



**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Danielle Miller (DOE-ID) 208-526-5709**

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Second site-wide five-year review of cleanup at DOE's Idaho site completed; report now available online

An Idaho Cleanup Project team has completed work on the site-wide five-year review of cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho site.

"This report verifies that the performance of cleanup actions at the Idaho Site continues to be protective of human health and the environment," said Nicole Hernandez, DOE's project manager for the five-year review. "The findings in the report demonstrate a strong collaborative effort by CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI), DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), and reflect the strong working relationship that's allowed us to make major progress in the last few years."

"EPA agrees that DOE has completed a comprehensive review and does not expect to add any findings in the formal letter of concurrence we're preparing," said Dennis Faulk, EPA's lead for CERCLA cleanup at the INL.

"We also agree with DOE and EPA findings on the report," said Daryl Koch, the manager for Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality responsible for overseeing CERCLA cleanup at the INL. "It is a thorough snapshot of how we are cleaning up to protect current and future generations."

Under CERCLA, a review takes place every five years at a cleanup site until that site qualifies for unrestricted land use. Several five-year reviews for individual cleanup actions have been completed for the Idaho Site, with the first one published in 1998. The five-year review evaluates the status and performance of response actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund.

Beginning in 2005, DOE combined separate reviews into a single, site-wide five-year review. The current report is the second site-wide five-year review.

The review identified several issues and recommendations relating to information needs. In general, the review concludes that remedies at the Idaho Site remain protective of public health and the environment. Changes may be needed to improve performance at one groundwater cleanup site at the Test Area North facility.

Members of the public who have questions or comments about the cleanup or the five-year review process are encouraged to contact DOE at the address below. The five-year site-wide review report has been placed in the INL Site Administrative Record, with copies in the DOE Reading Room at the INL Technical Library in Idaho Falls, and is available on the Administrative Record website at <http://ar.inl.gov>.

The report and other information about the Idaho Cleanup Project can also be found at <https://idahocleanupproject.com/>.

If you have questions, please contact:
Nicole Hernandez
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 1625 MS 1222
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415-1222
hernannk@id.doe.gov

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By Brad Bugger