



Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

Stakeholder Forum on Alternative Technologies to Incineration

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has reviewed the Notice of Stakeholder Involvement Opportunity: Stakeholder Forum on Alternative Technologies to Incineration.

We applaud the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for following through on its commitment to provide opportunities for ongoing public involvement in the process of developing alternatives to incineration for treatment and disposal of mixed waste in accordance with the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Emerging Technological Alternatives to Incineration. We submit the following recommendations for the Stakeholder Forum.

First, the INEEL CAB recommends that DOE invite delegations from all interested Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB). DOE chartered the EM SSABs in 1994 to provide independent consensus advice regarding the cleanup program at twelve DOE sites around the country. The SSABs are comprised of volunteer citizens with diverse backgrounds and perspectives that hail from various locations in the vicinity of their respective sites. Because of their proximity to the sites where DOE's mixed waste is presently stored, the EM SSABs provide easy access to an interested and informed group of affected citizens.

Second, the INEEL CAB recommends that DOE plan for an on-going process for actively engaging stakeholders in the decision-making process for evaluating alternatives to incineration. We recognize the need for a decision-making process to support the research and development of alternatives to incineration from a technical standpoint. DOE should make every effort to integrate stakeholder concerns throughout that process to ensure that the technologies developed will be publicly acceptable. Ideally, a consistent set of stakeholders would be invited to participate at appropriate junctures in the decision-making process. Our recommendations for the Stakeholder Forum apply to the entire process rather than to a single, stand-alone event.

Third, the INEEL CAB recommends that DOE bear the costs of participation (travel expenses) in the Stakeholder Forum to ensure that a broad range of stakeholders is able to participate in the process.

Fourth, the INEEL CAB recommends that the Stakeholder Forum be designed to fulfill a clearly defined purpose that is distinct from the goals and objectives of the Alternative Technologies to Incineration Committee (ATIC) under the Environmental Management Advisory Board. The Stakeholder Forum should not attempt to duplicate ATIC's function, but rather to focus on the potential for public acceptance of the alternative technologies.

Appropriate objectives for the Stakeholder Forum might include:

1. Identifying when in the research development and deployment process stakeholder involvement should occur and what management level/area of DOE should be involved in interactions with the public,
2. Brainstorming evaluation criteria that reflect citizens concerns about mixed waste treatment technologies,
3. Evaluating the alternatives using these citizen-defined criteria, and
4. Developing a method to empower stakeholders to be involved in the process of developing alternatives to incineration.

Finally, the INEEL CAB recommends that we participate on an ongoing basis in the planning for the Stakeholder Forum. The INEEL CAB has been conducting its own process to evaluate the public acceptability of alternatives to incineration. Because of the rather technical nature of the information that is presently available, this process is more challenging and time consuming than we had predicted. Based on our experience, we recommend that the first opportunity to convene the Stakeholder Forum be focused on brainstorming criteria to reflect citizen concerns and providing background information on the various technology alternatives. The next session could focus on evaluating the alternatives using the criteria that have been developed. Because our internal process is following a similar format, we are willing to provide our listing of criteria (once it has been completed) as a straw man, as well as a description of the process that we used to develop the listing, for the Stakeholder Forum participants to work from.