



# IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT

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C I T I Z E N S   A D V I S O R Y   B O A R D

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 24, 2022

## List of Acronyms

CAB	Citizens Advisory Board		
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	IDIQ	Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity
		IEC	Idaho Environmental Coalition
DDFO	Deputy Designated Federal Officer	INL	Idaho National Laboratory
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	IWTU	Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
DOE	U.S Department of Energy	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
DOE-ID	U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office	NRF	Naval Reactor Facility
EM	DOE Office of Environmental Management	UXO	unexploded ordnance
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ESCM	End State Contracting Model	ROD	Record of Decision
ICDF	Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility	RFP	Request for Proposal
ICP	Idaho Cleanup Project	SDA	Subsurface Disposal Area
		WAG	Waste Area Group

The Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) held a meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022 virtually via Zoom. An audio recording of the meeting was created and may be reviewed by calling CAB Support Staff at 208-557-7886.

**Members Present**

Jackie Agenbroad  
Josh Bartlome  
Teri Ehresman  
Debi Farber  
Monica Hampton  
Roger Hernandez  
Brandon Leatham  
Talia Martin  
Dick Meservey  
John Sigler  
Bob Skinner

**Member(s) Not Present**

Mark Permann

**Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), Federal Coordinator, and Liaisons Present**

Connie Flohr, DDFO, U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID)  
Danielle Miller, Federal Coordinator, DOE-ID  
Ty Blackford, President & CEO, Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC (IEC)  
Mark Clough, State of Idaho  
Pete Johansen, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Benjamin Leake, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Others Present**

Nicole Badrov, DOE-ID  
Mark Brown, DOE-ID  
Trent Neville, DOE-ID  
Joel Case, DOE-ID  
Taryn Couchman, DOE-ID  
Shelby Goodwin, DOE-ID  
Doug Pruitt, DOE-ID  
Schyler Walker, DOE-ID  
Beatrice Brailsford  
Maria Mitchell-Williams, DOE-ID  
Kelsey Shank, The EDGE, LLC  
Amin Almahie  
Gary Younger, DOE Hanford Advisory Board  
Jordan Davies, ICP CAB Support Staff

Ted Livieratos, State of Idaho  
Nicole Hernandez, DOE-ID  
Dana Kirkham, IEC  
Daphne Larsen  
Wayne Barber, *Exchange Monitor*  
Mark Jones, DOE-ID  
Ryan Jensen  
Lori Isom, DOE-ID  
Ty Sanders  
JoVanna White  
Sergio Hernandez, DOE-ID  
Natalie Walker, State of Idaho  
Amber Fugal ICP CAB Support Staff  
Andrea Gumm, ICP CAB Support Staff

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

Facilitator Andrea Gumm began the meeting at 8:00 a.m. She reminded everyone of the rules for Zoom and reviewed the agenda. She noted the times of the two public comment periods but stated that no one had signed up for public comment. She reminded attendees of the process for public comments during the meeting, time permitting.

Teri Ehresman (CAB Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the CAB members for attending and the DOE team for their work putting the meeting together.

Connie Flohr (DOE-ID DDFO) welcomed everyone and said she was happy to have Ty Blackford, president of IEC, attending the meeting. IEC took over officially on January 1 and is making good progress on task order planning. She said Task Order 3 will make use of the End State Contracting Model (ESCM) and identify discrete deliverables to be completed by end of this fiscal year. Much of this year will be planning and road mapping to set the stage for the rest of the contract years. Flohr said she was looking forward to the agenda and discussion. She added that most of the DOE-ID team will soon be back in the office at least two days a week, so if agency representatives want to start scheduling in-person meetings they can do that soon.

Mark Clough (Idaho National Laboratory [INL] Settlement Agreement Coordinator) stated he was excited participate in the meeting. He welcomed the public and commented that the day's agenda looked like a good one. Clough reported that Blackford had reached out and that he foresees a positive future relationship with IEC as the cleanup work seamlessly continues. Clough commented that he is keeping a close eye on the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU); it's in the middle of a system performance test that he hopes is successful. He said he is excited about progress at the Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA) and that he is proud of the safe work in that area over 15+ years.

Pete Johansen (DEQ) welcomed IEC and congratulated DOE on progress at Waste Area Group (WAG) 7. He said he and his colleagues look forward to being onsite in person again as it has been a while due to COVID. He commented that he was looking forward to the meeting.

Ben Leake (EPA) thanked the CAB for having him. He said EPA is well invested in the site and that he is looking forward to informative presentations today.

Ty Blackford (IEC) said he was happy to be meeting with the CAB. He commented that it is a pleasure to work with Flohr and her team and that he looked forward to a presentation later in the day about that collaboration and the progress being made.

## Recent Public Outreach

Danielle Miller (DOE-ID) reviewed recent public outreach activities. The document is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

## ICP Overview

Mark Brown, Doug Pruitt, and Joel Case (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on the status of cleanup at the Idaho site. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Clough provided clarification about a rule of thumb for estimating the number of drums that have been produced. He stated that one cubic meter fits inside approximately five 55-gallon drums, so if you multiply the number of cubic meters by five you can get an estimate of the number of drums.

Flohr stated that there are plans for Ike White, senior advisor for the Office of Environmental Management, to visit Idaho the last week of March for the celebration. Governor Little and Chairman Boyer were also

invited. She said if any of the CAB members were interested, they could reach out to Miller about an invitation to attend.

Bob Skinner (CAB Member) asked about a fence around SIW and if it is separate from the rest of the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF). Flohr responded yes, there is a separate entrance now so people do not go through the same gate into NRF. There are still guards there guarding the entrance, but it is easier for trucks to get into the area.

Skinner commented that someone from the National Historical Society contacted him and wanted to tour the SIW facility in April. Flohr said that would be a possibility, but that they would need to coordinate with the right people at NRF. She added that there is much interest in historical preservation out there. Skinner agreed and said Navy people are very interested in seeing how this all started.

Monica Hampton (CAB Member) asked if Case could speak more about the permit modification and the associated process. Case responded that they have Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permits for storage, so they have to reflect closure to allow that work. He said DOE will coordinate with the State as the permit must be modified to allow retrieval. Hampton commented that she would like to better understand the process. Case offered to discuss it in further detail with her in a separate discussion. He added that he assumed the permit modification would go through the public process. Clough noted that there are people at DEQ who can provide the details and that Johansen and Case will ensure Hampton is put in touch with the right people to get the correct and current information.

## **IWTU Update**

Joel Case (DOE-ID) provided an update on the IWTU. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked if the challenges they have been facing were expected and if they were still on schedule. Case responded that they did not anticipate a vendor shortage and anticipated more challenges associated with the weather. He commented that they have touched essentially every system in the plant at this point and have conducted extensive testing at the pilot plant. Part of this outage looked at areas that could potentially be single points of failure. Once through the confirmatory run and filter inspection, the question will be if they can have sustained radiological operations, operating the plant with the systems they put in place during the outage. Case added that once up to temperature, the facility does not fluctuate much on process and the material that is produced. The last run was successful in terms of the product.

## **Introduction to Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC**

Ty Blackford (IEC) provided an introduction to new cleanup contractor, IEC. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Talia Martin (CAB Member) commented on the complexity of the Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) task order process and stated that it would be helpful to understand it more as IEC and DOE proceed. She referred to Blackford's mention of a 10-year strategic vision and asked if that is documented so they can reference back over time. Flohr responded that she came up with a 10-year vision document for the Request for Proposal (RFP). It contains everything DOE-ID envisions for the site within the next 10-year window. Now, DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) has begun requiring a 10-year task order plan. Flohr said it is a living document but that she can share it and offered to walk the CAB through Task Order 3 at another time.

Skinner said he heard from many people that the transition went very well, that it was extremely smooth and very much appreciated by ICP employees who did not have to worry about whether or not they would have a job with IEC. Brown said DOE-ID recognized IEC's approach and thanked Blackford and his team. He added that DOE-ID put this as a lessons learned for the future for these types of transition contracts.

Flohr explained that they are sharing information about this transition and ESCMs on a special panel at the upcoming waste management conference.

Hampton asked about community involvement and what IEC is planning for outreach. She said the previous contractor provided information regarding their contributions to communities and employees and asked IEC would do the same. Blackford responded that as IEC finalizes those plans, he will share them with the CAB. Volunteerism and sweat equity are important to them and they would love to have more people involved.

Beatrice Brailsford, Pocatello, asked why the 10-year plan included closing the monitoring wells at the burial ground. She asked why they would not want to leave the wells operable for some time beyond the 10-year window. Blackford responded that some monitoring on site will continue on the SDA. Wells being closed are immediately underneath the cap and adjacent to facilities being torn down. Brailsford clarified that they will continue to monitor downstream, and Blackford said absolutely. Brailsford asked if there is a timeframe for changing the calcine Record of Decision (ROD). Flohr said they are hoping to do that this calendar year. They are in the process of conducting supplemental analysis right now and will need to coordinate with DOE Headquarters. They will follow the typical National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and have public involvement.

### **Public Comment Session #1**

There were no public comments.

### **Munitions and Explosives of Concern**

Shelby Goodwin and Taryn Couchman (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on munitions and explosives of concern. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked about the driver for the ordnance removal - is it in an area where workers might travel or is it for firefighter safety in fighting range fires? Goodwin responded that it fell under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and because there was a hazard posed by the unexploded ordnance, there was a safety issue. Flohr added that it is a little bit of everything. Sometimes a new project would necessitate the area be cleared before digging or drilling. Other times it is simply a requirement to ensure due diligence in finding and appropriately disposing of anything that might be out on the site. She noted that the 2019 Sheep Fire was so large that it gave them an opportunity to go back and see if any ordnance had been exposed that had not been previously visible.

Skinner asked what types of things they find that require high order detonation. Goodwin replied that they mostly find inert items, but that items containing explosives are found in certain areas. Couchman added that a lot of it is explosives waste or maybe it experienced a low-level detonation so there are parts and pieces that need to be removed. She said a very small percentage actually poses a hazard.

Debi Farber (CAB Member) referred to institutional controls and asked how DOE knows they need to do an activity notice. Goodwin responded that there is a written plan and that managers are trained to know when they need to go through the notification process for disturbance activities in certain areas. An unexploded ordnance (UXO) qualified person will help guide them through that process. If the item is in a high hazard level area, there are certain procedures they must follow. A UXO trained person will go out and survey and clear an area. There are a lot of moving parts that work together. Couchman added there are field worker procedures requiring anyone conducting work off established roads to have specific training, including UXO awareness.

Roger Hernandez (CAB Member) observed that items must continually be exposed because of soil movement and other disturbances. He asked if they regularly survey for UXO, if there is a trigger for that, or if it is performed on an annual or biannual basis. Goodwin replied that all surveying was done under remedial action activities and that they are not physically looking for or doing annual surveys. Currently, UXO is found incidental to other activities.

## **Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Priorities**

Schyler Walker (DOE-ID) provided a presentation on Fiscal Year 2024 budget priorities. The presentation is available on the ICP CAB website: <https://energy.gov/em/icpcab>.

Ehresman asked if DOE-ID has any inkling about whether they will receive the requested 2022 funding. Flohr responded that they have gotten indications that there is a top line agreement on the total appropriation levels. They may have to go under extension to continuing resolution to the end of March, but Flohr said she hopes they have passage of the bills by the beginning of April. She added that they are about five months behind on the administration budget process for Fiscal Year 23.

## **Budget Recommendation Discussion**

Ehresman asked if the CAB members had any edits to the draft budget recommendation that was sent out in their advance information packet. Skinner said he looked it over and thought the ranking was appropriate. He felt the top two items that addressed the aquifer were an appropriate ranking. Dick Meservey (CAB Member) said he also agreed.

Flohr commented that she thought it was good that the Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF) expansion was on the list, and she reminded everyone that there would be a document about the expansion going out to the public in March and they would be taking public input. She said she appreciates support from the CAB, and hopes they get support from the public.

John Sigler (CAB Member) asked if there were budget numbers attached to each priority. Flohr said Walker's presentation broke that out a little bit, but some of the stuff is grouped together. Walker said any numbers are a high-level assumption. Flohr explained that the numbers are not important. What matters is the CAB's ranking of the priorities.

Hernandez said he was good with the priorities they had unless there was something different on the horizon. Ehresman asked if all the items would still be in play in 2024 and Flohr responded yes.

Based on consensus by the group the recommendation will be submitted.

## **Public Comment Session #2**

There were no public comments.

Josh Bartlome (CAB Vice-Chair) announced that he would be moving to Florida later in the year and would unfortunately have to resign from his role on the CAB in August.

## **Announcement of Vice-Chair Election Result**

Miller discussed the process outlined in CAB procedures for chair and vice-chair elections and terms. Because Bartlome, current vice-chair, is leaving in August, he will be unable to serve as chair for the following year. Miller announced that after talking to those individuals who were nominated, Skinner will be the new vice-chair. Skinner said he was happy to step into the leadership role and commented that he and Ehresman work well together. He said he was looking forward to being part of the team.

Miller thanked Ehresman for agreeing to serve as chair for another year, until August 2023 at which time, Skinner will move up to the chair position and a new vice-chair will be elected. Flohr also thanked Teri for agreeing to serve another year.

## **Conclusion**

Andrea Gumm concluded the public portion of the meeting.