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EPA scientist who opposed policy ordered reinstated

WASHINGTON (AP) — A two-year battle against the federal government ended in victory for a scientist fired from the Environmental Protection Agency after raising health concerns about fluoride.

Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich ordered that William L. Marcus be returned to his \$87,000-a-year job at EPA and be paid back wages, legal costs and a \$50,000 penalty.

"Fighting the federal government is by no means an easy task," Marcus said.

Since being fired on May 13,

1992, he said, he has had to sell assets and depend on consulting work for income; one daughter had to postpone plans to go to medical school; vacations were no longer even considered; and he and his wife both developed stress-related health problems.

Reich, in an order made public Thursday, upheld an earlier decision by Administrative Law Judge David Clarke Jr., which ruled that the charges against Marcus were only "a pretext" and that Marcus actually was fired "because he publicly questioned and opposed EPA's fluoride policy."