

Environmental Management Public Outreach Summary

Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office

April 2021 – August 2021

Compiled for the August 18, 2021 Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

Formal Public Interaction

- **April 29: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Work Plan Update:** The updated RCRA work plan was posted on the external Idaho Cleanup Project website. The work plan includes proposed schedules for RCRA-regulated permitting and closure activities at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site and incorporates applicable amended Notice of Noncompliance/Consent Order (NON/CO) deadlines as well as proposed upcoming permit application, closure plan, and permit modification submittal dates.
- **May 6: Virtual Public Meeting:** A virtual public meeting was held for the Class 2 Permit Modification Request (PMR) with a Request for Temporary Authorization (PMR/RTA) for the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) Hazardous Waste Management Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (HWMA) Permit. The PMR/RTA proposes removing the prohibition of processing ignitable and reactive waste to complete processing the RF-762 and some Argonne National Laboratory East waste streams. No members of the public participated.
- **May 10: Butte County Commissioners briefing:** The Department of Energy (DOE), Fluor Idaho, and Battelle Energy Alliance briefed the Butte County Commissioners on the status of projects.
- **May 12: LINE Commission meeting:** DOE Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Manager Connie Flohr gave a presentation to the LINE Commission on the status of ICP projects.
- **May 27: Department of Energy New Release:** The US Department of Energy issued a news release announcing it will award Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC (IEC) of Tullahoma, TN, the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) End State contract.
- **June 3: Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) Permit Modification Request:** DOE submitted a Class 3 Permit Modification Request (PMR) to IDEQ for the IWTU RCRA Permit. The PMR updates several elements of the permit based on Outage J testing results. The Class 3 PMR requires a 60-day public comment period, which began on June 3, and a subsequent public hearing/meeting.
- **June 7: 60-day Public Comment Period Closes:** The 60-day comment period for a Class 2 Permit Modification Request with a Request for Temporary Authorization (PMR/RTA) for the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) Hazardous Waste Management Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (HWMA) Permit

closed. This PMR/RTA provides for adding operational controls to support the processing of legacy mixed waste that is ignitable (potentially pyrophoric) or reactive in the AMWTP WMF-676 box lines.

- **June 9: Five-Year Review:** A newspaper ad ran in the Idaho Falls *Post Register* on the initiation of the Naval Reactors Facility five-year review.
- **June 24: IWTU PMR Virtual Public Meeting:** A virtual public meeting was held to discuss the Class 3 Permit Modification Request for the IWTU RCRA Permit and to answer questions. One reporter and four members of the public participated in the video public meeting. All questions were promptly answered with no outstanding questions from the public.
An article ran in the Idaho Falls *Post Register* and discussed the changes made to the IWTU.
- **June 28: Request to Extend IWTU Site Treatment Plan Milestones:** The Department of Energy notified the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality of its intent to seek extension of the IWTU Site Treatment Plan milestones by 1 year and 3 months. The extension request is due to schedule impacts resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- **August 2: 60-day Public Comment Period Closes:** The comment period for the Class 3 Permit Modification Request for the IWTU RCRA Permit closed.
- **August 3: 30-day Public Comment Period Opens:** The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality announced the opening of the 30-day comment period for the IWTU Site Treatment Plan milestone revision.

Additional Community Interaction

- **May 4: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on an eastern Idaho college student who desired a career in radiation protection. The student graduated from the College of Eastern Idaho and served a six-month internship as a junior radiation control technician before being hired by Fluor Idaho as a full-time radiation protection employee.
- **May 11: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the virtual waste certification process that has allowed for continued shipments from the INL Site to the Nevada National Security Site during the COVID-19 pandemic. The INL Site sends real-time radiography video to a waste certification expert in Nevada who reviews the video on a laptop to ensure the waste meets strict certification and disposal criteria.
- **May 18: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the steps Fluor Idaho's Waste Management Program have taken to protect employees and fulfill Idaho Settlement Agreement milestones during the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to offsite shipments of low-level radioactive waste.

- **May 20: Facebook post:** Fluor Idaho posted an article and photos of TRUPACT-II containers that are used to transport transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).
- **May 25: EM Update article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the last shipment of remote-handled low-level (RH-LLW) waste being disposed of in the underground vaults at the Subsurface Disposal Area. Future RH-LLW shipments will go to a Battelle Energy Alliance-managed facility near the Advanced Test Reactor Complex.
- **June 7: Facebook post:** Fluor Idaho posted an article on its Facebook page about the use of remote manipulators for opening containers of radioactive waste and characterizing, sizing, treating, and repackaging the material in hot cells.
- **June 15: EM Update article:** An *EM Update* article ran on the personal risk evaluation process (PREP) training that was implemented by DOE and Fluor Idaho. PREP trains employees to recognize workplace hazards as energy sources and to develop mitigating strategies. PREP is being used to strengthen current employee-owned safety programs at the ICP.
- **June 21: Facebook post:** Fluor Idaho posted a brief article on its Facebook page about the use of real-time radiography (RTR) at the ICP to literally see inside waste drums and boxes.
- **June 22: EM Update article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the removal of waste and eventual closure of AMWTP's Transuranic Storage Area-Retrieval Enclosure.
- **June 29: EM Update article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the use of the hot cells at CPP-659 being used to break up concrete-encased RH-TRU waste, characterize it, and repackage the material for storage and eventual shipment to WIPP.
- **July 12: Facebook post:** Fluor Idaho posted an informative piece on its Facebook page outlining the differences between radiation and contamination.
- **July 13: EM Update article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the cleanup objectives being met for the vapor vacuum extraction (VVE) units at the Subsurface Disposal Area. The three VVE units will likely remain shut off in perpetuity.
- **July 27: EM Update article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the certification of more than 2,200 drums of TRU waste, paving the way for shipment to WIPP. An article also ran in the Carlsbad *Current-Argus* on July 28.

- **July 27: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the installation of a new well at the Test Area North that will enhance current groundwater treatment efforts.
- **August 2-6: Office of Nuclear Energy (NE-1) visit:** Acting Assistant Secretary, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Katie Huff toured INL and ICP facilities.
- **August 3: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the completion of Outage J at the IWTU and preparations for the confirmatory run.
- **August 10: *EM Update* article and press release:** An *EM Update* article and press release ran on the shipment of a plutonium-beryllium source from the INL Site to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). PNNL plans to use the neutron-emitting source in their calibration laboratory.

Upcoming Formal Public Interaction

- **August 20: Leadership In Nuclear Energy Commission virtual meeting:** Idaho Cleanup Project Manager, Connie Flohr, will update the LINE Commission on the status of Idaho Cleanup Projects.
- **September 1: Idaho National Laboratory Director tour:** INL Lab Director John Wagner will tour the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit.
- **September 2: Public Comment Period Closes:** The 30-day public comment period for the IWTU Site Treatment Plan milestone revision closes.