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NRC, Chicago Bridge & Iron Agree On Actions To Enhance Welder Training Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Chicago Bridge & Iron (CB&I) have agreed on several enhancements to a [2013 Confirmatory Order](#) on the company's commitments to improve its focus on nuclear safety requirements that affect its work.

The settlement, as with the original Confirmatory Order, was reached through the agency's alternative dispute resolution process. The latest action resolves two apparent violations identified by the NRC in a February 2014 letter to CB&I regarding deliberate misconduct during welder qualification training at CB&I's facility in Lake Charles, La.

Through mediation, the company agreed to take several measures to enhance the understanding of NRC requirements and the significance of willful violations for all company employees, including contractors and subcontractors, involved in NRC-regulated activities. These measures include improving quality control and processing for welding products; enhancing new employee training to highlight the errors behind the recent violations; and enhancing CB&I's nuclear safety culture monitoring program based on lessons from the recent violations. The mediation process also documented how CB&I self-reported some of the issues and promptly fired the employees that committed the violations.

"The NRC pursued the mediation process with Chicago Bridge & Iron because we were able to get commitments for a broader range of corrective actions from the company in addressing the underlying issues," said Patricia Holahan, acting director of NRC's Office of Enforcement.

The revised Order is available in the NRC's electronic document database, [ADAMS](#), under accession number ML14248A445. NRC inspectors will continue to periodically inspect the company's work practices to ensure that the company properly implements the required actions. The NRC will evaluate any future apparent violations with similar root causes to those described in the Confirmatory Order and will take additional enforcement actions as outlined in the order.