



During a conference call involving a subcommittee of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management (EM) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) on March 10, 2016, Mr. Jack Zimmerman briefed participating CAB members on the proposed budget priorities for Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Fiscal Year 2018.

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. Targeted Buried Waste Exhumation
2. Retrieval, Characterization, Repackaging and Certification of Stored Transuranic Waste
3. Processing of Liquid Sodium Bearing Waste, Closure of the Tank Farm
4. Transfer of Remaining Spent Nuclear Fuel from Wet to Dry Storage
5. Ongoing Maintenance of All Remediation Activities and Progress on Design of SDA Cap

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. The top two priorities address the risks associated with migrating contaminants. The other priorities address equally important waste products but waste being relatively contained and managed - at this time.

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.

During our meeting, CAB members asked again about the potential costs from the ongoing closure of WIPP. We are concerned that at some point, the back-up of TRU shipments from INL will impose unforeseen costs on the overall Idaho Cleanup Project.

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.