



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUDGET

The Nation has benefited from activities at the INEL which resulted in the generation of waste and contamination. The Nation has a debt to Idaho, i.e., the burden of cleanup and storage; therefore, Idaho should receive its fair share of EM funding.

The EM SSAB-INEL recommends the DOE place emphasis on actions which are cost effective to accomplish the following.

1. Protect the health and safety of workers, public and environment (specifically the aquifer).
2. Store and handle nuclear materials, including spent nuclear fuel, as safely as possible.
3. Continue efforts to develop solutions to nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel management to prevent Idaho from becoming a permanent repository.
4. There is broad support for the DOE meeting its commitments.
5. We are concerned about the long term viability of the INEL in meeting its waste management and environmental remediation mission, including research and development to meet the needs of the EM program. Specifically, as described in the following:
 - Maintain INEL technical core competencies required to conduct the research and development in science/engineering and applications to develop new technologies and facilities.
 - Assure there is an appropriate mix of personnel with expertise and knowledge of the existing facility operating characteristics and to preserve the institutional memory of the aging INEL facilities.