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Pit 9 Project Structures Removed

For many years, the Pit 9 project at the Department of Energy's Idaho Site was the symbol of frustration for its cleanup program. All of that is coming to a close now, however, as North Wind, Inc. and its subcontractors are successfully tearing down and removing the structures and equipment left over by the original subcontractor for the Pit 9 project. The goal of this dismantlement and disposal project is to remove buildings and equipment to allow for the implementation of whatever the final remediation of all the buried waste might be.

The Pit 9 remediation project was initiated back in the 1990s, and the original goals were to demonstrate a private sector solution to remediating buried waste at the Idaho site and gather information for use in planning cleanup of the rest of the buried waste, using a fixed price contract. The subcontractor was going to use a remote process to dig up buried waste in Pit 9 and process it for final, off-site disposal. The subcontractor never completed the work, however, and the subcontract was terminated in the late 1990s. Two large buildings and a great deal of equipment that was never used were left behind.



Last year, DOE awarded a contract to North Wind to remove the remaining buildings and equipment.



When the original Pit 9 project began, the complex technical challenge of removing and treating the kind of waste buried in Pit 9 had not been performed on a large scale at any DOE facility across the country. But now – in priority actions agreed to by DOE and its regulators, the state of Idaho and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - DOE's current INL Cleanup Project contractor, CWI, is successfully removing targeted buried waste with relatively high concentrations of radioactive and hazardous

substances.

DOE will continue to work with the state of Idaho and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the public to determine the best final remedy for all of the remaining buried waste at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. A proposed plan for this activity is expected to be released for public comment this year. Removing the buildings and equipment from Pit 9 will set the stage for implementation of whatever final remedy is selected.

