



**Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory**

**Disposition for Orphan Wastes at the
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory**

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 September 2004 meeting receiving presentations about DOE's comprehensive management program for orphan wastes at the INEEL. This program is responsible for identifying, storing, characterizing, and analyzing orphan wastes, as well as actively seeking treatment and disposal options.

The INEEL CAB understands that "orphan waste" is defined as waste categories for which there is no acceptable path forward for disposition. We further understand that the classification of a waste as an orphan waste is somewhat fluid, based on fluctuating treatment capability and the changing nature of waste acceptance criteria for treatment and disposal sites that may play a role in the disposition of waste at the INEEL.

The INEEL CAB recommends that DOE continue to aggressively pursue this program with the goal of finding treatment and disposal options for all orphan wastes at the INEEL.

We understand that INEEL led a significant complex-wide "disposition roadmapping" in the past. **The INEEL CAB recommends that DOE renew that effort to develop final disposition plans for all orphan wastes.**

The CAB is encouraged that the Alternatives to Incineration effort is being reactivated after a prolonged dormancy. **The INEEL CAB recommends that an important goal of the renewed Alternatives to Incineration initiative be to develop treatment methods for orphan waste streams.**

Part of the difficulty of the orphan waste problem is that often the amounts of waste are small, but the cost of treatment facilities is significant. **The CAB recommends that INEEL work with DOE Headquarters and other sites to identify the orphan wastes across the complex and to develop a nationwide strategy for treatment and disposal of all orphan wastes.**