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SCIENCE & HEALTH

Fluoride foe gets job back

EPA ordered to rehire scientist fired after he raised health concerns

By Randolph E. Schmid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A scientist fired from the Environmental Protection Agency after raising health concerns about fluoride has won a two-year battle to get his job back.

"I have finally been vindicated," said William L. Marcus. "Fighting the federal government is by no means an easy task."

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

The ruling upheld an earlier decision by Administrative Law Judge David Clarke Jr., who concluded that the EPA's charges against Marcus were only "a

pretext" and that Marcus actually was fired "because he publicly questioned and opposed EPA's fluoride policy."

EPA spokesman John Kasper said the agency would have no comment "until we have fully reviewed the decision."

Marcus was fired May 13, 1992, after a four-year investigation during which the agency accused him of improperly using agency information for private gain, being improperly absent from work and engaging in outside employment that appeared to pose a conflict of interest.

Marcus said the actual reason for the firing was his public concern about the safety of fluoride and his appearances as an expert witness in legal cases, on his own time.