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Agencies announce second site-wide five-year review of cleanup at DOE's Idaho site

An Idaho Cleanup Project team is beginning work on the second site-wide five-year review of cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho site. The five-year review will provide an update on the status of completed remediation efforts as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund.

Under CERCLA, a five-year review is undertaken at cleanup sites to evaluate the implementation and performance of the remedial actions taken at those sites. The review will determine if the remedies are still working as designed and are still protective of human health and the environment. A five-year review report will be published to provide a summary of the remedial actions taken at each cleanup site, including information about site inspections and the monitoring data supporting the cleanup actions. Rather than continuing to review each project separately on its own schedule, the site-wide five-year review consolidates all of the reviews into one, to provide the public with more consistent reporting, on one schedule, with less overall cost.

"This report gives our stakeholders a concise summary of the status of dozens of different cleanup projects at the site," said Wendell Jolley, manager of the five-year review for CH2M-WG Idaho (CWI). "It provides a one-stop shop to stay up to date on completed projects and whether they're working as originally designed."

Under the 1991 Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, Idaho site CERCLA cleanup documents are reviewed and approved by DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

"There are numerous inspections, as well as thousands of pages of documents and monitoring data to go over, so we expect the review to take several months. We are aiming to have the report ready for review by the agencies by late summer, with the final report issued before the new fiscal year starts in October," Jolley said.

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. Upon completion, the Five-Year Sitewide Review Report will be placed in the INL Site Administrative Record, with copies in the DOE Reading Room of the INL Technical Library in Idaho Falls.

The public will be notified when the five-year review report is complete and available online. More information on the Idaho Cleanup Project is available online at <https://idahocleanupproject.com>.

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