

# **Environmental Management Public Outreach Summary**

## **Department of Energy- Idaho Operations Office**

May 2023 – October 2023

*Compiled for the October 25, 2023, Idaho Citizens Advisory Board Meeting*

### **Formal Public Interaction:**

- **May 3: Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission 3.0:** Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, Connie Flohr, provided an Idaho Cleanup Project update to the LINE Commission 3.0 at their Idaho Falls meeting.
- **May 16: Press Release:** The Idaho Cleanup Project issued a news release entitled *Idaho Waste Treatment Facility Increases Production Fivefold* in reference to the increase in the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit's waste throughput.
- **May 22: Press Release:** The Idaho Cleanup Project issued a press release announcing that the Idaho Waste Treatment Unit had reached 100-percent sodium-bearing waste treatment operations.
- **May 23: U.S. House Caucus on Nuclear Cleanup Meeting:** Calcine Retrieval Project Engineer Kevin Young gave a presentation on the use of drones in waste remediation to the House Caucus on Nuclear Cleanup in Washington, D.C.
- **July 2023: Class 1 Permit Modification Notification:** A public notification was sent to subscribers of the INL mailing list providing notification of a Class 1 Permit Modification Notification (PMN) not requiring prior approval, for Volume 14 Hazardous Waste Management Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Storage and Treatment Permit for the Liquid Waste Management System at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center on the Idaho National Laboratory regarding pre-construction activities for the Product Storage Building II and administrative and informational changes.
- **July 2023: Class 1 Permit Modification Notification:** A public notification was sent to subscribers of the INL mailing list providing notification of Class 1 Permit Modification Notification (PMN) for the Volume 14 Hazardous Waste Management Act/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Storage and Treatment Permit for the Liquid Waste Management System at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) regarding the addition of new heaters to the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit denitration mineralization reformer carbon dioxide purge line.

- **August 2023:** The Department of Energy issued its Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Environmental *Sampling Guidance* to support the goal outlined in the PFAS Strategic Roadmap to “understand the presence of PFAS in drinking water and the environment” at Departmental sites. The Guidance presents a framework for investigating PFAS at DOE sites and facilities. It describes methods for sampling and analyzing environmental conditions to help identify the nature and extent of contamination, PFAS concentrations in source zones, and the extent and impact of PFAS migration from those zones. The guide also discusses quality assurance and quality control, and communication of risk and investigation results.
- **August 15: Department of Energy Headquarters Tour:** Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Deputy Assistant Secretary, Jeff Avery, toured the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) to discuss progress of the Accelerated Retrieval Project demolition and the Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA) earthen cover.
- **August 15-17: Safety Culture Workshop Conference:** The U.S. Department of Energy and Idaho Environmental Coalition hosted a safety conference for nearly 300 people from across the DOE Complex and industry. The event focused on all aspects of safety culture best practices with a special emphasis on psychological safety.
- **August 23: Congressional Staff Tour:** Legislative Assistant for Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, Ben Hulse, toured the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit and Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center to discuss the IWTU, spent nuclear fuel, and calcine.
- **September 11-13: National Cleanup Workshop:** Representatives from the Idaho Cleanup Project and the Idaho Environmental Coalition participated in the National Cleanup Workshop in Arlington, Virginia, and spoke in specific panels related to DOE complex-wide cleanup priorities and challenges.
- **September 19: Idaho Leadership Engagement Advancement and Development Event:** Department of Energy EM Senior Advisor William “Ike” White spoke to upcoming industry professionals about the progression of his professional career and the need to replace retiring employees with young professionals.
- **September 20: Integrated Waste Treatment Unit Celebration:** EM Senior Advisor William “Ike” White, Deputy Secretary of Energy David Turk, Idaho Governor Brad Little, and other dignitaries joined Connie Flohr and Ty Blackford at a celebratory event to thank IWTU employees for radiological startup and safe, stable operations at the facility. The event was featured in the Idaho Falls *Post Register*, East Idaho News, and Local News 8 in Idaho Falls.

- **October 16/17: Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium Conference:** Idaho Cleanup Project and Idaho Environmental Coalition representatives participated in the 2023 IAEC Conference. The conference is an opportunity for stakeholders and industry leaders to learn about and discuss the advanced energy sector and help make recommendations to the state of Idaho on the future of advanced energy for the area.

### **Additional Community Interaction:**

- **April 29: Earth Day:** The Idaho Environmental Coalition hosted a booth at the 2023 Idaho Falls Zoo Earth Day event to educate members of the public about the earthen cover planned for the Subsurface Disposal Area.
- **May 11: Safety Fest of the Great Northwest:** Idaho Environmental Coalition safety professionals participated in this safety event in Pocatello, educating the public about safety in the workplace and home.
- **May 4: Up and Atom Breakfast:** The Idaho Environmental Coalition sponsored an Up and Atom Breakfast at the College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) campus. Discussion included energy policy from the state and local perspectives. Up and Atom serves as a resource to better understand what is current in the energy industry, the economic impacts to the community, and to provide an opportunity for those associated with the energy community to network.
- **May 4: Energy Days:** The Idaho Environmental Coalition participated in Energy Days at the College of Eastern Idaho. Energy Days are intended to educate college age students about the opportunity for internships and careers in the energy sector, including the Idaho Cleanup Project and the Idaho National Laboratory.
- **May 5: INL Retired Employee Association (IREA) Luncheon:** President and Program Manager of the Idaho Environmental Coalition, Ty Blackford, provided and Idaho Cleanup Project update to the retired INL employees.
- **May 15: Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership (EICAP) Annual Meeting:** Senior Director of Strategic and Regulatory Affairs for the Idaho Environmental Coalition, Dana Kirkham, presented at the EICAP annual meeting supporting their efforts in the Eastern Idaho Region.
- **June 28: Idaho Cleanup Project Update: Idaho Falls Mayor Rebecca Casper Briefing:** Idaho Environmental Coalition representatives briefed Idaho Falls Mayor, Rebecca Casper, and other local leaders on the status of the Idaho Cleanup Project and community interests.

- **August 15: Department of Commerce Idaho Rural Infrastructure Impacts Roundtable:** Representatives from the Idaho Environmental Coalition participated in panel discussion with industry leaders at the Department of Commerce Idaho Rural Infrastructure Impacts Roundtable.

### **Upcoming Formal Public Interaction:**

- **October 26: Energy Days in Twin Falls:** The Idaho Cleanup Project and the Idaho National Laboratory will host an event to provide the community with information on the local energy sector. High school and college students interested in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) are invited to attend.
- **October 26: Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission 3.0:** Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project, Connie Flohr, will provide an Idaho Cleanup Project update to the LINE Commission 3.0 at their Twin Falls meeting.
- **October 26: Community Breakfast and Lunch Forum:** Idaho Environmental Coalition is a sponsor of this community breakfast to share information about the cleanup project. During a lunch forum panel, IEC President and Program Manager, Ty Blackford, and IEC Strategic Initiatives Senior Director Dana Kirkham will provide information about their careers for students in attendance.
- **October 26: Environmental Management Workshop Tour:** Fifty project management representatives from across the DOE Complex will attend an EM Workshop in Idaho Falls and participate in a driving tour of the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center and Radioactive Waste Management Complex.
- **October/November 2023: Public Comment Period for the 3116 Determination for Calcine Bin Sets:** The U.S. Department of Energy plans to announce the availability of the draft 3116 basis document for the calcine bin sets for public review and comment. The document will undergo a 45-day public comment period.
- **November 2023: 3116 Determination for Calcine Bin Sets:** A virtual public meeting will be held with members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Energy, and the Idaho Environmental Coalition to answer questions from the public.