

Notice of Availability

Agencies Release Explanation of Significant Differences Document for Pit 9

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state of Idaho have released an Explanation of Significant Differences document outlining how they will proceed with the remediation of Pit 9 at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

The six-page document outlines a revised schedule and three-stage plan that will carry out the goals of the Record of Decision: to remove the source of contamination to a level that is protective of human health and the environment, to expedite overall cleanup at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex and to reduce the risk overall.

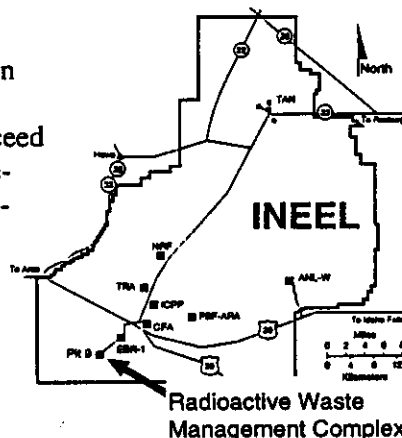
Pit 9, measuring 127 x 379 feet, received wastes from 1967 to 1969 primarily from the DOE Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado consisting of low-level waste and transuranic-contaminated sludge (contaminated with a mixture of radionuclides and organic solvents). It is estimated that 250,000 cubic feet of waste and contaminated soil will require treatment.

Stage I will involve the exploration into Pit 9 to obtain materials for characterization and bench-scale treatability studies. Stage II will consist of design and construction, startup activities, excavation and retrieval of about 200 cubic yards of waste (about 900 55-gallon drums), characterization, post-retrieval waste handling, maintenance and treatment studies. If Stage II goals are met, the agencies would agree to proceed to Stage III, which involves remediation of Pit 9 wastes. If Stage II goals are not met, the Pit 9 remediation will be addressed in the comprehensive investigation for the Subsurface Disposal Area pits and trenches, which is under way.

Stage I began in September 1998 and will be completed by July 2000. The design of Stage II facilities and supporting equipment will be completed by April 2000. The removal of waste for Stage II will begin September 2001 and will be completed March 2002.

Stage III design is scheduled to be completed by April 2003, and full-scale remediation of Pit 9, if the goals of the previous two stages are met, would begin after April 2003.

Lockheed Martin Advanced Environmental Systems, the subcontractor initially chosen for Pit 9 cleanup in 1994, was terminated for default on June 1, 1998, by INEEL contractor Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company. LMITCO and its remedial design/remedial action subcontractor, Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group, Inc., are currently performing the work.



Citizens may request a copy of the ESD or briefings by calling the INEEL Community Relations Plan Office at (208) 526-4700 or the INEEL's toll-free number, (800) 708-2680.

Additional information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 7-10. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at the University of Idaho Library in Moscow. The Administrative Record can also be accessed via the Internet by typing <http://ar.inel.gov/home.html>.

