

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dec. 8, 2009**Rochelle Olson, Public Affairs Manager, 509-377-4728  
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## **Energy Northwest Laboratory Nationally Accredited**

**RICHLAND, Wash.** – Energy Northwest Standards Laboratory has successfully completed its first annual reassessment by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation or A2LA.

A2LA accreditation provides assurance that standards are being met and validates the laboratory's quality and technical competence. Energy Northwest's Standards Laboratory is the only full service, multi-disciplined A2LA-accredited calibration laboratory in eastern Washington.

Energy Northwest recently signed a multi-year contract with Bechtel National, Inc. to provide these services for a project on the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Site.

The laboratory provides calibrations compliant with multiple quality assurance programs, traceable to National Institute of Standards and Technology. The Standards Laboratory is accredited by A2LA to perform calibrations in the following parameters: acoustical quantities, chemical, dimensional, electrical, fluid quantities, mechanical, optical quantities, time and frequency, and thermodynamics.

Initial full accreditation was received on Jan. 28, 2009. The laboratory is one of only a handful of accredited calibration laboratories nationwide operated by a nuclear utility.

### **About American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA):**

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society. The mission of A2LA is to provide comprehensive services in laboratory accreditation and laboratory-related training. Services are available to any type of organization, private or government. Laboratory accreditation is based on internationally accepted criteria for competence (ISO/IEC 17025:2005). A2LA also offers programs for accreditation of inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers and product certification bodies.

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**About Bechtel National, Inc.:**

Bechtel National, Inc. is designing and building the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The \$12.2 billion Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant will immobilize the radioactive liquid waste currently stored in 177 underground tanks.

The WTP will cover 65 acres with four nuclear facilities -- Pretreatment, Low-Activity Waste Vitrification, High-Level Waste Vitrification and Analytical Laboratory-- as well as operations and maintenance buildings, utilities and office space.

Construction of the WTP began in 2002. The plant will be operational in 2019.

**About Energy Northwest:**

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state joint operating agency headquartered in Richland, Wash. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest now has 27 public power members; 22 public utility districts and five municipalities. The consortium's nuclear, hydro, wind and solar power projects deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services.

Energy Northwest -- [www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com)

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**Note to Producers & Editors:** To download photos of the Calibration Laboratory people and products, click the links below.

<http://www.energy-northwest.com/images/cal/20090512-CalLabs-0180.jpg>

<http://www.energy-northwest.com/images/cal/20090512-CalLabs-0059 COPY.jpg>

<http://www.energy-northwest.com/images/cal/20090512-CalLabs-0155.jpg>