

## **Idaho Cleanup Project Accomplishments and Challenges under COVID-19**

As a prudent response to the current situation regarding COVID-19 in Idaho, effective March 31, 2020 the Idaho Cleanup Project transitioned to focus on essential mission critical operations. During this period, activities that supported the cleanup mission were limited to those necessary to ensure the safety of the public, our workers and the environment. On May 8, 2020, in response to improving conditions related to COVID-19, the Idaho Cleanup Project moved to Phase 1 of its reconstitution plan, gradually bringing workers back and increasing activities that had been slowed or stopped under essential mission critical operations. Despite the limitations necessary to protect our workforce and the public, some important activities were carried out during the essential mission critical operations phase. Following is a summary of the accomplishments during this period, and the impacts of the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

### **Accomplishments**

- Crews completed the first of several spent nuclear fuel transfers from wet storage at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) to dry storage at the Radioactive and Scrap Waste Facility at the Materials and Fuels Complex.
- Spent nuclear fuel was also transferred from the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) canal to dry storage at INTEC's CPP-603 facility. These transfers allowed the laboratory contractor (Battelle Energy Alliance) to restart the ATR for its next experiments.
- Fluor Idaho crews also assisted EM contractor SpectraTech in conducting a five-year leak test of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, which is a Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirement. Leak checks were performed at all 29 storage vaults that contain fuel and debris from the 1979 Three Mile Island accident. The seals to each vault remain effective and no leaks were detected.
- Crews completed 17 shipments of contact-handled transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and four shipments of low-level radioactive waste offsite in compliance with the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement.

## Summary of COVID-19 Impacts on Idaho Cleanup Project

### Integrated Waste Treatment Unit

- Outage J initiated in June 2019 and was on schedule to complete the outage in June 2020 prior to impacts of COVID-19
  - Completion of Outage J has slipped, and we are assessing the schedule impacts
  - Full impact on overall project will be determined when full staff returns, vendors are re-scheduled, and procurements are updated
  - Limited field work resumed within protective measure guidelines; readiness preparations, design work and Hazen testing ongoing
- Primary focus of Outage J is to optimize facility for sustained radiological operations, improve system operability and implement updated PGF element design

### Buried Waste

- All activity paused due to challenges in maintaining social distancing while donning and doffing crews in appropriate personal protective equipment

### Transuranic Waste

- Some waste processing activities are paused due to challenges in maintaining social distancing while donning and doffing crews in appropriate personal protective equipment:
  - RCRA closure of ARP-V
  - Processing of sludge waste at ARP-VII
  - Continued RH processing and certification

### Spent Nuclear Fuel

- SNF activities are slowed due to increased precautions taken to protect work team.

### Calcine Retrieval Project

- Construction and testing at the full-scale mockup were curtailed
- Other work (Performance Assessment, Composite Analysis, 3116 Determination, Engineering Design, and Project Management) continued via telework

### INTEC Infrastructure

- Most field work (except for preventive and corrective maintenance) was curtailed
- Project work was impacted; most subcontractors and suppliers were shut down