



Preferred Alternative for the Remote-Handled Waste Disposition Project (RWDP) Environmental Assessment

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) agrees and supports the Department of Energy's (DOE) preferred alternative as outlined in the *Draft Environmental Assessment for the Remote-handled Waste Disposition Project* (DOE/EA-01386, December 2008) with the following considerations:

- The safety of the workers is of the highest concern with high radiation exposure and radioactive contamination as they perform their operation at the fluorine dissolution process (FDP) facility. There may be times for possible contamination as they place the casks or canister for entry into the FDP cell as well as removing the waste from the FDP cell. Personnel should use the best practice as they perform these operations.
- As the project develops and as equipment modifications within the CPP-666 FDP facility and the upper level of the Hot Cell are identified, the CAB recommends that the engineers consult with experienced operators in reference to past experience on what will work best for them as they perform their operations.
- The CAB recommends that “lessons learned” be reviewed in reference to past and continuing operations conducted with the Remote Handled Transuranic Waste Program. These “lessons learned” refer to problems and successes the program has experienced.
- If inexperienced personnel will be used at the FDP area, the CAB suggests a training program that includes all aspects of the operations and hands on training for the current equipment at the CPP-659 facility.
- The CAB supports the preferred recommendation using the existing public road with temporary closures (Highway 26) due to the high costs of establishing a new road and the possibility of disturbing cultural resources. The CAB further recommends that during closure, community and site emergency vehicle provisions be evaluated and addressed.

The CAB believes this project can be done safely and effectively. This will take advantage of and utilize the INL site capability (which is a national asset and has an experienced workforce with an exceptional track record) while meeting the mission of Environmental Management throughout the DOE complex.