



Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Priorities

During a meeting of the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) on February 21, 2018, Mr. Jack Zimmerman, Deputy Manager of the ICP, briefed participating CAB members on the proposed budget priorities for Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Fiscal Year 2020.

The overarching priorities are to:

1. Protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer
2. Exhume targeted buried waste
3. Solidify liquid waste stored over the aquifer
4. Remove all stored transuranic waste from above the aquifer
5. Cap remaining buried waste
6. Remove all stored spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry

At the April 19, 2018 ICP CAB meeting, Mr. Zimmerman presented the ICP five year focus priorities to help meet the overarching priorities listed above:

1. Complete exhumation of all targeted buried waste and Phase 1 remedial action report. Complete associated treatment and associated certification of this waste.
2. Complete Integrated Waste Treatment Unit system recovery and begin treatment of 900,000 gallons of sodium bearing waste.
3. Complete certification of all Idaho Settlement Agreement transuranic waste, and ship to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant according to WIPP shipping schedule.
4. Complete placement of 1,000 Advanced Test Reactor spent nuclear fuel elements from wet to dry storage.
5. Complete the transfer of Experimental Breeder Reactor-II spent nuclear fuel bottles to either the Materials and Fuels Complex for treatment by Idaho National Laboratory contractor, or placement in dry storage.
6. Complete the final design document for the Subsurface Disposal Area cap.

The ICP CAB has reviewed the information provided by Mr. Zimmerman and strongly recommends that the DOE-Office of Environmental Management support this budget request for the full funding of cleanup operations in Idaho. This recommendation is based on the following considerations: The top two priorities address the risks associated with migrating contaminants, and the other priorities address equally important waste products but waste being relatively contained and managed at this time.

Therefore, the above listing of budget priorities is consistent with our views. The CAB wishes to emphasize the importance of ongoing environmental monitoring.

Beyond the central analysis connected to environmental risk, there is also the ongoing need to meet the requirements of the 1995 Settlement Agreement between the State of Idaho, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Department of Energy. We are very aware of the significance of the required dates and milestones, including the extra challenge this imposes on Idaho National Laboratory management for the efficient deployment of scarce resources.

We appreciate the multiple opportunities to receive background information on the budget process of the Department and the Federal Government. We understand and appreciate that DOE values our informed input and are grateful for Mr. Zimmerman's availability to answer our many questions during our meetings.