

News Media Contact: Tim Jackson (208) 526-8484 For Immediate Release December 22, 2010

Idaho National Laboratory Stand-Off Experiment Range draft environmental assessment available for public review and comment

Idaho Falls, ID – The U.S. Department of Energy today published a draft environmental assessment for a proposed Stand-Off Experiment Range at Idaho National Laboratory.

"This range would represent an expansion of capability and programmatic work already present at INL, and would directly support a key U.S. national security objective of promoting nuclear security," said Vic Pearson, DOE's document manager for the environmental assessment. "The public is invited to comment on the document through January 28, 2011."

At the range, INL experts would use high energy linear accelerators to research and develop detection systems for nuclear and non-nuclear materials of interest, in support of United States national and homeland security missions. When directed at an object, the high-energy x-rays produced by these accelerators results in the generation of identifiable signatures characteristic of the specific materials of interest. Generation and detection of these signatures at a distance from the target object would be the focus of work at the Stand-Off Experiment Range.

Written comments can be sent to: Vic Pearson, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 1955 Fremont Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83415-1170, or emailed to: SOX.EA@id.doe.gov.

Editorial Date December 22, 2010 By Tim Jackson