



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

# Historic Overview of EM Program in Idaho

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**Brad Bugger**

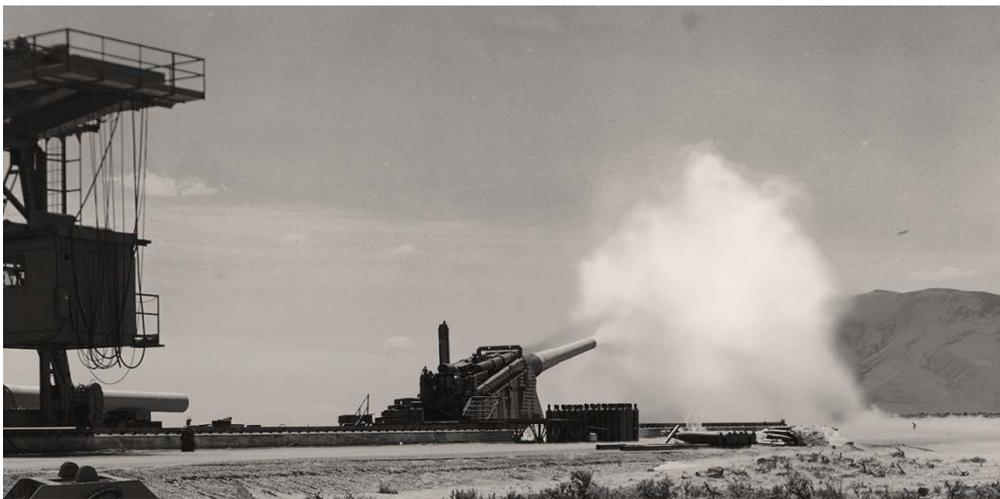
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Idaho Cleanup Project

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# Historical Underpinnings

- Pre-AEC activities, including ordnance testing
- Radioactive Waste Management Complex: burial, storage of transuranic and low-level waste
- Reactor testing and reprocessing – accumulating spent nuclear fuel, generating high-level radioactive waste



## Historical Underpinnings (cont.)

- Incidents and accidents – SL-1 accident, leak in tank farm transfer lines, etc.
- Waste practices acceptable at that time – percolation ponds, injection wells, direct disposal of hazardous wastes, etc.



# Key Legal Decisions

- Leaf v. Hodel, 1986 – Determined RCRA applies to DOE-managed hazardous waste
- Amendment to Superfund Legislation, 1986 – added federal facilities to Superfund cleanup
- Federal Facilities Compliance Act, 1993 – recognized DOE needed some leeway to develop treatment for mixed wastes; also clearly stated that federal facilities were covered by RCRA



# External Influences

- End of Cold War, growing openness of the Department, FBI raid of Rocky Flats, revelations about environmental problems around the Weapons Complex
- Decision by Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus to block shipments of further Rocky Flats waste from coming to Idaho for storage
- Decision by Andrus, later joined by Gov. Batt, to sue DOE to block further storage of spent fuel in Idaho without an environmental review
- Tribes block spent fuel shipment to Idaho



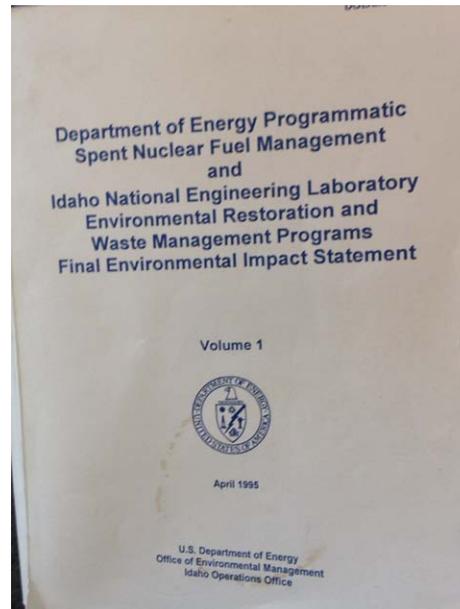
# Legal, Regulatory Agreements That Drive Program

- Federal Facility Agreement/Consent Order was reached in 1991, establishing process guiding Superfund cleanup
- Idaho Settlement Agreement was signed in 1995, established deadlines for treatment and/or removal of specific waste streams
- Idaho Site Treatment Plan, first negotiated in the mid-1990s, established the development of treatment plans and capability for mixed waste



# Significant Environmental Studies Guide the Program

- Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel and INEL Cleanup and Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Programmatic Waste Management EIS
- High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition EIS



# Rise of Public Involvement

- The State of Idaho's INL Oversight Program was created by the Legislature in 1989 and, in 1990, DOE agreed to fund the program, the first of its kind in the nation
- INL Site Specific Advisory Board was conceived by a citizens design committee in 1993; the board has had input on every major cleanup decision made in Idaho over the past 20 years



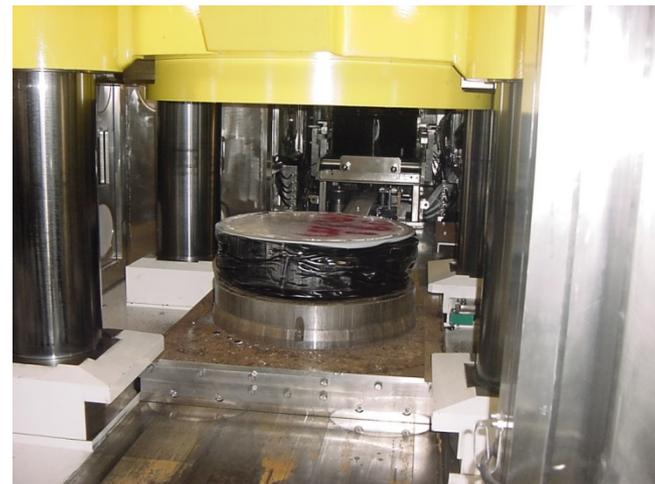
## Rise of Public Involvement (cont.)

- A Working Agreement was signed by the Department of Energy and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in 1992, and a series of Agreements-in-Principle have followed, defining the working relationship between the tribes and DOE
- CERCLA, RCRA and NEPA all have public involvement requirements, and the public has had the opportunity to participate in decision-making process for every major cleanup decision made by DOE in Idaho



# Experiments in Privatization

- Pit 9
- Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project
- Spent nuclear fuel packaging facility



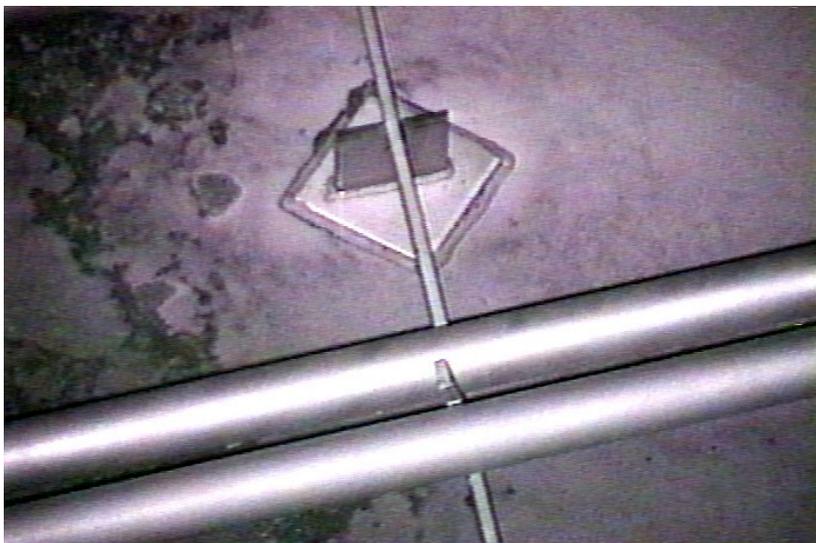
# Major Accomplishments

- Day-to-day operations have evolved in compliance with new ways of doing business and new environmental laws and regulations
- Cleanup of legacy sites has progressed significantly (5 of 9 operable units are closed)
- Targeted buried waste exhumation on track (ARPS 1-7 complete, ARP 8 in progress, ARP 9 will be final retrieval facility)



## Major Accomplishments (cont.)

- Eleven high-level waste tanks have been emptied, cleaned and closed
- DOE-Idaho is largest shipper of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in the DOE Complex
- Most spent nuclear fuel pools have been closed, most spent fuel now in dry storage



## Major Accomplishments (cont.)

- We have safely decontaminated and demolished over 200 buildings and structures at INL, including three nuclear reactors, the TAN Hot Shop, and the CPP 601/640 Fuel Reprocessing Complex

