



Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Priorities

During a public meeting of the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) on February 21, 2019, Mr. Jack Zimmerman briefed the CAB on the proposed budget priorities for Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Fiscal Year 2021.

The CAB has reviewed the information provided by Mr. Zimmerman and strongly recommends that DOE-Environmental Management support this budget request for the full funding of cleanup operations in Idaho. This recommendation is based on the following considerations.

We had a full discussion of this listing of proposed budget priorities; each identified and ranked according to the agreed-upon need for protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer to ensure the safety and health of the stakeholders in Idaho:

1. Solidify liquid waste stored over the aquifer
2. Remove all stored transuranic waste from above the aquifer
3. Remove targeted buried waste and cap Subsurface Disposal Area
4. Remove all stored spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage
5. Manage high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel for eventual disposal

Members of the CAB reviewed the priorities in terms of relative risk to the environment and agreed that the rank order aligns with that risk. Therefore, the above listing of budget priorities is consistent with our views.

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. CAB members are very aware of the significance of the required dates and milestones, including the extra challenge this imposes on INL management for the efficient deployment of scarce resources.

In particular, the CAB recognizes the need for funding of ongoing maintenance of storage systems at the site and, most importantly, the urgent need for completion of the disposal path so this waste has a long-term repository.

We appreciate the multiple opportunities to receive background information on the budget process of the Department and the Federal Government. We understand that the Department does value our informed input and we appreciate that. We also appreciate Mr. Zimmerman's availability to answer our many questions during our meeting.