



15-CAB-001

## INL Site Environmental Management

CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 3, 2015

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Jack Zimmerman

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### Subject: Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Priorities

Dear Mr. Zimmerman,

On March 5, 2015, several members of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management (EM) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) met via conference call with U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) EM managers to discuss development of the Office of EM's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget request. The primary objective of the meeting was for DOE to present its INL budget request and funding priorities to the CAB and to solicit input from the CAB relative to these priorities.

As presented to the CAB, the priorities identified include:

1. Buried waste exhumation.
2. Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project operations on retrieval, certification, and shipment of transuranic waste.
3. Integrated Waste Treatment Unit operations and tank closure preparations to eliminate liquid hazardous radioactive waste.
4. Accelerated Experimental Breeder Reactor (EBR)-II spent nuclear fuel shipments to transfer spent fuel from wet to dry storage.
5. Continued processing of remote-handled transuranic waste.
6. Planning and preparation for calcine treatment.

In an overall sense, the primary priorities of the CAB, as well as the citizens of the State, have been and will continue to be, protection of the environment, especially the Snake Plain Aquifer, and compliance with the 1995 Settlement Agreement between the State of Idaho, the U.S. Navy, and DOE.

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The CAB members believe that the budget priorities, especially the first three items as presented by DOE-ID, are consistent with the CAB's views and support the DOE-ID position. We strongly recommend that DOE-EM support this request for funding of EM operations in Idaho.

The INL Site EM CAB realizes that the setting of funding priorities for other DOE-EM facilities is beyond its scope, but wishes to make a recommendation with respect to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) funding. Meeting our Settlement Agreement milestones will require aggressive shipping and operations at WIPP. INL has been the major generator of waste being shipped to WIPP. This will continue for some time into the future. It is important that WIPP funding be sufficient to maintain a transportation campaign that will meet the needs of INL.

We understand that once WIPP reopens all generator sites will be anxious to resume shipping and that waste shipping and placement operations will probably not reach full production capacity early on. Given the Settlement Agreement milestones that have been established, it is imperative that shipping priority be given to INL waste to give Idaho the best opportunity to meet its commitments and avoid additional regulatory penalties that might be incurred. The CAB recommends that WIPP planning efforts consider Idaho as the priority shipper of waste as far as possible.

The INL Site EM CAB appreciates the opportunity to provide this input into the budgeting and planning process.

Sincerely,



Herb Bohrer  
INL EM CAB Chair

cc: Mark Whitney, DOE-EM  
Elizabeth Schmidt, DOE-EM  
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