

**Trip Report: Idaho National Laboratory Site
EM Citizens Advisory Board Public Meeting
Report of Observations**

August 24, 2006

Submitted by: C. Stephen Allred

Background:

On behalf of the Environmental Management Advisory Board, Mr. C. Stephen Allred attended the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting on Tuesday, July 18, and Wednesday, July 19, 2006. The INL CAB is an Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, responsible for providing information, advice, and recommendations on EM issues specific to INL.

The goal of Mr. Allred's attendance was to:

- Observe the meeting activities.
- Report observations to Assistant Secretary James Rispoli (EM-1).
- Provide feedback and/or recommendations.

Findings and Observations:

The meeting agenda was designed to bring CAB members up-to-date on the Life Cycle Baseline for EM's work at INL. The presentation indicated that the project was on schedule and slightly below cost at 15% completion. Their safety record continues to surpass expectations, and contractors are striving for zero accidents.

Baseline projects include a wide variety of challenges and needs, many of which are unique to INL and require unprecedented solutions. Specifically, the retrieval of buried transuranic (TRU) waste and the removal and treatment of reprocessing tank waste through steam reforming, present the greatest challenges. In fact, the steam reformer application, known as the Construction on the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit at INL, is a first for the Department of Energy (DOE), and an alternative to vitrification. Groundwork is expected to begin late 2006.

Other significant projects include the decommissioning and decontamination (D&D) of multiple reactors and facilities; the clean-up and closure of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex; and the reprocessing of the Tank Farm and smaller facilities. These projects are underway amongst ongoing nuclear engineering operations.

DOE briefed the CAB on the disposition of remaining nuclear materials at the site that were surplus to ongoing needs.

CAB members take an active interest and ask very good questions. Clearly, the CAB serves a useful purpose in furthering public discussions and knowledge with regards to the DOE clean-up program at INL.

Mr. Allred suggests that EMAB maintain its interest in the SSABs and continue to send their Chair, or a designated representative, to observe CAB Chairs meetings with EM-1.