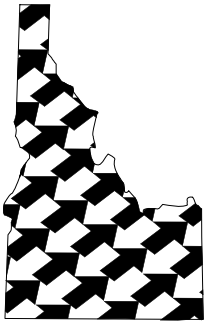

Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering Laboratory

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FISCAL YEAR 1998 INTEGRATED BUDGET PRIORITIZATION

INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Management Site Specific Advisory Board to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (EM SSAB-INEL) met with Department of Energy (DOE) and Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies (LMIT) personnel during its March 20, 1996 meeting of the Board in Idaho Falls. Following detailed presentation and discussion, the EM SSAB-INEL developed the following recommendation to the DOE and LMIT. The recommendation was consensus-based and it was reached unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION

On November 17, 1995, and January 17, 1996, the EM SSAB-INEL provided recommendations to DOE and LMIT on the progress in budget prioritization. A presentation was made on March 20, 1996, which further updated this progress and responded to earlier Board concerns. The Board would like to extend congratulations to Enoch Miles and Lori Fritz, DOE-ID, and Jo Ferguson, LMIT, for an excellent presentation. The Board has increased confidence in the budget prioritization due to the improvements and clarification made to the process. The use of personnel from multiple programs and support organizations (for example, the Murder Boards) has, we believe, led to a more defensible budget.

For future presentations, the Board suggests the Prioritization Criteria graph should be amended. Just as the Mission and the Environment, Safety and Health columns are detailed, we suggest the Regulatory Compliance column be divided into a) liability for non-compliance and b) risk factors.

The Board endorses the accelerated cost concept, especially pursuing the Accelerated High Level Waste Immobilization Plant. The Board feels that accelerating this project will ensure compliance with the Settlement Agreement sooner and at an estimated $1B life-cycle cost reduction. We also support early reduction in mortgage costs whenever possible. The Board is interested in assuring that the necessary Research and Development (R&D) is adequately funded for developing new technologies. R&D efforts should be focused and integrated in order to avoid duplication of technologies being developed elsewhere.

We have several concerns including:

1. The potential for the DOE-ID budget to bear the cost of transporting Foreign Research Reactor fuels. Developed nations should bear all costs related to return of U.S. originated spent fuel from their countries.
2. We encourage further examination of construction projects with the goal of elimination or reduction in scope in order to achieve cost savings.

3. We continue to support the development of and funding for an INEL visitors center at Experimental Breeder Reactor-I, and that DOE-ID pursue the possibility of interagency and intergovernmental support for this endeavor.
4. We encourage DOE attention to the budget implications of liabilities due to regulatory non-compliance in light of recent State of Idaho legislation embodied in the Environmental Audit Act.

Again, we would like to emphasize our appreciation for the thoroughness and quality of today's EM budget prioritization presentation.

5. Integrate funding priorities and cleanup activities -- look at the big picture in making decisions as to how to prioritize funding

Apply and leverage systems integration at INEL

Concern re budget allocation to INEL because it is a clean site.

Maintain early EM SSAB-INEL involvement

Remain responsive to pubic concerns and genuine public involvement activities

Advise public as cleanup and remediation is accomplished

Prioritization requires a clear delineation of risk

Efforts should be risk drive -- closely related to potential impact

Prioritized treatment of highest risk waste in the m cost effective manner

Goals for cost of all activities should be comparable to the private sector

Savings may be possibly by a range of alternatives including privatization, innovative contracting mechanisms and optimizing design, construction, and monitoring

Seek the most efficient and cost effective path forward

Institute efficiencies, don't merely cut dollars

Apply risk evaluations routinely to assure funds remain directed to the highest risk

Highest risk to workers, citizens, aquifer and air are first

Near term expenditures should go to actual treatment of highest risk rather than characterization of lower risk

Relatively inconsequential wastes and waste streams receive attention only after significant and high risk wastes are treated

Progress toward actual cleanup and management of INEL wastes in a cost effective manner that meets all applicable regulations and agreements as opposed to generating further studies

meet regulatory requirements

Not excessive requirements

Utilize existing treatment technologies to put in a stable and retrievable form -- not driven by anticipated acceptance criteria or timing of national repository

have wastes road ready

Investigate alternative treatment technologies to reduce costs and increase effectiveness

Keep quality skill mix and capabilities for technology development

Preserve capabilities and be able to respond to national emergencies

Use most cost effective treatment meeting regulatory standards

Focus on permanent repository

Concern that politics prevents finding solutions -- prolongs activities and escalates costs

Budget recommendation of 3/22/95

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 an 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

SEE WORK FORCE RESTRUCTURING CONCERNS

The INEL will remain under government management for at least the next 100 years.
Mission concerns -- obsolescence of some facilities but others built in core areas
Research and development facilities will be expanded, and er and wm activities will continue.
New mission s could result in reuse of INEL facilities by private-sector interests, supplemented with technology support by INEL personnel.

INEL may be called upon to support defense related operations

No residential development will occur within INEL boundaries

Unlikely another such facilities will ever be sited