

*Comment  
Period  
Extended*



IDAHO DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND WELFARE  
DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## for Central Facilities Area Proposed Plan

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Idaho have extended the public comment period for a proposed remediation plan for the Central Facilities Area at the DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Remediation of the INEEL is required under criteria established by the Superfund Act.

The original proposed plan comment period began Aug. 5 and was scheduled to end Sept. 4, 1999. Based on a request from the public, the agencies are extending the comment period until Oct. 4, 1999.

The Central Facilities Area was constructed in the 1940s and 1950s to house U.S. Naval Gunnery Range personnel and later the National Reactor Testing Station, the former name of what is now the INEEL. Over the years, the complex has been modified to fit the changing needs of the INEEL. The complex provides centralized support services for INEEL contractors and the DOE and includes some 80 buildings and structures, such as research laboratories, emergency services and craft shops.

In 1999, a comprehensive environmental investigation for the complex was completed and three contaminated soil sites requiring cleanup were identified. Cleanup is proposed for the sites to protect human health and the environment.

The three sites that require cleanup are: a waste disposal pond, a sewage treatment plant drainfield and a transformer yard. Cleanup alternatives evaluated include no action; limited action; excavation, treatment and disposal of contaminated soil either on or off the INEEL; and containment by capping the site with a protective cover.

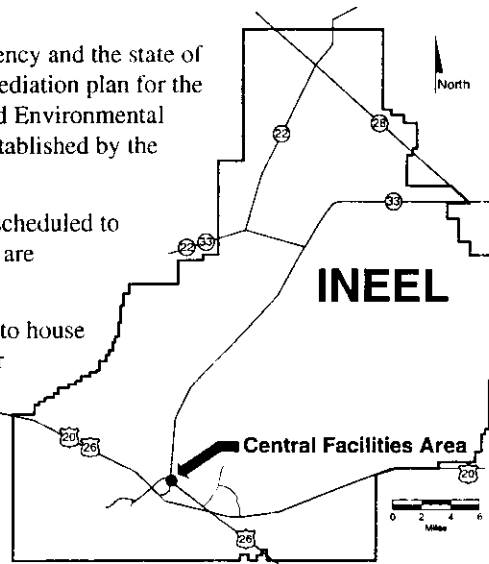
The waste disposal pond was originally created when soils were removed for a construction project. The disposal pond was used to collect storm runoff from the complex and to dispose of wastes from operations. The contaminant of concern, mercury, was discharged into the pond from an engineering laboratory. The preferred alternative for cleanup is excavation, treatment and disposal on the INEEL. For this site, disposal onsite versus disposal offsite is the most cost-effective alternative.

The sewage treatment plant drainfield was originally built in 1944 as part of the Navy's sewer system. It was used until 1995 when a new sewage treatment plant was installed. The contaminants of concern, cesium-137 and mercury, were discharged into the drainfield from a laundry that cleaned radioactively contaminated protective clothing. The preferred remediation alternative is containment by capping the site with a protective cover.

The transformer yard may contain waste from spills of solid metals from the adjacent metalworking shop. The contaminant of concern is lead. The preferred cleanup alternative is excavation, treatment and disposal off the INEEL.

As the comprehensive investigation neared completion, nitrate contamination that exceeded drinking water standards was detected in the groundwater beneath the area. As a result, the agencies will address surface contamination separately from groundwater contamination. Groundwater issues will be investigated to allow time to collect additional monitoring data.

Citizens may request copies of the proposed plan or a briefing with the project managers by calling the INEEL Community Relations Office (208) 526-4700 or the INEEL's toll-free number at (800) 708-2680. The plan is also available on the Internet at <http://environment.inel.gov>



### Additional Information

Additional information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 4-13A. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can also be found at the Albertsons Library on the Boise State University campus and at the University of Idaho Library in Moscow. The Administrative Record can be accessed on the Internet at <http://ar.inel.gov>