

DOE

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 1993

Removal Actions To Take Place At The Idaho Chemical Processing Plant

Radioactively contaminated liquid and sludge, hazardous material from a vessel off gas line and two storm water drain lines will be cleaned up this fall at the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. The removal actions, conducted under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (i.e., Superfund), will eliminate the threat of a hazardous substance release to the environment.

Westinghouse Idaho Nuclear Company, the contractor for the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant, will undertake the three removal actions. Work on all three projects began in August and will end by December 1993.

A 30-day public comment period on the projects will begin September 27 and end October 26, 1993. Written comments may be sent to: INEL Environmental Restoration Program, P.O. Box 2047, Idaho Falls, ID 83403-2047.

The first project will entail the removal of all liquid and sludge associated with a settling basin, settling vault and tank. Approximately 2,700 gallons (10,233 liters) of contaminated sludge and 4,000 gallons (15,160 liters) of contaminated low-level liquid will be removed from a horizontal settling basin. An additional 720 gallons (2,729 liters) of radioactive contaminated sludge and 600 gallons (2,274 liters) of low-level contaminated liquid will be removed from a vertical settling vault.

Contaminated liquid will be removed and placed in a nearby tank for treatment in the Process Equipment Waste evaporator. Contaminated sludge will be dewatered and disposed of at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

The next project will consist of the removal of hazardous waste from a plugged vessel off gas line associated with the calcine pilot plant. During a pilot plant run in 1986, this line became plugged with simulated calcine material, which contains hazardous materials. The line was subsequently capped and abandoned in place, and no release to the environment is believed to have occurred.

The removal action will consist of accessing the downstream section of the line that runs parallel to the south wall of CPP-620 by excavating the overlying asphalt and soil. The upstream section will be accessed through a utility tunnel. Both ends will be uncapped and fittings will be installed. These fittings will connect to an acid pumping system that will circulate nitric acid through the plugged line to remove all hazardous materials. Once the line has been successfully flushed, it will be recapped.

The third project is focused on preventing future threats to the environment. Two drain lines, which collect storm water from the top of Bin Set #3, then transport this runoff down the earthen berm on both the east and west side, will be capped. It is suspected that radioactive, hazardous material entered these drain lines during a previous contamination event, and continues to be released from the line during storm events. This has resulted in areas of radioactive and hazardous contaminated soil at the discharge point of each drain line. In addition, soil in the vicinity of the drain discharge will be removed and analyzed.

Radioactive wastes will be disposed of at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, while hazardous wastes will be transported off-site to an EPA-permitted facility for disposal. Nonradioactive solid wastes removed during these removal actions will be disposed of at the INEL Landfill Complex.

Further information is available in the Administrative Record file (Operable Units 3-09, 3-12, and 3-13) at the DOE-ID Public Reading Room of the INEL Technical Library; the public libraries in Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise and Fort Hall; the Idaho State Library in Boise; and the University of Idaho Library in Moscow. The Administrative Record is also available at the INEL Outreach Offices in Pocatello, Twin Falls, Boise and Moscow.

--INEL--

93-76

Media Contact: Brad Bugger, 526-0833

a/s12

Mercy Sekot
EG&G
M/S 3904