

IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT

“I am proud of the achievements made by Idaho Cleanup Project crews in the past year. In 2022, we completed numerous accomplishments, including the completion of targeted waste exhumation from the Subsurface Disposal Area and retrieval of the remaining Advanced Test Reactor’s spent nuclear fuel elements from the storage basin at the Idaho Nuclear Technology Engineering Center. I am very appreciative of the efforts of my team and our contractor partners.”

– Connie Flohr, Manager, Idaho Cleanup Project

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Completed exhumation of 5.69 acres of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex Subsurface Disposal Area—an E 2022 priority.**
- Retrieved the last of the Advanced Test Reactor’s spent nuclear fuel elements from a storage basin and transferred them to a nearby dry-storage facility.
- Completed demolition of the S1W reactor support buildings B608/625 at the Naval Reactors Facility.

EXHUMING TRANSURANIC WASTE AND PROTECTING THE SNAKE RIVER PLAIN AQUIFER

Crews completed the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) ahead of schedule to remove targeted waste from the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, waste. The retrievals took place within nine areas totaling 5.69 acres of the Subsurface Disposal Area, a 97-acre landfill, and involved more than 10,000 cubic meters (about 48,000 55-gallon drums) of targeted, buried transuranic waste. The work protects the underlying Snake River Plain Aquifer and supports a 2008 Record of Decision between EM, the Environmental Protection Agency, and state of Idaho.

TRANSFERRING SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

A key milestone with the state of Idaho—the transfer of all spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from wet to dry storage by December 2023—is in sight.

EM’s contractor retrieved the last of the Advanced Test Reactor’s (ATR) SNF elements from Chemical Processing Plant (CPP)-666’s basin at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Complex and transferred them to a nearby dry-storage facility. Another milestone was met in August as crews completed the 100th shipment of Experimental Breeder Reactor-II (EBR-II) fuel to the Radioactive and Scrap Waste Facility at the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC). Fewer than 20 shipments of EBR-II to MFC remain to empty the CPP-666 basin and complete the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement milestone.



An ARP employee displays a drum containing the last exhumed waste from the ARP IX facility.



SNF handlers remove the last ATR fuel element from the CPP-666 storage basin.

DECONTAMINATION AND DEMOLITION

After a nearly decade-long hiatus from decontamination and demolition work, crews completed the demolition of buildings B608/625 at the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF). The 10,000-square-foot, single-story buildings were used for training and maintenance activities in support of the S1W reactor mission. The S1W reactor was the prototype power system for the USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. It was shut down in 1989.



Crews demolish buildings B608/625 at the NRF.