	91	76	t	90	77		
Baltimore	84	59	S	87	65	S	Milwaukee	86	71	S	89	70	t	
Billings	96	66	S	99	68	рс	Minneapolis	89	71		92	72	рс	
Birmingham	89	70	S	87	71	S	Nashville	86	63	S	89	68	рс	
Boise	103		S	96	59	рс	New Orleans	94	78	S	94	77	рс	
Boston	81	64	рс	83	66	S	New York City	83	68	S	86	71	S	
Charleston, SC	90	71	рс	88	70	S	Oklahoma City	90	67	рс	90	67	-	
Charleston, WV	81	57	S	87	63	S	Omaha	89	69	S	90	67	S	
Chicago	86	69	S	90	70	рс	Philadelphia	84	66	S	88	70		
Cleveland	81	65		85	65		Phoenix	111	89	рс	114	89		
Dallas	97	76	-	97	76	-	Portland, ME	78	58	рс	80	61	-	
Denver	92	62		92	64		Providence	82	61	рс	84	65		
Detroit	84		рс	85	68	t	Raleigh	86	67	S	87	65		
El Paso	98	74	рс	99	76	рс	Rapid City	89	62		91	67	-	
Fairbanks	63	48	С	66	47	С	Reno	92	58		90	57		
Fargo	93	64	-	95	70	S	Sacramento	88	58		92	60		
Honolulu	90	77		89	77	sh	St. Louis	88	71	S	89	70		
Houston	97	77		97	76		Salt Lake City	93	73	рс	93	71	-	
Indianapolis	83	64		85	67		San Diego	80	69	S	83	70		
Jacksonville	90		t	87	70	t	San Francisco	72	59	рс	75	58		
Kansas City	86			87	66		Seattle	85	61	рс	67	59	sh	
Las Vegas	102	82	рс	105	82		Tucson	106		t	105	79		
Little Rock	89	67	S	90	68	S	Washington, DC	87	69	S	90	73	-	
Los Angeles	90	68	S	92	70	s	Wichita	86	69	s	88	68	S	

AccuWeather, Inc. @2015

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

	96	51	S	86	43	τ
	90	54		72		
	68	56	С	70		
	95	49	S	84	41	рс
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;	85	48	рс	75		S
	97	55	S	87	48	t
	90	47	S	77	38	t
	91	60	рс	83	56	S
	64	56	рс	63	52	С
	69	57	С	68	54	рс
	102	64	S	96	56	t
	101	66	рс	87	55	рс
	97	68	S	82	57	t
	88	63	рс	73		С
	94	51	рс	74	41	рс
	88	61	рс	73	55	c
	97	67	рс	86		t
	94	53	S	78	46	t
	88	63	рс	73	57	sh
	100	72	c	86	61	t

	T	oday		Fri.				
	Hi	LoŴ	Hi	Lo	W			
Beijing	95	74 pc	90	69	pc			
Hong Kong	89	82 t	91	83	t			
Jerusalem	87	68 s	89	69	s			
London	76	65 t	70	55	sh			
Mexico City	71	54 t	76	52	t			
Moscow	83	53 sh	68	50	S			
Paris	88	63 t	74	58	sh			
Rome	90	69 s	88	69	рс			
Seoul	88	71 pc	86	71	pc			
Sydney	65	47 s	65	47	S			
Tokyo	85	79 t	90	79	t			
	WI	NDS						

WIND5						
mph)	Today	Friday				
ardman	SW 4-8	WSW 15-25				
ndleton	NW 4-8	WSW 20-30				

UV INDEX TODAY

4 6 6 4 1 8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 0-2, Low

Partly cloudy tonight; a shower in spots in

Cascades: Periods of clouds and sun today.

Rather cloudy tonight with a shower in

Northern California: Partly sunny today;

pleasant in central parts.

the north.

places

3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num

ber, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. Forecasts and graphics provided by

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