



Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

**Stakeholder Involvement in
Long-Term Stewardship Planning**

The INEEL Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) has participated in several discussions related to long-term stewardship of DOE sites. Four of our members participated in a Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Seminar focused on long-term stewardship hosted by the Oak Ridge Environmental Management SSAB in October 1999. The CAB received presentations on the topic from Jim Werner (DOE-HQ) in November 1999 and Bill Leake and Patty Natoni (DOE-ID) in January 2000. As a result of these topical discussions and in light of the complex-wide Stewardship Study due to be released this summer, and consistent with the CAB's long standing commitment to public participation, the CAB offers the following recommendation.

The INEEL CAB recommends DOE-ID provide a meaningful role and on-going mechanisms for public involvement in planning for long-term stewardship of the INEEL. We define long-term stewardship as integrating all land use planning, end state planning, deactivation and removal of onsite facilities, and ongoing long-term monitoring and institutional controls to protect worker and public health and safety and the environment. Accordingly, we recommend public participation opportunities during consideration of potential future site missions, periodic evaluations of the need for continued federal control of the site, and planning for long-term stewardship activities to be conducted during and after DOE's ownership and control of the INEEL. Such interactions will support collaboration and cooperation in accomplishing the desired cleanup of onsite contamination and continuing stewardship.

The following statements further explain our recommendation.

In 1994, the INEEL CAB reviewed and commented on the INEEL Comprehensive Facilities and Land Use Plan, which described DOE-ID's plans for the future development of the INEEL. At that time, the CAB approved of plans to maintain a federal presence at the INEEL for 100 years into the future. Our support for that vision continues. We believe the 894-square mile facility is an invaluable national resource and that it should be maintained in its entirety, if at all possible. Additionally, we are not in favor of increased local control of public lands and we recognize the federal government's legitimate authority to manage the site. Finally, we recognize there are formal mechanisms for release of federal lands should it be determined that such action is appropriate. We nonetheless believe that the public, particularly people who live near the site, have an interest in the activities conducted at the site.

With regard to future site missions, it is appropriate to conduct periodic public review of the site's mission and the continuing appropriateness of federal control. Any proposed mission, including privatized initiatives, could potentially release on-site contamination and further jeopardize human health and the environment. In addition, potential missions could have regional impacts, such as impacts on adjacent land use, patterns of urban development, regional economic conditions, or environmental integrity. Consequently, interested members of the public in adjacent communities can be expected to be interested, and should be afforded an opportunity to participate, in all decisions regarding site missions.

Stewardship activities are similarly of interest to the public. Stewardship activities that will occur under DOE oversight during the federal government's tenure at the site will be critical to the success of the ongoing management of risks posed by residual contamination once the cleanup program has been completed. Implementation of remaining stewardship responsibilities following federal ownership will become the responsibility of someone within the community. Therefore, the community must be involved in planning for stewardship even if DOE's tenure at the site is expected over a long period of time.

The CAB envisions public participation opportunities addressing site mission, appropriate end states for site cleanup, and stewardship planning. Such opportunities must involve the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the affected workforce, all of the cities surrounding the site regardless of size, governments from each county that border the site, appropriate councils of Governments, Economic Development groups, Resource Conservation and Development committees, Coalitions, federal and state agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Fish and Game, etc. In addition, such an opportunity might provide for development of a shared "long term vision" for the site. If well planned, such public participation efforts could potentially allow:

- recognition of the shared resources of the INEEL and the existing local infrastructure,
- identification of the social and cultural needs of the community, and
- incorporation of community needs with the technical issues of relevance
- enhancement of the site's role as a good neighbor.