



Citizens Advisory Board  
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

## **PROPOSED SOILS REPOSITORY AT IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY**

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following recommendation is submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region X; and the State of Idaho as the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Citizens Advisory Board's (INEEL CAB) regarding the Soils Repository proposed for the INEEL.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The INEEL CAB recommends construction of a soils repository on the INEEL in compliance with the Settlement Agreement to consolidate INEEL low-level waste soils resulting from removal and remedial activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

We recommend that DOE consider alternative locations throughout the INEEL before finalizing plans for the Soils Repository at Waste Area Group 3 (Idaho Chemical Processing Plant). In considering alternative locations, we recommend the following:

- Selection of an already contaminated area if possible
- Selection of a site with limited flooding potential and with limited potential for infiltration during high precipitation events
- Selection of a site with soil profiles and geologic features that will minimize migration of contaminants
- Selection of a site with sufficient capacity to receive all resulting soils.

Design considerations for the Soils Repository (including the configuration, liner, and engineered cover) are critical to stakeholder acceptance. The Board requests it be kept informed as the design is finalized.

Waste acceptance criteria for the Soils Repository should restrict the acceptance of soils with hazardous metals and long-lived radionuclides which pose a risk to groundwater.

We recommend that the total number of locations where CERCLA soils are disposed at the INEEL should be limited to the extent possible.