



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 28, 2013

Mr. Willie Preacher, Chair  
Idaho National Laboratory Site  
Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board  
North Wind  
1425 Higham Street  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Mr. Preacher:

I am responding to your April 10 letter and recommendation from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) for increased funding for Idaho Cleanup Project completion.

The Department of Energy (DOE) agrees with the INL CAB that the INL Site has made significant progress toward the cleanup of contaminated areas, the disposition of both contact- and remote-handled transuranic (TRU) waste, and the transfer of used nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage in this time of constrained economic times and funding.

During the Fiscal Year 2014 budget formulation process, the DOE focused on balancing funding priorities for its cleanup portfolio throughout the nation, while maintaining the protection of the environment, workers, and public health and safety as its highest priorities. Given all competing priorities, DOE considered activities with the greatest risk-reduction benefit, regulatory compliance obligations, and DOE's Strategic Plan to maximize cleanup progress in a safe, cost effective manner.

The Office of Environmental Management (EM) is working hard to apply innovative cleanup strategies to complete work safely, on schedule and within cost, demonstrating value to the American taxpayers. Despite the economic challenges facing our nation and the budget pressures being felt throughout the federal government, the request will maintain a safe, secure and compliant posture in the EM complex, and will allow the INL Site to:

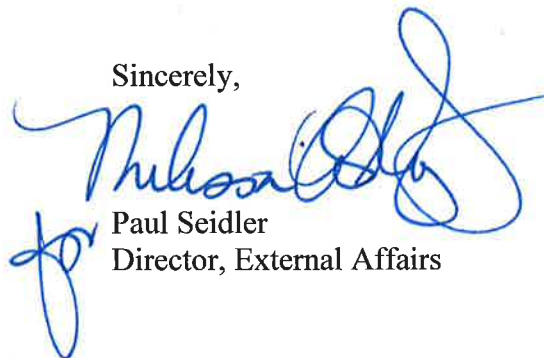
- Process and ship approximately 4,500 cubic meters of contact-handled TRU waste
- Process and ship remote-handled TRU waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
- Retrieve, process, and disposition buried waste at the Accelerated Retrieval Project VIII
- Conduct sodium-bearing waste treatment operations in support of December 2014 completion date
- Maintain tank farm and systems for delivery of sodium bearing waste until treatment is complete

- Provide security for Fort St. Vrain fuel and continue safe and secure storage of DOE's fuel inventory

The Idaho Cleanup Project has been very effective in developing new and innovative approaches to meet our mission. We have incentivized our contractors to continue developing innovative approaches and to make significant progress towards completion of the cleanup mission. We appreciate the INL CAB's commitment to the Idaho Cleanup Project, and we remain committed to keeping you informed and abreast of progress.

Thank you for your recommendation and for all of your efforts on behalf of the INL CAB and the EM program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Catherine Alexander, EM Site-Specific Advisory Board Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 586-7711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Seidler". The signature is stylized and cursive. Below the main signature, there is a smaller, more compact signature that appears to be "JP".

Paul Seidler  
Director, External Affairs

cc: Melissa Nielson, EM-3.2  
Catherine Alexander, EM-3.2  
James Cooper, ID  
Robert Pence, ID