



DOE Idaho Operations Office Press Release

News Media Contact: Tim Jackson(202) 586-4940

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2019

DOE invites public comment on Draft Environmental Assessment for Expanding Capabilities at the National Security Test Range and Radiological Response Training Range at Idaho National Laboratory

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office invites the public to review and comment on a draft environmental assessment for a proposal to expand the capabilities at Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) National Security Test Range and Radiological Response Training Range. Both ranges support the training of first responders from defense and homeland security organizations who are charged with safeguarding the public and protecting U.S. national security.

Under requirements of an Environmental Assessment performed in 2006 (DOE/EA-1557), the DOE established a National Security Test Range at INL in 2007 to aid in the development and evaluation of protection measures for defending infrastructure against terrorist threats using improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades and other explosive charges. Similarly, in 2010, under requirements of a separate Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-1776), the DOE established a Radiological Response Training Range at INL to develop and maintain an effective response capability for major radiological incidents by providing a location for nuclear forensics, detection and radiological dispersion device training. Since their initial development, the ranges have seen extensive use from military, law enforcement, national laboratory, industry and university partners.

Due to continued growth and need, the DOE proposes to increase the testing capabilities at each range allowing for the use of unmanned aerial systems, additional explosive materials and additional radioisotopes for testing and training purposes. The DOE proposes to expand the capabilities of each range allowing for the installation of permanent structures and utilities, an increase in the frequency of range activities, and an increase in testing capabilities. DOE proposes to equip each range with permanent infrastructure which may include offices, classrooms, and conference rooms, restrooms and kitchen facilities. Fixed utility infrastructure providing electricity, roadways, testing pads and fencing are also proposed.

The document, entitled the Draft Environmental Assessment for Expanding Capabilities at the National Security Test Range and the Radiological Response Training Range at Idaho National Laboratory (DOE/EA-2063) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and is posted for public review at [NSRR Draft EA.pdf](#).

The 30-day public comment period on the draft environmental assessment will conclude on October 12, 2019. Comments can be submitted by mail to Vic Pearson, 1955 Fremont Ave., 83415-1170 or by email to nsrrea@id.doe.gov. Paper copies of the document are available on request.

###