Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

Public Involvement in the Development of the Draft Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Risk-Based End State Vision Document

The Environmental Management (EM) 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 U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management SSAB Federal Advisory Committee Act Charter.

The INEEL CAB reviewed the Risk-Based End State (RBES) Vision document for the INEEL (DOE/ID-11110) and will submit comments on the document in a separate recommendation.

Regarding the process of seeking public input into the development of this document, the INEEL CAB observes that:

- DOE-Headquarters did not adopt recommendations to modify the original timeline for preparation of the risk-based end state document, despite observations by the public that the timeline was unrealistically aggressive.
- Subsequently, multiple, late-stage changes in RBES timelines have been necessitated because it was impossible for field personnel to comply with the aggressive schedule as laid down by DOE-Headquarters.
- The aggressive RBES timeline and the multiple subsequent changes caused confusion, inconvenience, frustration, and unnecessary expense at the sites and among stakeholders.
- At least one earlier timeline prepared by DOE-Headquarters virtually eliminated opportunities for meaningful public involvement in the development of the RBES document.
- DOE adopted a final timeline for the document that provided a more meaningful opportunity for public involvement; the CAB commends DOE for this action.

The INEEL CAB therefore recommends that DOE HQ give more careful consideration to recommendations from the public, especially with respect to the stability of schedules and adequate time for public involvement.