



**Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory**

Environmental Management Budget

The Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), also known as the INEEL Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), is a local advisory committee chartered under the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management SSAB Federal Advisory Committee Act Charter.

The INEEL CAB received presentations on the current and planned budget for the Environmental Management Program at our March 2004 meeting. This recommendation transmits four concerns that were discussed by the CAB following those presentations.

1. We are concerned about the holdback in the Fiscal Year 2005 Budget for Waste Incidental to Reprocessing. Given recent policy against budget carryover, we are concerned that the budget authority will be withdrawn if the funds are not expended in Fiscal Year 2005. **The INEEL CAB recommends that the holdback money be provided to DOE's Idaho Operations Office for reprogramming should the legal situation regarding waste incidental to reprocessing not be resolved by the end of Fiscal Year 2004.**
2. We are concerned about the possible cancellation of the Foster-Wheeler dry storage facility. This concern is related to our expectation that the proposed geologic repository in Nevada will not open as scheduled. INEEL needs to be prepared to store and package spent nuclear fuel in a safe manner until such time as DOE is able to construct and operate a geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel. **The INEEL CAB recommends that construction and operation of the Foster-Wheeler dry storage facility proceed on the originally adopted schedule.**
3. We observe that some cleanup projects are being conducted by DOE programs other than the Environmental Management program (including Nuclear Energy [NE] and the National Nuclear Safety Administration [NNSA]). We are concerned that NE and NNSA may not be as motivated to complete the cleanup program as EM, as it is not their primary mission.
4. We are pleased to see the schedule and incentives that have been built into the DOE's expectations for BBWI for the duration of the current contract. It appears that a great deal of planning has gone into an orderly and sensible completion of projects before the contract ends.