



**U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: DOE Open House to Focus on Programmatic Successes Achieved
Under ARRA Funding**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office will hold an open house on Monday, Nov. 14 to highlight the cleanup and energy accomplishments made with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. The open house will be held at the Engineering and Research Office Building, 2525 Fremont Avenue, Idaho Falls, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Presentations will be made by DOE and contractor representatives beginning at 2 p.m.

Under ARRA, contractors at DOE's Idaho Site significantly accelerated cleanup and disposal out of state of buried waste, and retrieval, characterization and transportation to out-of-state disposal of stored transuranic waste. They also greatly reduced the "foot print" of the site, by safely tearing down and disposing of contaminated structures that had outlived their mission usefulness.

"ARRA funding created new jobs, allowed us to extend the employment of many of our skilled cleanup contractor employees and utilization of local small businesses, while accelerating the cleanup mission at DOE's Idaho Site," said Jim Cooper, DOE Deputy Manager for the Idaho Cleanup Project. "We invite the community to come to the open house to see for themselves how their tax dollars were spent. I think they will be impressed with our accomplishments."

In addition to accelerating cleanup in Idaho, the Idaho Operations Office was involved in two, ARRA-funded national energy programs. These included providing funding to help consumers replace older appliances with new, more energy efficient ones; and monitoring the DOE program that provides funding to modernize the electric power grid. While most of the actual work was accomplished in other places, the Idaho Operations Office's contracting expertise was tapped to assist both national programs.

"One of the core competencies of the Idaho Operations Office is contract procurement and management," said Rick Provencher, DOE-ID Manager. "When the Department was looking to get ARRA money out to projects around the country efficiently, they turned to our procurement organization to get the job done, and they responded in an outstanding manner."

The ARRA open house will feature displays and video of the various projects accomplished at the Idaho Site, there will be brief comments from DOE and contractor management, and light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. The public and media are welcome to attend.