



INL Stand-Off Experiment Range will support critical national security missions

Idaho Falls, ID - The U.S. Department of Energy has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact stemming from an environmental assessment it performed to examine the potential environmental impacts of operating a Stand-Off Experiment Range at Idaho National Laboratory.

"The Stand-Off Experiment Range will enable important research and development on linear accelerator-based systems for the detection of suspect materials at long distances," said Rick Provencher, manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office. "The range provides capability not previously available in the U.S., to support critical national and homeland security missions."

INL experts will use high energy linear accelerators to research and develop detection systems for nuclear and non-nuclear materials of interest. When directed at an object, high-energy x-rays produced by accelerators cause the materials of interest to emit unique signatures that can help experts detect and identify potentially dangerous nuclear and non-nuclear materials. Work at the range will focus on generation and detection of these signatures.

Experiments at the range are anticipated to start this year.

The environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact were prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Under NEPA, a Finding of No Significant Impact is signed and released after an environmental assessment is prepared for a proposed action and the analysis indicates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action would be insignificant. The finding enables the project to proceed.

The documents are [Finding of No Significant Impact for the INL Stand-Off Experiment\(SOX\) Range](#) - 276 Kb  and the [Idaho National Laboratory Stand-Off Experiment \(SOX\) Range Environmental Assessment](#) - 2.4 Mb 

Paper copies of the documents are available on request by calling Tim Jackson at (208) 526-8484 or emailing him at jacksofb@id.doe.gov