



IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

1

1. The Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) recognizes the skilled workforce and specialized facilities at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) as a national asset. AMWTP features a state of the art box line with recently replaced remote handlers (BROKKS) that allow operators to remotely and safely process large volumes of transuranic (TRU) waste. Repackaged waste is then sent to the super compactor where drums are crushed to a four-inch puck, significantly reducing the waste volume. Three to four pucks are then placed in an overpack container and made ready to ship.
2. This workforce with these facilities have safely processed and repackaged 65,000 cubic meters of waste. The original mission of AMWTP is nearing its end and expected to be completed by the end of 2018. When the last of the Idaho waste is processed, 300-400 of the facility's 600 skilled workers will likely be laid off, abandoning a critical expertise and safety culture not feasibly assembled again.
3. The ICP CAB supports a continuing mission of AMWTP and recognizes there are issues that must be addressed. We understand a business-case study has been completed that evaluates the benefits of utilizing AMWTP to process waste from other generator sites across the DOE complex against constructing similar facilities at those sites. We request the DOE release this study to the ICP CAB as soon as possible.
4. We acknowledge that issues which must be addressed include:
 - Requirements of the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement
 - Temporary storage of waste (six months in/six months out) while awaiting shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)
 - Priority of Idaho waste shipments to WIPP
 - Amounts and types of waste that could be processed at AMWTP
 - Packaging requirements for transporting waste from generating sites
 - Public involvement from potential stakeholders
5. Considering the eminent completion of AMWTP's mission, time is of the essence for making the decision to allow a continued AMWTP mission. The ICP CAB recommends DOE commit the resources necessary to vigorously seek resolution to these issues and proceed with the future mission. We recognize that inaction is, by default, likely a decision to close AMWTP and forego the use of this unequalled processing site and labor experience. Several studies, including the May 2010 DOE Inspector General's Audit Report, have indicated that this would only result in increased cost to the taxpayer. Furthermore, it would necessitate more dangerous contact-handled processing and inefficient waste production which requires more storage space and, again, greater expenses.

6. Recognizing that there is an already short and narrowing 6-7 month timeline, the ICP CAB respectfully urges DOE to authorize DOE Idaho to act on these critical items in order to make it possible for AMWTP to continue to process waste from around the complex. It is our hope that you will make this decision before our April 19th meeting.

DRAFT