



## INL Site Environmental Management

C I T I Z E N S   A D V I S O R Y   B O A R D

14-CAB-015

August 7, 2014

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State of Idaho

Hoss Brown

Idaho Cleanup Project

### Support Staff

North Wind Services

1425 Higham Street

Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Phone 208.557.7886

Fax 208.528.8714

John E. Surash

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management

EM-50/Forrestal Building

U.S. Department of Energy

1000 Independence Ave. SW

Washington DC 20585

### **Subject: Contracting Strategy for the Environmental Management Activities at Idaho National Laboratory**

Dear Mr. Surash,

At the most recent meeting of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Environmental Management (EM) Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB), held July 10, 2014, the Board was briefed on the contracting strategy and status for Environmental Management activities at INL.

During the briefing, the CAB expressed concern over the issue of contract transition. It was pointed out the most recent transition between the Idaho Treatment Group and the incumbent, BBWI, was not well executed and resulted in degradation of both safety and production.

As part of the briefing, we were told that this procurement is being managed from the DOE-EM Ohio office, and is not under the direct control of DOE-ID. Based on the limited amount of information we were provided, it appears that the shift from two to four new contractors will result in many more interfaces and potential transition issues.

The Board has three particular areas are of specific concern:

1. The identification of all of the potential interfaces among the new contractors and development of clear roles and responsibilities for their management in order to ensure that both production and safety objectives will continue to be achieved.

2. How core Environment, Safety and Health services will be managed to minimize unnecessary duplication of effort while maintaining the high level of performance we have come to expect.
3. The effect on the workers. During the last transition we saw a deterioration in both the morale of the work force as well as the safety performance of the program. The existing contractors have worked hard to establish vigorous safety cultures, with active worker involvement. The CAB would like to know how DOE intends to deal with this issue.

The Board is concerned that adequate measures be put in place to better manage contract transition. The Board requests that this issue be addressed and that DOE respond to the Board on the steps being taken to mitigate this potential issue.

DOE and its contractors are justifiably proud of the safety record they have achieved at INL, and the CAB commends them for their work. We are concerned that nothing detracts either from the safety performance or the excellent production performance these contractors are achieving.

Sincerely,



Herb Bohrer  
INL EM CAB Chair

cc: Dave Borak, DOE-HQ Designated Federal Officer  
Mayor Rebecca Casper, City of Idaho Falls  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Harry Griffith, INL EM Site CAB Vice Chair  
Kathryn Hitch, Office of Senator Crapo  
Ethan Huffman, Office of Congressman Mike Simpson  
Bob Pence, DOE-ID Federal Coordinator  
Rick Provencher, DOE-ID Manager  
Monica Regalbuto, DOE-HQ Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EM  
Senator Jim Risch  
Congressman Mike Simpson  
Amy Taylor, Office of Senator Jim Risch  
Mark Whitney, DOE-HQ Acting Assistant Secretary for EM  
Jack Zimmerman, DOE-ID Deputy Designated Federal Officer