

# The Huntsville Times

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## National Briefs

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### Scientist will be reinstated

WASHINGTON — 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.

Reich, in an order made public Thursday, upheld an earlier decision by Administrative Law Judge David Clarke Jr., which 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."

Marcus was fired 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.