

Notice of Availability

Explanation of Significant Differences for Pit 9



Agencies Issue Explanation of Significant Differences for Pit 9

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state of Idaho have issued an Explanation of Significant Differences document providing revised costs for the cleanup of Pit 9. The document estimates that the cleanup project will cost approximately \$264 million. The preliminary estimate listed in the Record of Decision for Pit 9, signed in October 1993, was \$127 million.

The revised costs were identified in the fixed-price subcontract awarded to Lockheed Environmental Systems and Technologies Company of Houston, Texas. Under the revised costs, operations and maintenance is estimated at \$76.1 million, and capital (construction costs) is estimated at \$109.5 million. Long-term storage, listed at \$62 million, is unchanged from the Record of Decision. The cost of the cleanup also includes \$16.4 million awarded during the Proof-of-Process test: a phase that required the two competing companies to prove the viability of their remediation processes. Preliminary construction activities began in December 1994. After the completion of a limited-production test in December 1996, full-scale remediation will begin in February 1997 with cleanup scheduled to be completed by February 1998.

Pit 9, an inactive waste pit approximately 1 acre in size, is located at the Subsurface Disposal Area of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Between 1967 and 1969, Pit 9 received wastes primarily from the DOE Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado. Wastes placed in the pit consisted of sludge (contaminated with a mixture of transuranics, such as plutonium and americium, and organic solvents), and assorted solid waste and cardboard boxes containing empty contaminated drums.

Additional Information/Information Repositories

Additional information concerning this project or a copy of the Explanation of Significant Differences can be obtained at any of the locations listed below, by contacting the INEL regional office in your area, or by calling the INEL Community Relations Office at (800) 780-2680 or (208) 526-6864.

INEL Technical Library
DOE-ID Public Reading Room
1776 Science Center Drive
Idaho Falls

Shoshone-Bannock Library
Bannock and Pima Streets
Fort Hall

University of Idaho Library
University of Idaho Campus
Moscow

INEL Pocatello Office
1651 Al Ricken Drive

INEL Twin Falls Office
233 2nd Street North, Suite B

INEL Boise Office
816 W. Bannock, Suite 306