



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Nuclear Energy

# **Idaho National Laboratory Remote-Handled (RH) Low-Level Waste (LLW) Disposal Project**

*Briefing of Project Status*

INL Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

**September 29, 2010**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Nuclear Energy

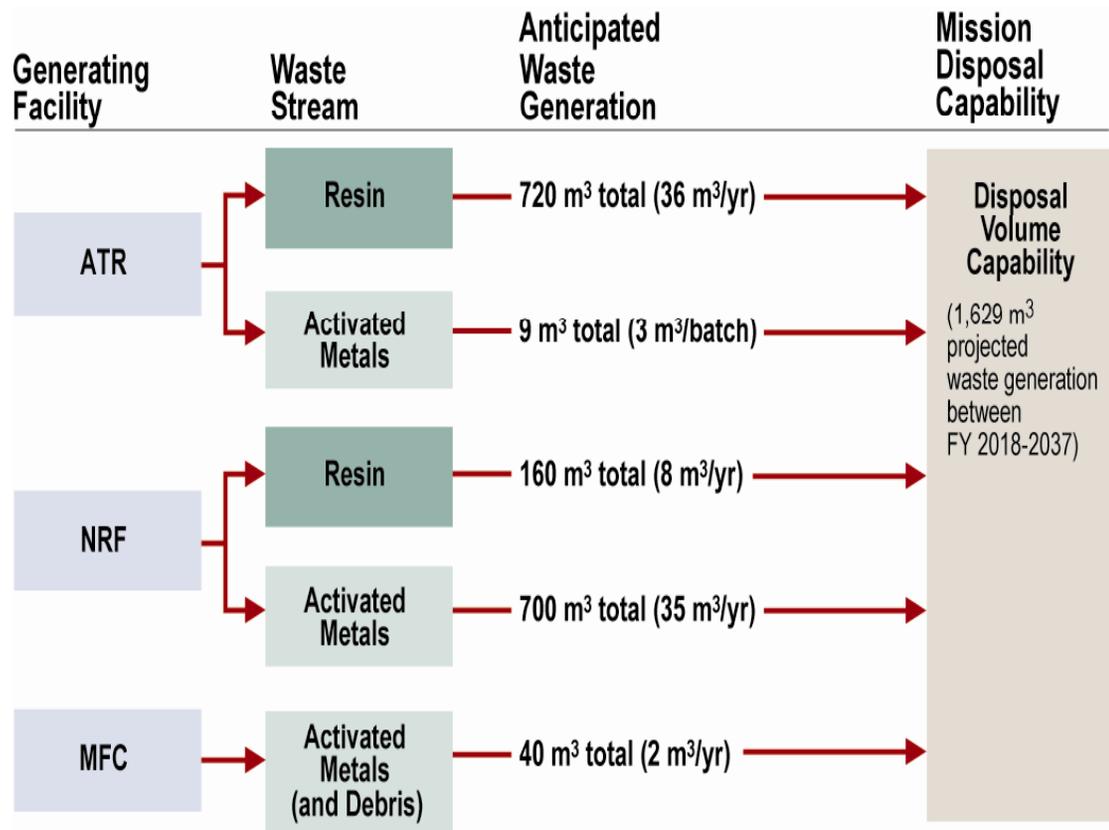
## Replacement Capability for Disposal of RH LLW Required

- Current plans are to continue waste disposal in the existing RH LLW vaults through September 30, 2017
  - *Vaults will operate until full (currently at 60% capacity) or until the facility must be closed in preparation for final remediation of the SDA*
  - *Vault closure supports Record of Decision for WAG 7 Operable Unit 13/14*
- Continued capability to dispose of RH LLW is needed to support ongoing and potentially future missions at DOE's Idaho Site
- Project Sponsor – Office of Nuclear Energy (principal) in collaboration with the Office of Naval Reactors
- Status – Mission Need Statement approved July 2009



# Projected RH LLW Generation

- RH LLW is generated at:
  - the Advanced Test Reactor Complex
  - Materials & Fuels Complex
  - Naval Reactors Facility
  - Potential future missions
- Twenty year waste projections estimated at  $\leq 2000 \text{ ft}^3$
- Primarily comprised of activated metals and spent resin
- Does **NOT** include transuranic, Greater-than-Class C, or hazardous wastes (RCRA)





# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Approach

- Environmental Assessment (EA) under development
- Proposed Action – Provide reliable replacement disposal capability for RH LLW generated at DOE’s Idaho Site
- Related NEPA evaluations include
  - *Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management EIS (DOE 1995)*
  - *Waste Management Programmatic EIS (DOE 1997)*
- Alternatives being evaluated include:
  - *Off-site disposal of RH LLW at the Nevada National Security Site*
  - *Development of a new on-site disposal facility for RH LLW*
- Public comment period planned to begin in January 2011