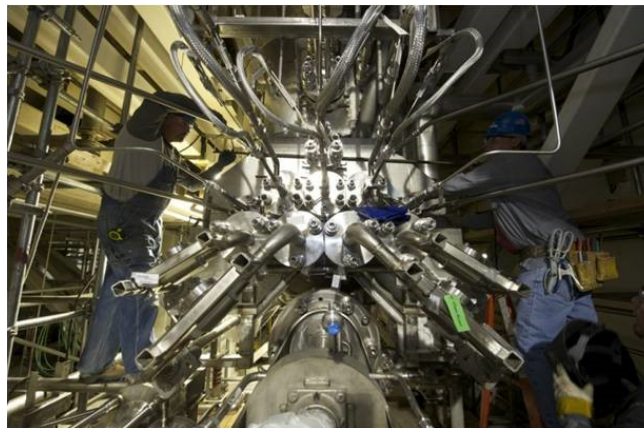


For Immediate Release: Date: March 19, 2012
Media Contact: Natalie Packer, 208-533-0253

Sodium Bearing Waste Treatment Project – Countdown to Startup

Marking completion of another major performance milestone, CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI) successfully passed its Contractor Operational Readiness Review (CORR) of its Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU), the first-of-a-kind facility that will treat the remaining 900,000 gallons of liquid radioactive waste generated from the Idaho Site's legacy cleanup mission.

On February 27, 2012, the 16-member CORR-team, comprised of technical experts from CWI parent companies CH2M-HILL and URS, as well as observers from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security, and the DOE Subject Matter Experts, began its comprehensive review of the plant equipment and systems, management competency, personnel operational proficiency, procedures, and emergency response to validate operational preparedness.



Process pipe installation inside of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit

Concluding the review on March 9, 2012, the team identified only nine pre-start findings and noted several strengths – notably, that key elements of a good safety culture were evident.

“Nine findings is not very many and considered to be normal for any readiness review,” DOE Federal Project Director Ric Craun said. “It is also a testament to the state of readiness that these nine findings will be resolved in time to support the DOE ORR scheduled to begin March 26, 2012.”

The findings were primarily related to the paper side of the review such as the strengthening of some procedure points, ensuring clarity for operators, and expanded depth of documentation in certain areas.

There were no hardware issues identified in the entire plant – a monumental achievement considering the size and complexity of the facility.

“This is a great accomplishment by the IWTU team,” said Tom Dieter, President and CEO of CWI. I am very proud of the professionalism and safe work ethic of our workforce; they have

conquered many challenges and have always done the right thing despite pressures applied from all directions.”

The outcome of the CORR is not only great news for CWI, but also for DOE and the community as well.

“We are a step closer to achieving our cleanup milestones and meeting our environmental commitments to the State of Idaho,” said Jim Cooper, DOE Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. “The IWTU project team had to overcome numerous hurdles in achieving this major interim milestone and I am very pleased with the IWTU team and the results of this review.”

CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC, (CWI) manages the Idaho Cleanup Project at the U. S. Department of Energy’s Idaho Site. Centered on early risk reduction and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer, the \$2.9 billion effort focuses on cleanup of the environmental legacy created by national defense and nuclear energy missions.

For more information visit the Idaho Cleanup Project on the Web at <https://idahocleanupproject.com>

ICP-12-02

Editorial Date March 19, 2012
By Brad Bugger