



## Contract Extension for CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC

During the regular meeting of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site Environmental Management (EM) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) held on November 15, 2011, in Idaho Falls, ID, Mr. Jim Cooper briefed the CAB on the status of the current contract for INL clean-up between the department and CH2M-WG Idaho, LLC (CWI). According to Mr. Cooper, this contract is due to expire at the end of 2012. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations has recommended to DOE Headquarters that this contract be extended through the year 2015, at which time the EM clean-up mission at INL will be complete.

The CAB has reviewed the information provided by Mr. Cooper and is recommending that this contract be extended through 2015 in order to complete the current EM funded work scope. This recommendation is based on the following considerations.

- CWI performance has been consistently high. In its routine briefings to the CAB during its regular meetings, DOE has consistently indicated that CWI is meeting expectations programmatically, operationally, and from a health and safety standpoint. Given this high level of performance it is not likely that a new contractor could make significant improvements in the pace, schedule or cost of cleanup, especially in the short term.
- Potential impact on work schedules. The ability to complete the EM work scope by the 2015 milestone could be compromised due to a re-bid and potential transition to a new contractor.
- The impact on the workers due to the uncertainties of a re-bid and potential contractor transition could be significant. Workers and supervisors could be distracted from their focus on the jobs and the tasks at hand, resulting in degraded safety performance. This has been noted in the Advanced Mixed Waste Project as a new contractor has taken over. The work scheduled over the next year, especially at the Idaho Waste Treatment Unit and at the Advanced Retrieval Project, is challenging enough without introducing external distractions and uncertainties.

We recognize that decisions such as these are not made lightly or without adequate analysis, but we, as the CAB, feel that the recommendation of INL EM management to award a contract extension is the right course of action, and will result in the best opportunity for a successful completion of the clean-up work at the INL.