Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Citizens Advisory Board's End State Vision

The Site-Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), also known as the INEEL Citizens Advisory Board (CAB), is a local advisory committee chartered under the Department of Energy's (DOE) Environmental Management SSAB Federal Advisory Committee Act Charter.

The INEEL CAB spent considerable time at its July 2004 meeting discussing our vision for the end state of the cleanup program at the INEEL. We reached consensus on this recommendation, which reaffirms our commitment to viewing the end state of the INEEL as a moving target, with common goals to protect the aquifer, abate and contain damages, and to support future missions of the site.

The INEEL CAB recommends that the final Risk-Based End States Vision Document for the INEEL address the following guiding principles as articulated in CAB discussions related to end state:

- Protection and restoration of the groundwater and the Snake River Plain Aquifer is critical.
- Containment of existing damage and abatement of activities that cause damage must be implemented immediately.
- The public expects full cleanup of the site. When full cleanup is not possible, the public must receive a justification and explanation as part of the decision-making process.
- Long-term surveillance and monitoring must continue to assure on-going protection of humans and the environment. Sustained funding for these activities must be assured and adequate.
- Control of, and responsibility for, the entire site during (and possibly after) the cleanup period should be retained by DOE. However, within this context, consideration should be given to coordinated agreements with other governmental entities, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, or the private sector.

Additional Recommendations

In addition, the INEEL CAB makes the following recommendations regarding End State and environmental management at the site:

- DOE should wait until the Independent Risk Assessment is complete before finishing the Risk-Based End State vision for the INEEL.

- DOE must remain adaptable to emerging cleanup technologies and to changes in legislative and regulatory requirements. When appropriate, DOE should reconsider its approach to cleanup utilizing these new technologies and requirements.

- DOE must make complete and timely disclosure to the public and maintain an open process for dissemination of information about the site, including risks and benefits. Such information should be presented in a format understandable by the "reasonable man" standard. The public must be provided opportunity to review the progress and path forward for the cleanup program and the determination of end states.

- DOE must visualize the end state for each new project and incorporate that end state vision into the life cycle of that project.

- DOE must continue efforts to reduce its footprint by utilizing existing impacted areas for new missions whenever possible and maintaining any existing infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.) that is of potential value to future missions.

- DOE must protect unique areas such as the Sagebrush Steppe Reserve and Shoshone-Bannock archeological sites.

- The INEEL CAB supports cleanup of unexploded ordnance (UXO), trinitrotoluene (TNT), and Royal Demolition Explosives (RDX) soil contamination in accordance with the November 5, 2002 "Record of Decision for Experimental Breeder Reactor I & Boiling Water Reactor Experiment Area Operable Units 10-04 and 6-05 and Miscellaneous Sites" (DOE/ID-10980). The priority for this effort is lower than for other more critical cleanup projects.

- The cleanup effort should attempt to maximize efficiency and minimize costs including costs and risks to workers and to the community.