



Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

LOW-LEVEL WASTE MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Citizens Advisory Board to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory was briefed by Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office personnel on the low-level waste management strategy under the preferred alternatives in the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS) at meetings in May and July 1997. Additionally, copies of the Focus on 2006 documents, INEEL Site Treatment Plan, and the Waste Management PEIS were reviewed to develop a better understanding of the management of the low-level waste stream. As the PEIS will likely result in separate Records of Decision for each type of waste, it was decided that CAB input would be more beneficial to DOE if presented on a waste-specific basis.

The CAB therefore presents the following recommendations concerning future decision about managing treatment, storage, and disposal of low-level waste:

RECOMMENDATION

Based on information presented to the CAB and review of applicable documents, the CAB recommends the following to DOE-Idaho:

1. That DOE pursue recategorization or delisting of low-level waste that is "below regulatory concern" as suggested in the INEEL CAB's September 1996 recommendation.
2. That low-level waste treatment be consolidated among sites, as per the Final Waste Management PEIS Preferred Alternative, giving consideration to existing treatment capability.
3. That the development of a disposal site at the INEEL with aquifer protection be investigated on a risk and cost basis. Offsite disposal at the Nevada Test Site is preferred.
4. That low-level waste be treated only when cost effective and/or where required by best management practices.