



## Reaching Critical Will

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# The Dirty Dozen

## Bechtel and nuclear profiteering

**1. Bechtel is responsible for the Stockpile Stewardship program**, which provides experimental capabilities necessary to maintain confidence in the safety and performance of weapons in the US nuclear weapons stockpile. Stockpile Stewardship is also responsible for maintaining the ability to resume underground nuclear testing.

**1. Bechtel was originally contracted to build Iran's first nuclear power plant**, before the fall of the Shah's regime, under US President Jimmy Carter. As was the case with Hussein, Iran's government is still standing in the way of unfettered investment by U.S. corporations. Iran, the only remaining Middle Eastern oil-rich country that isn't likely to capitulate to the Bush Administration's plans for a Middle East FreeTrade Area, is now being threatened by the U.S., just as Iraq was three years ago.

**2. Bechtel receives over \$20 billion to help manage National Nuclear Security Administration facilities**, including the Nevada Test Site, the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, the Pantex Plant in Texas, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Kwajalein missile range off the Marshall Islands, the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, and the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in Pittsburgh.

One of Bechtel's most important programs is Bechtel Nevada, which manages operations at the Nevada Test site—a test bed for conducting defense-related nuclear experiments and national security experiments—for the National Nuclear Security Administration. The Nevada Test site is a massive outdoor laboratory and experiment center that is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

**3. Bechtel has built the majority of nuclear power plants in the U.S. and around the world** (sometimes violating safety guidelines while doing so). Now it is “double-dipping” by earning billions of dollars to clean up the radioactive waste its plants are generating. One example is Bechtel's \$1.9 billion contract to build the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository on lands belonging to the Western Shoshone, who rightfully worry that the waste will contaminate their groundwater (which, incidentally, Bechtel earlier polluted through its gold-mining operations). Now Bechtel is poised to rake in even more money as the Bush administration paves the way for the construction of more nuclear power plants, at the further expense of the environment and indigenous peoples.

*This fact sheet was prepared by [august6.org](http://august6.org) and Dena Montague of the Arms Trade Resource Center, with special thanks to Antonia Juhasz of Global Exchange, and Pratap Chatterjee of CorpWatch.*

**<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/corporate/dd/ddindex.html>**