



Citizens Advisory Board  
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION PROCESS FOR THE ADVANCED MIXED WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The INEEL Citizens Advisory Board has had numerous discussions, presentations, and committee deliberations on all aspects of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP). Representatives of DOE, LMITCO, and BNFL have led and participated in these discussions, providing the Board and members of the public with a thorough understanding of the purpose, timing, products and costs associated with the future operations of the project.

DOE, in considering waste stream management and continued operations at the INEEL, has performed and prepared appropriate environmental analysis and documentation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, including the "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement" (SNF and INEL EIS) completed in 1995. This document establishes the generic management and environmental baselines for subsequent proposed activities and facility operations. It is our understanding that these baselines were assumed in the Request for Proposal for the AMWTP.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Considering the costs and time associated with full development of an Environmental Analysis and subsequent Environmental Impact Statement, the Board recommends DOE undertake a Supplement Analysis approach to the AMWTP. The Supplement Analysis should incorporate the non-proprietary specifics of the contract with BNFL, including other environmental compliance issues that are applicable. The Board recognizes that the SNF and INEL EIS covers analysis for a ten-year period (from 1995-2005) and the AMWTP will operate beyond that time frame. The Supplement Analysis should address the additional requirements for the anticipated operational life of the facility.

Although not part of the formal process to complete a Supplement Analysis, the Board urges DOE to assure broad public education and involvement throughout the process. The Board also requests DOE provide a status report in September, including the results of additional data due in August, any non-proprietary results of the environmental analysis completed on the BNFL proposal, and DOE's plans for proceeding. If DOE intends to pursue amending the Record of Decision for the SNF and INEL EIS, the Board would like a presentation on the specific public involvement activities that DOE intends to incorporate into that effort.