



Citizens Advisory Board
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

**Stakeholder Involvement Plan for the
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
Water Integration Project**

At its March 2002 meeting, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) received a presentation on the proposed approach for involving stakeholders in the INEEL Water Integration Project. We were provided copies of the Draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan and invited to provide comment before the Plan is finalized and implemented.

The INEEL CAB appreciates the opportunity to review the Draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan. We applaud DOE for thinking to ask stakeholders how they would like to be involved in a project and then building a stakeholder involvement plan around what was heard.

The INEEL CAB recommends that DOE continue to focus the Stakeholder Involvement Plan on providing the opportunity for objective dialogue with stakeholders about issues under the auspices of the INEEL Water Integration Project. Stakeholder involvement should be about providing meaningful opportunities for the public to provide input to DOE rather than attempting to influence how people feel.

The INEEL CAB offers the following suggestions for modifications to the Draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan.

The INEEL CAB recommends that workforce representatives be involved throughout implementation of the Stakeholder Involvement Program for the INEEL Water Integration Project.

DOE should consider adding other entities under section 3.1.1, “Rural Realities” or 3.1.2, “Urban Center” (as appropriate) including:

- Idaho Department of Agriculture
- University of Idaho’s Agricultural Extension Offices
- Idaho Department of Commerce
- Local Chambers of Commerce and regional economic development and planning agencies

- Idaho State University’s College of Health Sciences, College of Business, Acceleration Center, Small Business Development Centers, etc.
- Idaho State University and the University of Idaho centers throughout the state
- Chambers of Commerce of Greater Boise, Caldwell, and Nampa
- Association of Idaho Cities and the Idaho Association of Counties
- Sage Community Resources

Under section 3.14, "Native American and Hispanic Perspective," the entities listed should include other offices of the Idaho Migrant Council (not just Idaho Falls), including the offices in Caldwell and Blackfoot.

Section 3.2 lists some of the major issues and concerns stakeholders have about the INEEL and groundwater. Under the third bullet, “Cleanup Should Be Top Priority” we would suggest adding the path forward for cleanup at Pit 9 and for the High-Level Waste Tanks. In addition, this section should include an emphasis on effectively communicating risk to the public. This could be a separate bullet or perhaps addressed under the fourth bullet, “Radiation Exposure.”

Section 4.1.2 details how implementation of the stakeholder involvement plan will be monitored. The second to last bullet is “Personal Interviews.” The INEEL CAB suggests that interviewees should include community leaders to assess their perceptions of how the stakeholder involvement program is going.

Section 4.3.2 reports that participants at the February 2002 retreat in Twin Falls, Idaho urged the stakeholder involvement team to “avoid large public meetings.” Workshop/open house meeting formats do not necessarily provide a satisfying opportunity for members of the public who wish to provide comments to an agency. A project of this magnitude requires a formal public comment process at appropriate junctures. The INEEL CAB suggests that the concept should be to “avoid relying solely on large public meetings,” and supplementing formal public meetings with other tools and techniques as appropriate.