



9:45am — N.M. Pipeline Firm Acquitted of Bid-Rigging

By ABQJournal News Staff

Wednesday, July 9th, 2008 at 9:44am

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Federal jury in Denver finds company, two executives not guilty in 2005 case.

B&H Maintenance and Construction Inc., a New Mexico-based oil and gas pipeline contractor, and two of its executives were acquitted of bid-rigging charges after a federal jury trial in Denver last month, the **Farmington Daily Times** reported.

B&H Vice President Jon Paul (J.P.) Smith and marketing manager Landon Martin had been accused of rigging bids for pipeline construction projects in southwestern Colorado's portion of the San Juan Basin, the Daily Times said.

Federal prosecutors had alleged that the company conspired with Alberta, Canada-based Flint Energy Services Inc. to submit "non-competitive, rigged bids" to British Petroleum America Production Co. to build pipelines from gas wells in the Upper San Juan Basin in 2005, the paper reported.

Federal jurors deliberated just five hours before finding the company and its executives not guilty, the Daily Times said.

"They are obviously thrilled with the verdict," Boulder, Colo., attorney Mark Johnson told the Daily Times. "They fought the federal government for two and one-half years and went through a two-week trial."

The verdict was returned on June 19 in U.S. District Court in Denver, the company said in a July 3 **news release**.

"We were confident all along that B&H and its employees would be fully vindicated and, needless to say, we are very pleased with the outcome," B&H President Dale Bettis said in the release. "We are delighted that the full facts of this case were finally allowed to come out, and that justice ultimately prevailed after two and a half years of the company and Mr. Smith and Mr. Martin living under the cloud of these groundless accusations."

B&H Maintenance and Construction, with its main office in Eunice and a regional office in Bloomfield, is a leading provider of construction and maintenance services for oil and gas pipeline owners and operators throughout the Southwest, the release said.