

Notice of Availability

Comment Period Extended on Proposed Cleanup Plan for Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state of Idaho are extending the public comment period for the proposed cleanup plan of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (formerly the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant or Chem Plant).

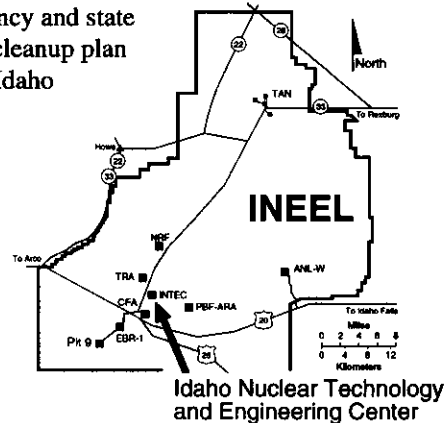
The original proposed plan comment period began Oct. 23 and ran through Dec. 22. It has been brought to the attention of the agencies that selected members of the public were not able to participate during that time. Because of this unique situation, the agencies will extend the comment period until Feb. 12, 1999.

The agencies have completed a Superfund environmental investigation of INTEC — called a comprehensive remedial investigation/feasibility study, which looks at the extent of contamination and evaluates potential remedies. A comprehensive remedial investigation/feasibility study represents the last planned Superfund environmental investigation for a facility.

The INTEC facility, which began operations in 1952, reprocessed defense-related spent nuclear fuel until 1992. Liquid wastes generated from this activity were stored in an underground tank farm until they were treated using a calcining process, which converts the liquid to a more stable granular form. The current mission of INTEC is to receive and temporarily store spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste for future disposition, manage waste and clean up past contamination.

Forty areas in and near the facility will require cleanup actions to reduce the risk to human health and the environment. These areas principally involve contaminated soils, groundwater and "perched" water, which is water that is suspended between sedimentary interbeds. Fifty-one suspected or confirmed contaminated areas have been designated as no action or no further action sites because calculated risks were within acceptable limits. Four other sites are being addressed by other programs.

Citizens may request copies of the proposed plans or a briefing with project managers by calling the INEEL Community Relations Plan Office at (208) 526-4700 or the INEEL's toll-free number at (800) 708-2680.



Additional information is available in the Administrative Record file for Operable Unit 3-13. The Administrative Record is located at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls. Copies can be found at the Albertson Library on the campus of Boise State University in Boise and the University of Idaho Library in Moscow. The Administrative Record may be accessed on the Internet at <http://ar.inel.gov/home.html>.



01/11/99
Post Register