



Test Area North Revised Proposed Plan to be Issued in Early November

Waste Area Group

PROPOSED PLAN

A document written for the public that describes each contaminated site, presents the cleanup alternatives evaluated for each site, and identifies the preferred alternative. It is used to solicit public input about the proposed actions.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY

A study of the nature and extent of hazardous and radioactive contamination that assesses risks to human health and the environment and evaluates possible cleanup actions.

FEASIBILITY STUDY SUPPLEMENT

A document identifying changes or additions to the Feasibility Study. The Supplement addresses changes in technical direction, including the addition of new alternatives and revision of preferred alternatives.

In February 1998, the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and State of Idaho (the Agencies) issued a **Proposed Plan** for the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's Test Area North. The plan summarized and identified preferred cleanup remedies based on the Test Area North Comprehensive **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study** completed in November 1997. Public comments (including those by the INEEL Citizens Advisory Board) raised concerns about the readability, organization, and clarity of the Proposed Plan as well as several technical questions.

In response to public comments, the Agencies took action. First, they re-examined the Feasibility Study and the Proposed Plan to address the technical questions. Second, they convened a focus group to solicit public input on improving INEEL Proposed Plans. The revised Test Area North Proposed Plan will be available for public comment November 23 through December 22, 1998.

REVISIONS – TECHNICAL

The Agencies re-examined the Feasibility Study and the Proposed Plan. They evaluated new technologies that were not available during the original Feasibility Study. They also took advantage of expanded information about past practices at the INEEL and lessons learned from other clean up activities. The re-examination answered the technical questions from the public. The results of the re-examination are described in a Feasibility Study Supplement (DOE/ID-10557, November 1998). The revised Proposed Plan incorporates information from the original Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study report as well as the new Feasibility Study Supplement.

As a result of re-examining the Test Area North information, the preferred alternative for several sites changed. The preferred alternatives for the contaminated sites are:

- V-Tanks (TSF-09 and TSF-18) - In Situ Vitrification
- PM-2A Tanks (TSF-26) - Soil Excavation, Tank Content Vacuum Removal, Treatment, and Disposal
- Soil Contamination Area South of the Turntable (TSF-06, Area B) - Excavation and On-Site Disposal
- Disposal Pond (TSF-07) - Limited Action
- Burn Pits (TSF-03 and WRRTF-01) - Native Soil Cover
- Fuel Leak (WRRTF-13) - Excavation and Land Farming

In addition to the preferred alternatives, the Agencies agreed to perform a treatability study on the Mercury Spill Site (TSF-08) to obtain information about the uptake of metals by plants.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The revised Test Area North Proposed Plan will be available on the Internet at:
<http://www.inel.gov/environment/documents/tanplan.pdf>.

The Proposed Plan will also be placed in the Administrative Record which is available on the Internet at:
<http://ar.inel.gov/home.html>

The Administrative Record is also available at the DOE Reading Room of the INEEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls, the Albertsons Library located on the Boise State University Campus in Boise, and the University of Idaho Library in Moscow.

FORMAT AND CLARITY REVISIONS

In addition to technical changes, the format and presentation of the Proposed Plan was changed to address concerns about the readability, organization, and clarity of the plan. These changes resulted from recommendations made by a focus group convened to solicit input from members of the public on how to improve INEEL proposed plans.

The new format offers clearer descriptions of sites, alternatives, and analysis of alternatives. The revised plan also identifies reference documents to help interested readers locate background information more easily. Future INEEL proposed plans will continue to incorporate the focus group's recommendations.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The revised Proposed Plan will be available for a 30-day public comment period beginning November 23. The public is encouraged to review and comment on the information presented in the Proposed Plan.

Public meetings are not scheduled during the public comment period; however, briefings about the revised proposed plan will be provided upon request. The Record of Decision for cleanup activities at Test Area North is expected to be completed in September 1999.

To request additional information or schedule a briefing, call the INEEL Community Relations Office at (208) 526-7225 or the INEEL's toll-free number:

**1800
708-2680**



INEEL
IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

INEEL Environmental Restoration Program
P.O. Box 2047
Idaho Falls, ID 83403-2047

Address Service Requested

BULK-RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
IDAHO FALLS, ID
PERMIT 73



Printed on recycled &
recyclable paper with soy