



INL Site Environmental Management

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

14-CAB-014

August 7, 2014

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The Honorable Ernest J. Moniz
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project

Dear Dr. Moniz,

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) considers the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) to be a unique national asset. AMWTP has one-of-a-kind capabilities that should be used more extensively by the Department of Energy (DOE) to significantly reduce disposition costs of transuranic (TRU) waste through volume reduction. Furthermore, AMWTP produces a stable final waste form that significantly reduces the risk of adverse reactions in TRU waste, such as those that caused the recent issues at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The CAB believes that DOE should continue to utilize AMWTP as a central component of its National TRU Program to maximize the storage space at WIPP while minimizing the disposal risk.

Since operations began in 2003, AMWTP has safely retrieved, characterized, treated, and shipped more than 53,000 of the original 65,000 cubic meters of above-ground stored TRU waste. Furthermore, AMWTP has already proven it can be a national asset by receiving and processing transuranic waste from 13 different DOE site offices across the country.

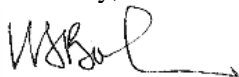
Several independent groups have provided similar recommendations related to the expanded use of AMWTP. The CAB is in agreement with the following statements:

- Idaho Governor's Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission (LINE) Report: *"Once the Idaho cleanup efforts are completed, the facilities at the AMWTP could be effectively used to assist in the characterization and cleanup being performed at other national locations."*
- DOE Office of the Inspector General Report: *"(DOE should) determine the amount of Hanford contact-handled transuranic waste that is suitable for processing at the AMWTP and ultimate disposal at WIPP."*

- U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, 2014: *“In its report released in January 2013, the Idaho Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission noted that once the Idaho cleanup efforts are completed, the facilities at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant (AMWTP) could be effectively used to assist in the characterization and cleanup being performed at other national locations. Given the current budget climate and the necessity to use taxpayer resources wisely, the Committee encourages the Department to fully explore future utilization of the AMWTP to meet the Department's backlog of environmental cleanup requirements and obligations to those states with materials presently awaiting disposition.”*

The CAB requests that, consistent with the recommendations cited above, DOE take steps to evaluate the long-term utilization of AMWTP as part of the National TRU Program.

Sincerely,



Herb Bohrer
INL EM CAB Chair

cc: Dave Borak, DOE-HQ Designated Federal Officer
Mayor Rebecca Casper, City of Idaho Falls
Betsy Connell, DOE-HQ Senior Advisor
Senator Mike Crapo
Harry Griffith, INL EM Site CAB Vice Chair
Kathryn Hitch, Office of Senator Crapo
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Monica Regalbuto, DOE-HQ Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM
Senator Jim Risch
Congressman Mike Simpson
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Jack Zimmerman, DOE-ID Deputy Designated Federal Officer