

Draft Environmental Assessment on the Remote-handled Waste Disposition Project available for public review and comment

The U.S. Department of Energy invites the public to review and comment on a draft environmental assessment that the Department issued today, for a proposal to process approximately 327 cubic meters of remote-handled waste currently stored at the Idaho National Laboratory.

An additional five cubic meters of waste stored at the Hanford Site near Richland, Washington is also evaluated since it is reasonably foreseeable that a decision may be made in the future to send that waste to Idaho for treatment.

The project is necessary to prepare the waste for legally-required disposal.

Under the Department's preferred alternative, workers would use sealed rooms called hot cells at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) to process the waste, treat it as necessary and repackage it so that it is ready for disposal. The document describes the modifications necessary to hot cells to perform the work.

This environmental assessment, performed according to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, provides an analysis of the environmental impacts of alternatives for accomplishing the proposed action.

The 30-day public comment period on the draft environmental assessment will conclude on January 19, 2008. The draft environmental assessment is available for review on the Internet by going to the DOE-Idaho Operations Office web site at www.id.doe.gov. Comments can be submitted by mail to Chuck Ljungberg, 1955 Fremont Ave., mailstop 1216, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83415 or by e-mail to LJUNGBBC@ID.DOE.GOV. Paper copies of the document are also available by contacting Chuck Ljungberg.

To view the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Remote-handled Waste Disposition Project, click on "[Public Involvement Opportunities](#)" in the left-hand column of this page.