

**Environmental Impact  
Statement for the Proposed  
Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the  
Idaho National Engineering and  
Environmental Laboratory in  
Butte County, Idaho**

**Draft Report for Comment**

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Washington, DC 20555-0001**



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**Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001**



## **COMMENTS ON DRAFT REPORT**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has contracted with Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) to design, construct, and operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Storage Facility that would repackage and store spent nuclear fuel and associated radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, and various Training, Research, and Isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactors). The proposed facility would be located at the DOE Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The proposed facility is part of a Settlement Agreement, dated October 17, 1995, between the DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho regarding waste removal and environmental cleanup at the INEEL. Additionally, the proposed facility would be licensed as an independent spent fuel storage installation in accordance with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations found at 10 CFR Part 72.

This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NRC regulations for implementing NEPA, and the guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. This DEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and its reasonable alternatives, describes the environment potentially affected by the proposal, presents and compares the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action and its alternatives, and describes mitigation measures.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering whether to issue a license, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 72, that would result in construction and operation of an independent spent nuclear fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) in southeast Idaho. This action would be taken in response to an application filed with the NRC by the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) on November 19, 2001. To support its licensing decision on the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, NRC determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required by the NRC National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-implementing regulations in 10 CFR Part 51.

During the last 40 years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies have generated, transported, received, stored, and reprocessed spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at DOE facilities nationwide. Part of this SNF originated from non-DOE domestic licensed facilities, including training, research, and test reactors at universities; commercial reactors; and government-owned installations, including U.S. Navy reactors for which DOE has contractual obligations to accept SNF. Most of the SNF at INEEL, originally destined for reprocessing, is currently stored in conditions acceptable only for short-term storage. Current storage at INEEL consists of aging above-ground facilities, including wet storage pools, and dry underground storage facilities. The potential for deterioration and leakage of SNF storage facilities is a concern due to their location over the Snake River Plain Aquifer, a major water source for the region.

A Settlement Agreement dated October 17, 1995, among the DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho established schedules for SNF and radioactive waste management activities at INEEL, including, among other things, the transfer and dry storage of SNF until it can be removed from Idaho. As part of the DOE effort to meet terms of this 1995 Settlement Agreement, DOE contracted with FWENC to design, license, construct, and operate the proposed ISFSI at INEEL to provide interim dry storage for portions of the SNF currently in storage. The SNF to be stored at the proposed ISFSI includes SNF resulting from operation of the Peach Bottom Unit 1 nuclear power reactor, which was licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission and operated between 1966 and 1974. SNF from the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, which ceased operation in 1984, and SNF from training, research, and isotope research reactors built by General Atomic (TRIGA reactors) are also to be stored at the proposed ISFSI.

In 1995, DOE published a record of decision based on NEPA analyses associated with its SNF management program. One project to manage SNF at INEEL is described in the record of decision as a dry fuel storage facility to accommodate receipt and storage of various fuel types currently in inventory at INEEL and the fuels projected to be received. The ISFSI proposed by FWENC is designed to meet these requirements for dry fuel storage. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, which this EIS addresses, would be located on the INEEL property adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) facilities.

1 **THE PROPOSED ACTION**

2  
3 The proposed action considered in this EIS is the construction, operation, and decommissioning  
4 of an ISFSI. On November 19, 2001, FWENC filed an application with NRC for a license to  
5 receive, package, transfer, and store SNF at an ISFSI at the INEEL in Butte County, Idaho.  
6 This new installation, if approved, will be situated on a 3.2-ha [8-acre] site located adjacent to  
7 the INTEC facility, approximately 4.8 km [3 mi] north of the INEEL Central Facilities Area. The  
8 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be designed, constructed, and operated by FWENC  
9 per contract to DOE. DOE has leased the site to FWENC for the planned operating life of  
10 the installation.

11  
12 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would store spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and associated  
13 radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature, Gas-Cooled Reactor; the  
14 Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor; and various TRIGA reactors. All the commercial  
15 SNF (Peach Bottom and Shippingport) and slightly more than two-thirds (1,100 of 1,600  
16 elements) the TRIGA SNF is currently stored within INTEC. Potential locations for the  
17 remaining TRIGA fuel and potential environmental impacts of its transport to INEEL have  
18 previously been evaluated by DOE in earlier NEPA documents and documented in the DOE  
19 records of decision.

20  
21 If NRC approves the FWENC license application, DOE would transfer the SNF to the proposed  
22 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility when that facility becomes operational. These transfers would occur  
23 completely within the boundaries of the INEEL site and would comply with INEEL procedures  
24 and DOE requirements. On arrival at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the SNF would be  
25 (i) removed from the containers in which it is currently stored, (ii) visually inspected,  
26 (iii) inventoried, (iv) placed into new storage containers, and (v) placed into interim storage. The  
27 storage containers are intended to be packaged for transportation and shipped to a repository  
28 when it becomes available. The potential environmental impacts of on-site SNF transfers within  
29 INEEL have been documented by DOE in earlier NEPA documents, and FWENC has proposed  
30 using an environmental checklist to verify whether the actual impacts are within the  
31 expected range.

32  
33 If approved, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would receive, repackage, and provide  
34 interim dry storage for

- 35  
36 • 1,601.5 elements of Peach Bottom reactor SNF;  
37 • 2,971 rods of Shippingport reactor SNF; and  
38 • Approximately 1,600 elements of TRIGA SNF.

39  
40 The Peach Bottom and Shippingport reactors ceased operations in 1974 and 1983,  
41 respectively. Because of the lengthy cooling period since final operation, these fuels produce  
42 relatively low decay heat compared to typical commercial SNF. The TRIGA SNF originated  
43 from TRIGA reactors worldwide. Although the age of the TRIGA SNF varies, the SNF  
44 generates low decay heat because of the design and operational characteristics of the  
45 TRIGA reactors.

46  
47 **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

48  
49 The purpose and need for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are to implement, in part, that  
50 portion of the DOE SNF management and INEEL record of decision concerning construction of  
51 a dry SNF storage facility. This facility also would allow DOE to satisfy, in part, its commitments



1 in the 1995 Settlement Agreement to procure dry storage facilities to replace wet storage and  
2 below-ground facilities, prepare SNF for disposal, and complete removal of all SNF from the  
3 state by 2035. These objectives would be accomplished at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
4 Facility by

- 5
- 6 • Receiving SNF generated at the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature Gas-Cooled  
7 Reactor; the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, and various TRIGA reactors;  
8
- 9 • Transferring SNF from the current DOE storage facilities at INTEC into new storage  
10 containers; and
- 11
- 12 • Placing the storage containers into an ISFSI licensed by NRC per 10 CFR Part 72.  
13

14 Additionally, DOE specified the canister dimensions in its original request for proposal for the  
15 construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Storage Facility to meet the anticipated criteria of  
16 a national high-level waste (HLW) geologic repository and facilitate eventual removal of the SNF  
17 from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and INEEL.

18

## 19 **ALTERNATIVES**

20

21 The DOE effort to manage the national issue of SNF involved evaluation of many national  
22 alternatives: No Action, Decentralization, 1992/1993 Planning Basis, Regionalization, and  
23 Centralization. The 1995 DOE programmatic SNF EIS identified Regionalization by Nuclear  
24 Fuel Type as the preferred national SNF management alternative. Consistent with these  
25 national alternatives, alternatives considered for the INEEL environmental restoration and waste  
26 management program included No Action; Ten-Year Plan; Minimum Treatment, Storage, and  
27 Disposal; and Maximum Treatment, Storage, and Disposal. In its record of decision, DOE  
28 designated Regionalization by Nuclear Fuel Type as the preferred programmatic alternative for  
29 management of SNF. The record of decision also announced the DOE decision to implement a  
30 modified version of the Ten-Year Plan, including construction of a dry fuel storage facility and  
31 other site-specific environmental restoration and waste management actions at INEEL. The  
32 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is considered by DOE to implement the dry fuel storage  
33 facility identified in the modified Ten-Year Plan.

34

35 In addition to the proposed action to construct the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, this EIS includes  
36 analysis of the no-action alternative. Under the no-action alternative, NRC would not approve  
37 the FWENC license application, and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not be built.  
38 DOE would continue to store the SNF from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature,  
39 Gas-Cooled Reactor, the light water breeder reactor spent fuel from the Shippingport Light  
40 Water Breeder Reactor, and the TRIGA reactor SNF at their current locations within INTEC.  
41 Remaining TRIGA reactor fuel will continue to be shipped and stored at INEEL as identified in  
42 previous DOE records of decision. As necessary, the current storage facilities would be  
43 modified to accommodate the extended storage time. Other SNF activities would continue as  
44 described in the 1995 DOE programmatic SNF EIS. Other activities at the INTEC facility will  
45 continue as described in other DOE NEPA analyses.

46

47 Dry fuel storage is the alternative preferred by DOE for SNF consolidation and management  
48 at INEEL. In developing design criteria for the proposed dry storage facility at INEEL, DOE  
49 specified operational performance characteristics and specific design criteria such as container

1 dimensions, year-round operation, storage containers that can be transported by truck or rail,  
2 personnel and public exposure limits, and minimization of decommissioning activities. In  
3 evaluating design approaches, DOE considered both cost and value to the government. Based  
4 on these objectives and criteria, DOE selected the FWENC design for the proposed Idaho  
5 Spent Fuel Facility. Other alternatives to dry storage considered in previous DOE NEPA  
6 analyses either did not meet programmatic objectives or did not meet terms of the 1995  
7 Settlement Agreement. Based on previous DOE and NRC NEPA analyses and comments  
8 received during the public scoping period, the proposed action alternative and the no-action  
9 alternatives are likely to bound the impacts of dry fuel storage at INEEL, and only these  
10 alternatives are evaluated in this EIS.

11

## 12 **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

13

14 Potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no-action alternatives are  
15 evaluated in this EIS and summarized next. Detailed discussion of the potential impacts is  
16 included in Section 4 of this EIS. The environmental impacts from the proposed action are  
17 generally small and will be mitigated by methods described in Section 5. Monitoring methods  
18 are described in Section 6.

19

### 20 **Land Use**

21

22 Small Impact. Construction activities associated with the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
23 would occur on a 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site and an adjoining 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area.  
24 The 7.3 ha [18 acres] are adjacent to INTEC, a large existing industrial facility at INEEL. The  
25 proposed site is currently in use as a laydown area and has been disturbed previously by other  
26 construction activities and land uses. Operational impacts include restricted access to the  
27 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site and the use of the site for SNF receiving, packaging, and storage.

28

### 29 **Transportation**

30

31 Small Impact. Operational impacts are related to transfer of the currently stored SNF at INTEC,  
32 a maximum distance of about 700 m [2,300 ft], to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
33 Shipments would be made in DOE-supplied casks loaded on trailers. Movement of the SNF  
34 within INEEL and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be conducted in accordance  
35 with the DOE procedures and orders for SNF transfers within the INEEL complex.

36

### 37 **Geology and Soils**

38

39 Small Impact. Construction-related impacts to soil would occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and,  
40 to some extent, on the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Excavation, earthmoving, and grading  
41 would occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site. Preconstruction surveys conducted in 2001 indicate no  
42 contamination above regulatory limits at the site. No construction or operational impacts would  
43 occur on mineral deposits or unique geological resources.

44

### 45 **Water Resources**

46

47 Small Impact. Construction impacts would be minimal to the quality of both surface water and  
48 groundwater. An existing storm water pollution prevention plan is in effect at INEEL to minimize

1 surface runoff impacts. Water used for construction-phase dust control would evaporate or  
2 seep into surface soils. The proposed site is 140 to 146 m [460 to 480 ft] above the Snake  
3 River Plain Aquifer. Facility water requirements would be met through the existing water supply  
4 at the INTEC facility. There are no planned liquid effluents for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
5 Facility, and wastewater treatment requirements would be met via existing INTEC facilities.  
6 Because no new groundwater wells or percolation ponds would be developed for the proposed  
7 facility, groundwater contamination is unlikely. During the first year of construction,  
8 approximately 1.5 million L [396,000 gal] of water would be used for dust suppression, with an  
9 additional 1.91 million L [505,000 gal] estimated for concrete production at the site. During the  
10 second year of construction, it is estimated that water needs will be reduced by half. Drinking  
11 water usage during operation would be about 141,950 L/mo [37,500 gal/mo]. These amounts  
12 are a small fraction of the 7.4 billion L [2.0 billion gal] used annually at INEEL and the annual  
13 withdrawal of 43 billion L [11.4 billion gal] permitted by the DOE and State of Idaho Water  
14 Rights Agreement.

15

## 16 **Ecological Resources**

17

18 Small Impact. Minimal impacts to ecological resources are anticipated from the construction  
19 and operation of the facility. There are no wetlands or habitats for threatened or endangered  
20 plant or animal species at the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site or the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area.  
21 Secondary impacts on wildlife from noise and various human activities are expected to be  
22 localized, temporary, and minimal.

23

## 24 **Air Quality**

25

26 Small Impact. Construction-related fugitive dusts and exhaust emissions would be temporary  
27 and highly localized. With construction phase watering, the fugitive dusts and particulates  
28 would be about 8.2 metric tons [9 tons]; this amount is small in relation to the INEEL emission  
29 inventory for particulates. No impacts to radiological air quality are anticipated from  
30 construction activities. During operation, there would be no chemical air discharges, and the  
31 vehicular exhausts would be small and within limitations. Therefore, no significant impacts to  
32 nonradiological air quality are anticipated. Facility operations are not expected to result in the  
33 atmospheric discharge of significant amounts of gaseous radioactive effluents. The proposed  
34 facility would be fully enclosed and would include a special ventilation system along with high  
35 efficiency particulate air filters. Monitoring of stack emissions for particulate radionuclides,  
36 iodine-129, and tritium (hydrogen-3) would be used to warn of any minimal releases.

37

## 38 **Noise**

39

40 Small Impact. Construction-phase noise levels would be typical of industrial areas; further, they  
41 would be temporary and highly localized. Noise from construction and operational traffic would  
42 be minimal in relation to existing traffic noise levels in the INTEC area. Potential noise levels  
43 from operations would be less than those from construction. Hearing protection would be  
44 required for workers per Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. No unique  
45 noise receptors are in the vicinity of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Therefore, noise  
46 impacts are not expected to be significant.

47

1 **Historical, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources**

2  
3 Small Impact. There are no known historical, cultural, or paleontological resources within the  
4 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Thirty-eight buildings and structures  
5 within INTEC are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, however, only  
6 two of these structures are near the area that would be affected by the construction of the  
7 proposed facility and the transfer of SNF. The proposed facility would not introduce a built  
8 environment in a pristine natural setting. There are potential cumulative effects from withdrawal  
9 of access by the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes to the proposed 7.3-ha [18-acre] site, but these  
10 lands are already contained within the limited access buffer area around INTEC.

11  
12 **Visual/Scenic Resources**

13  
14 Small Impact. Because of its smaller scale in relation to the adjacent INTEC facilities,  
15 construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not cause visual  
16 impacts to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Class IV rating for the INTEC area. Fugitive  
17 dusts and exhaust emissions from construction would not impair the BLM Class III rating of  
18 lands adjacent to INEEL, nor would the minimal releases of radioactive particulates and gases  
19 during operations. No significant visual or scenic impacts are anticipated.

20  
21 **Socioeconomic**

22  
23 Small Impact. Construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would last about 2 years.  
24 This phase would employ a maximum of 250 workers, approximately 3 percent of the current  
25 INEEL workforce of 8,100. Because most workers will likely come from the existing INEEL  
26 workforce, the construction phase would not have significant socioeconomic effects on  
27 population growth, employment levels, housing, and infrastructure. For the first 4 years of  
28 operation, when fuel receipt and packaging occurs, nearly 60 employees would be required.  
29 Storage operations beyond the first 4 years would likely require fewer workers. Most operations  
30 staff will be from the local INEEL workforce. Again, no significant impacts are expected on the  
31 various features of the socioeconomic environment.

32  
33 **Environmental Justice**

34  
35 Small Impact. The minority population near INEEL is predominately Hispanic, American Indian,  
36 and Asian, with these groups composes approximately 7 percent of the population within an  
37 80-km [50-mi] radius. The low-income population in this same area composes approximately  
38 14 percent of the population. Special concerns related to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes have  
39 been identified via numerous of consultations between Tribal officials and INEEL officials. Two  
40 recent programmatic impact studies for INEEL concluded that environmental justice impacts are  
41 not significant. Accordingly, because of the small socioeconomic impacts of the proposed Idaho  
42 Spent Fuel Facility, in general, and the lack of identified disproportionate impacts in the three  
43 recent impact studies, it can be concluded that no disproportionately high and adverse human  
44 health or environmental effects will occur on minority and low-income populations.

1 **Public and Occupational Health and Safety**

2

3 Small Impact. Potential impacts were examined for normal, off-normal, and accident conditions.  
4 For normal operating conditions, no chemical discharges are planned, and a health and safety  
5 program would be in place for the workers. The primary pathway for off-site radiation exposure  
6 to the public is from atmospheric emissions of radioactive particulates, iodine-129, tritium, and a  
7 few other radionuclides. Iodine-129 and tritium would contribute nearly 80 percent of the total  
8 estimated dose. The estimated annual dose for the maximally exposed individual at the  
9 southern boundary of INEEL is  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  mSv [ $3 \times 10^{-5}$  mrem] from the proposed Idaho Spent  
10 Fuel Facility; from all nearby facility operations, the estimated dose is less than 0.0032 mSv  
11 [0.32 mrem]. The regulatory annual dose limit is 0.1 mSv [10 mrem], and the natural  
12 background annual radiation is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem] in this general area. Therefore, public  
13 radiation impacts during normal operations of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be  
14 minimal and insignificant. Estimated occupational radiological doses from construction of the  
15 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem] annually to  
16 construction workers. The NRC annual occupational limit is 50 mSv [5,000 mrem], and the  
17 annual natural background radiation dose is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem]. The estimated occupational  
18 dose to SNF-handling workers is 9.1 mSv [910 mrem] annually, with the NRC annual  
19 occupational limit at 50 mSv [5,000 mrem]. The estimated annual radiation dose to all workers  
20 within an 8-km [4.8-mi] radius is  $6.68 \times 10^{-5}$  mSv [ $6.68 \times 10^{-3}$  mrem]. Further analyses were  
21 also made of the public and occupational health and safety impacts of external events such as  
22 flooding, aircraft impact, volcanic hazards, seismic hazards, extreme wind and wind-generated  
23 missiles, and wildfires. Design features and operational practices are expected to minimize the  
24 public and occupational health and safety impacts of these events and accidents.

25

26 **Waste Management**

27

28 Small Impact. Small quantities of gaseous, liquid, and solid low-level radioactive waste will be  
29 generated during the SNF receipt and repackaging operations planned for the first 3 years.  
30 After the SNF is repackaged and stored, no gaseous releases or liquid or solid radioactive  
31 wastes are anticipated on a regular basis. Less than 17,790 L [4,700 gal] of low-level liquid  
32 wastes will be generated annually from decontamination activities. The INEEL Radioactive  
33 Waste Management Complex has the capacity to handle these small quantities of generated  
34 wastes during the storage period for the repackaged SNF.

35

36 **MITIGATION MEASURES**

37

38 The types of impacts and potential mitigation measures are summarized in Section 5 of this EIS.

39

40 **Mitigation Measures During Construction**

41

42 Mitigation measures during construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will include  
43 monitoring and best-management practices, such as using water to control fugitive dust and  
44 soil-retention methods to control erosion.

45

1 **Mitigation Measures During Operation**

2

3 Using the organizational structure for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, FWENC would be  
4 responsible for operational programs within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site and rely  
5 on the DOE Idaho Operations Office for services, environmental control and management,  
6 security, and emergency planning functions outside the boundaries of the proposed facility. As  
7 the operator of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, FWENC would participate in the INEEL  
8 Monitoring and Surveillance Committee to help coordinate activities among organizations with a  
9 stake in operations at the INEEL facility and also share in the exchange of information related to  
10 monitoring, analytical methodologies, and quality assurance.

11

12 The existing environmental monitoring programs on the INEEL include

13

- 14 • Effluent Monitoring Program;
- 15 • Drinking Water Program;
- 16 • Storm Water Monitoring Program;
- 17 • Site Environmental Surveillance Program;
- 18 • Off-Site Environmental Surveillance Program;
- 19 • U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Monitoring Program;
- 20 • Meteorological Monitoring Program; and
- 21 • INEEL Oversight Program.

22

23 The FWENC monitoring program for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is discussed in  
24 more detail in Section 6 of this EIS. Preoperational sampling would be used to establish  
25 baselines for both radiological and nonradiological constituents at the proposed site. For  
26 radiological constituents, the operational program would measure direct radiation, airborne  
27 radionuclide concentrations within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site boundaries, and  
28 radionuclide concentrations in the soil on the proposed site. The environmental sampling for  
29 radionuclides would include thermoluminescent dosimeters at the fence and particulate and gas  
30 sampling at the stack. Additional samplings and analyses would be performed if routine outdoor  
31 surveys show unexpected anomalies or after any incident involving a radioactive spill. The  
32 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, as part of INEEL, would become a part of the INEEL  
33 environmental surveillance program. NRC will prepare a safety evaluation report to provide a  
34 detailed evaluation of the compliance of the monitoring program with the applicable regulations.

35

36 **SUMMARY OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

37

38 Costs and benefits of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are estimated based on existing  
39 DOE NEPA analyses and cost information provided in the FWENC license application to NRC.  
40 Detailed analyses of these costs and benefits are included in Section 7 of this EIS.

41

42 **Costs Associated with Construction Activities**

43

44 FWENC would design, construct, and initially operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
45 contract with DOE. FWENC estimates construction costs associated with the proposed Idaho  
46 Spent Fuel Facility will be approximately \$119.6 million (2001 dollars).

47

1 **Costs Associated with Operational Activities**

2  
3 After the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is operational, DOE would make payments to  
4 FWENC during the transfer and storage of the first 800 fuel-handling units of SNF. As defined  
5 in the contract, one fuel-handling unit is equal to one fuel element for intact SNF. These  
6 amortized capital costs total approximately \$119.6 million (2001 dollars). In addition to the  
7 amortizing payments, DOE would also make payments for transfer and storage of the remaining  
8 SNF at specific unit prices for each SNF type. Total payments, inclusive of all fuel types, would  
9 be approximately \$32.5 million (2001 dollars).

10  
11 Poststorage operation and maintenance of the facility by FWENC would be at the option of  
12 DOE. Pending necessary transfer of the NRC license from FWENC, DOE would have the  
13 contractual option to assume responsibility for the facility after the initial fuel-handling,  
14 packaging, and storage operations. Should DOE desire that FWENC continue as the licensee  
15 during the poststorage operations phase of the project, DOE would pay FWENC about  
16 \$1.94 million (2001 dollars) per year.

17  
18 **Costs Associated with Decontamination and Decommissioning**

19  
20 DOE would retain ownership of the SNF and remain financially responsible for the eventual  
21 decontamination and decommissioning of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. As part of its  
22 license application to NRC, FWENC provided a proposed decommissioning plan that presents  
23 the estimated cost of dismantling, decontaminating, and decommissioning the site in 2018 at  
24 \$22.6 million (2001 dollars) for radiological decommissioning activities and approximately  
25 \$13.2 million (2001 dollars) for the nonradiological activities associated with site restoration.  
26 The radiological decommissioning cost estimate considers only those costs associated with  
27 normal decommissioning activities necessary for release of the site for unrestricted use in  
28 accordance with the NRC radiological criteria for license termination in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart  
29 E. The radiological decommissioning cost estimate does not include those costs associated  
30 with SNF management or the disposal of nonradioactive structures and materials. Cost  
31 estimates for nonradiological decommissioning consider those costs associated with site  
32 remediation and demolition and removal of uncontaminated structures.

33  
34 **Impact of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility on the Programmatic**  
35 **Costs of SNF Management at INEEL**

36  
37 DOE estimated the programmatic costs of SNF management both with and without the  
38 construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The current life-cycle  
39 cost estimate for sending all SNF managed by DOE at INEEL to a national HLW repository is  
40 \$2.815 billion (2001 dollars). This life-cycle cost considers the costs for construction and  
41 operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, plus the predicted cost of implementing any  
42 future modifications or enhancements to the facility necessary to prepare the SNF for shipment  
43 to a national HLW repository.

44  
45 If the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is not built, the life-cycle cost estimate for sending all  
46 DOE-managed SNF from INEEL to a national HLW repository is estimated to be \$3.069 billion  
47 (2001 dollars). This estimate assumes alternative facility approaches (essentially making major  
48 modifications to extend the life of existing facilities) in lieu of the proposed Idaho Spent

1 Fuel Facility. Based on these two estimates, the programmatic benefit to the federal  
2 government of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is, at a minimum, \$251 million  
3 (2001 dollars).

4

## 5 **Benefits Associated with the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility**

6

7 Construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have a minor  
8 positive effect on the regional economy. Socioeconomic benefits include using regional workers  
9 for construction and increased sales for regional suppliers for the duration of construction.  
10 Because the work force would be small relative to the number of employees at INEEL, the  
11 proposed action would not result in a regional growth spurt, and the infrastructure of public  
12 services and transportation systems would not be adversely affected.

13

14 The proposed action is designed to support the INEEL mission and comply with agreements  
15 and commitments negotiated by DOE. Currently, most SNF to be received by the proposed  
16 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is stored at INTEC. The 1995 Settlement Agreement among DOE, the  
17 State of Idaho, and the U.S. Navy established specific activities required to remove SNF from  
18 Idaho by 2035. Although the current storage configuration has worked well, it does not prepare  
19 the SNF for shipment from INEEL to a national HLW repository. The proposed Idaho Spent  
20 Fuel Facility would provide the ability to remove the SNF from existing storage locations, place it  
21 in specially designed storage containers, then seal and place the loaded containers in interim  
22 storage. The new containers would be designed for compatibility with transportation systems  
23 and with the eventual permanent disposal systems. After the SNF is placed in the containers, it  
24 would not need to be repackaged for shipment to a national HLW repository that  
25 becomes available.

26

## 27 **COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES**

28

29 For the no-action alternative, NRC would not grant the license, and the proposed facility would  
30 not be constructed. In this case, DOE would maintain current storage activities as described in  
31 the 1995 DOE programmatic SNF EIS. Under the no-action alternative, SNF stored at INEEL  
32 would be transferred and consolidated at existing facilities at INTEC. During a 3-year transition  
33 period, naval SNF would continue to be received and stored at INTEC based on terms of the  
34 1995 Settlement Agreement. Existing procedures and site-wide plans such as the INEEL Storm  
35 Water Pollution Protection Plan and the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan would  
36 continue to be implemented by DOE and its contractors. In the short term, no major upgrades  
37 or new facilities would be installed, and minor fuel conditioning would be necessary to maintain  
38 safe operation. Because no new facility would be constructed, short-term impacts to geological  
39 resources; land use; water resources; and ecological, visual/scenic, and cultural resources  
40 would be unchanged from current operations and SNF management activities. Transportation  
41 and storage of the remaining TRIGA reactor fuel would continue per an existing DOE record  
42 of decision.

43

44 In the short term, differences between the proposed action and the no-action alternative are  
45 negligible. In the longer term, however, current storage and fuel-handling facilities at the INTEC  
46 would be open and operational longer than planned. Ultimately, existing facilities would need to  
47 be modified or facilities similar to those described in the proposed action would need to be built.  
48 For example, the current storage location of Shippingport SNF at INTEC Irradiated Spent Fuel  
49 Storage Facility would be modified to expand the hot cell and add a load-out facility in lieu of the



- 1 availability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Long-term impacts would be similar to the
- 2 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, because the SNF must be repackaged before shipment
- 3 from INEEL to a national geologic HLW repository can occur.

1 **THE PROPOSED ACTION**

2

3 The proposed action considered in this EIS is the construction, operation, and decommissioning  
4 of an ISFSI. On November 19, 2001, FWENC filed an application with NRC for a license to  
5 receive, package, transfer, and store SNF at an ISFSI at the INEEL in Butte County, Idaho.  
6 This new installation, if approved, will be situated on a 3.2-ha [8-acre] site located adjacent to  
7 the INTEC facility, approximately 4.8 km [3 mi] north of the INEEL Central Facilities Area. The  
8 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be designed, constructed, and operated by FWENC  
9 per contract to DOE. DOE has leased the site to FWENC for the planned operating life of  
10 the installation.

11

12 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would store spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and associated  
13 radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature, Gas-Cooled Reactor; the  
14 Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor; and various TRIGA reactors. All the commercial  
15 SNF (Peach Bottom and Shippingport) and slightly more than two-thirds (1,100 of 1,600  
16 elements) the TRIGA SNF is currently stored within INTEC. Potential locations for the  
17 remaining TRIGA fuel and potential environmental impacts of its transport to INEEL have  
18 previously been evaluated by DOE in earlier NEPA documents and documented in the DOE  
19 records of decision.

20

21 If NRC approves the FWENC license application, DOE would transfer the SNF to the proposed  
22 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility when that facility becomes operational. These transfers would occur  
23 completely within the boundaries of the INEEL site and would comply with INEEL procedures  
24 and DOE requirements. On arrival at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the SNF would be  
25 (i) removed from the containers in which it is currently stored, (ii) visually inspected,  
26 (iii) inventoried, (iv) placed into new storage containers, and (v) placed into interim storage. The  
27 storage containers are intended to be packaged for transportation and shipped to a repository  
28 when it becomes available. The potential environmental impacts of on-site SNF transfers within  
29 INEEL have been documented by DOE in earlier NEPA documents, and FWENC has proposed  
30 using an environmental checklist to verify whether the actual impacts are within the  
31 expected range.

32

33 If approved, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would receive, repackage, and provide  
34 interim dry storage for

35

- 36 • 1,601.5 elements of Peach Bottom reactor SNF;
- 37 • 2,971 rods of Shippingport reactor SNF; and
- 38 • Approximately 1,600 elements of TRIGA SNF.

39

40 The Peach Bottom and Shippingport reactors ceased operations in 1974 and 1983,  
41 respectively. Because of the lengthy cooling period since final operation, these fuels produce  
42 relatively low decay heat compared to typical commercial SNF. The TRIGA SNF originated  
43 from TRIGA reactors worldwide. Although the age of the TRIGA SNF varies, the SNF  
44 generates low decay heat because of the design and operational characteristics of the  
45 TRIGA reactors.

46

47 **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

48

49 The purpose and need for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are to implement, in part, that  
50 portion of the DOE SNF management and INEEL record of decision concerning construction of  
51 a dry SNF storage facility. This facility also would allow DOE to satisfy, in part, its commitments

## ACRONYMS

ALARA	as low as is reasonably achievable
ANS	American Nuclear Society
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CNWRA	Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EBSLs	Ecologically Based Screening Levels
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FWENC	Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation
HEPA	high efficiency particulate air
HLW	high-level waste
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
INEEL	Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (formerly INEL)
INTEC	Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center
ISFSI	independent spent fuel storage installation
LMITCO	Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company
MEI	maximally exposed individual
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PM	particulate matter
PRGs	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Preliminary Remediation Goals
PSD	prevention of significant deterioration
PSHA	probabilistic seismic hazard analysis
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SNF	spent nuclear fuel
SSCs	structures, systems, and components
TRIGA	Training, Research, and Isotope Reactors built by General Atomics

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering whether to issue a license, pursuant to 10 CFR Part 72, for construction and operation of an independent spent nuclear fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) (formerly the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory), which is located in southeast Idaho. This action would be taken in response to an application filed with NRC by the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) on November 19, 2001 (NRC, 2002a). To support its licensing decision, NRC determined that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required by the NRC National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-implementing regulations in 10 CFR Part 51.

During the last 40 years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies have generated, transported, received, stored, and reprocessed spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the DOE facilities nationwide. Part of this SNF originated from non-DOE domestic licensed facilities, including training, research, and test reactors at universities; commercial reactors; and government-owned installations for which DOE has contractual obligations to accept SNF. Most of the SNF at the INEEL, originally destined for reprocessing, is currently stored in conditions only acceptable for short-term storage. Current storage at INEEL consists of aging aboveground facilities, including wet storage pools, and dry underground storage facilities. Deterioration of these SNF facilities is a potential concern because of their location over the Snake River Plain Aquifer, a major water source for the region.

A Settlement Agreement dated October 17, 1995, among DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho requires, among other things, the transfer and dry storage of SNF until it can be removed from Idaho. As part of the DOE effort to meet terms of this 1995 Settlement Agreement, the DOE contracted with FWENC to design, license, construct, and operate the proposed ISFSI at the INEEL to provide interim dry storage for portions of the SNF currently in storage. The SNF to be stored at the proposed ISFSI includes SNF resulting from operation of the Peach Bottom Unit 1 nuclear power reactor, which was licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission and operated between 1966 and 1974. SNF from the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, which ceased operation in 1984, and SNF from training, research, and isotope research reactors built by General Atomic (TRIGA reactors) are also to be stored at the proposed ISFSI.

On October 17, 1995, DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho entered into The 1995 Settlement Agreement. This agreement ended years of litigation between the federal government and the state regarding waste removal and environmental cleanup of the INEEL in the cases of *Public Service Company of Colorado v. Batt*, CV-91-0035-S-EJL (D. Idaho) and *United States v. Batt*, CV-91-0065-S-EJL (D. Idaho). According to terms of The 1995 Settlement Agreement, Idaho agreed to allow shipments of specified amounts of certain types of SNF to be received at the INEEL and to process DOE permit applications in a timely manner. DOE agreed, among other things, to initiate procurement of dry storage facilities to replace wet storage and below-ground facilities, employ multipurpose canisters to prepare SNF for disposal, and complete removal of all SNF from the state by 2035.

DOE previously issued a record of decision (DOE, 1995a) pertaining to its SNF

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1 management program, later amended to reflect the Settlement Agreement (DOE, 1996a). The  
2 record of decision documents the DOE programmatic decision to pursue the "regionalization by  
3 fuel type" and the INEEL site-specific decision to pursue the "modified Ten-Year plan." One  
4 project to manage SNF is described in the record of decision as a dry fuel storage facility that  
5 "will accommodate receipt and storage of various fuel types currently in inventory at the [Idaho  
6 National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory] and the fuels projected to be received at  
7 the [INEEL]" (DOE, 1995a). The ISFSI proposed by FWENC, which this EIS addresses, will be  
8 located on the INEEL property adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering  
9 Center (INTEC) facilities.

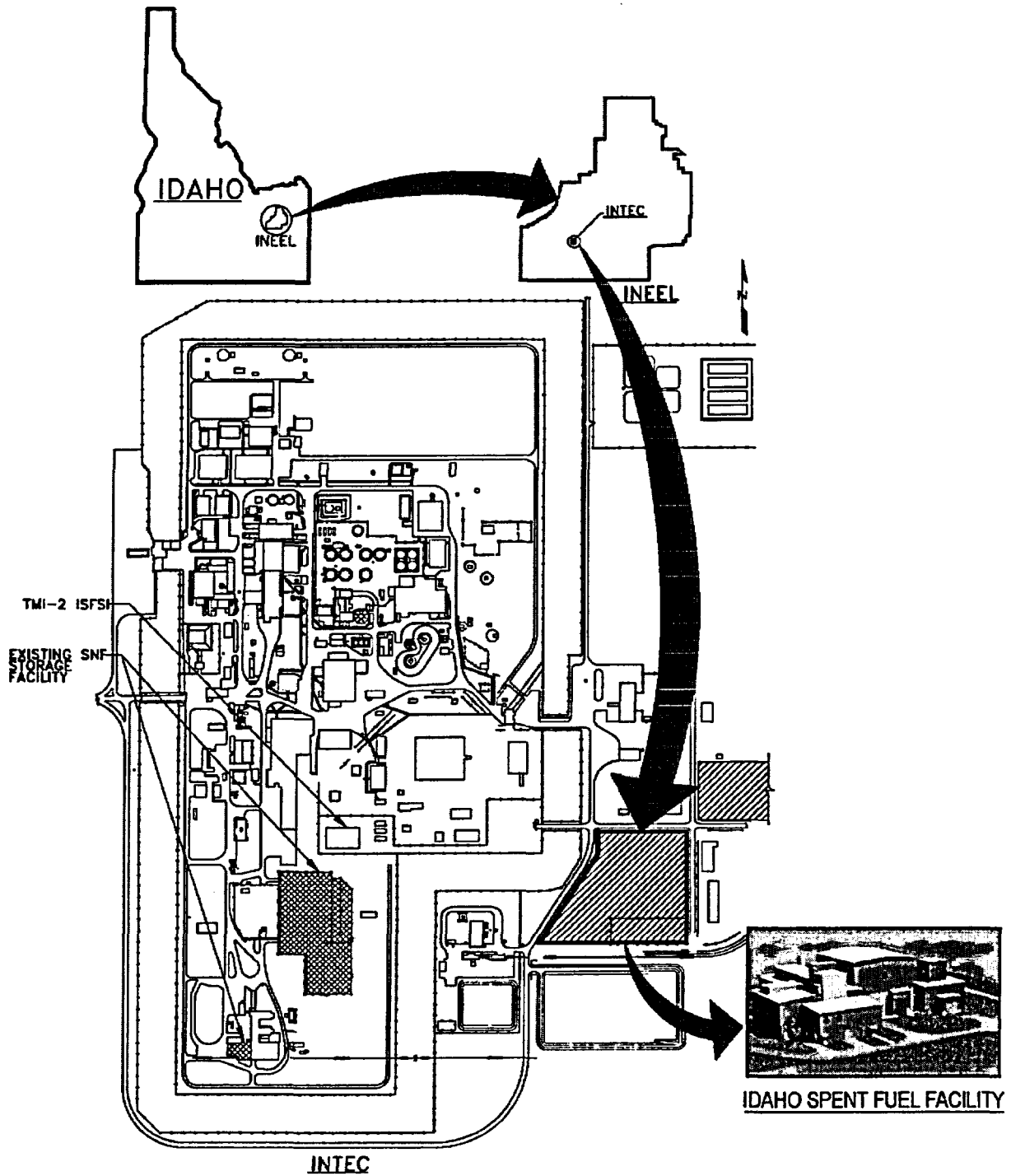
10  
11 The DOE decisions were based, in part, on the information and analyses contained in the final  
12 programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995b). Volume 2 of the DOE programmatic SNF EIS evaluates  
13 potential impacts of the SNF management program at INEEL with additional information on  
14 foreseeable projects, including a generic analysis of a facility similar to the proposed Idaho  
15 Spent Fuel Facility.

### 17 **1.2 The Proposed Action**

18  
19 The proposed action considered in this EIS is the construction, operation, and decommissioning  
20 of an ISFSI. On November 19, 2001, FWENC filed an application with NRC for a license to  
21 receive, package, transfer, and store SNF and other radioactive materials associated with SNF  
22 at an ISFSI at the INEEL in Butte County, Idaho. NRC accepted the license application for  
23 docketing in June 2002 (NRC, 2002a). As part of its license application, FWENC submitted an  
24 environmental report and a safety analysis report (FWENC, 2001a,b). This new installation, if  
25 approved, will be situated on an 3.2-ha [8-acre] site located adjacent to the INTEC facility, about  
26 4.8 km [3 mi] north of the INEEL Central Facilities Area (Figure 1-1). The proposed Idaho Spent  
27 Fuel Facility would be designed, constructed, and operated by FWENC per contract to DOE.  
28 DOE has leased the site to FWENC for the planned operating life of the installation.

29  
30 The proposed ISFSI, which is referred to herein as the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility,  
31 would store SNF and associated radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1  
32 High-Temperature, Gas-Cooled Reactor; the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, and  
33 various TRIGA reactors. All the SNF (Peach Bottom and Shippingport) and slightly more than  
34 two thirds (1,100 of 1,600 elements) of the TRIGA SNF is currently stored within INTEC.  
35 Potential locations of the remaining TRIGA fuel and potential environmental impacts of its  
36 transport to INEEL have previously been evaluated by DOE in earlier NEPA documents (DOE,  
37 1995b, Volume 1, Appendix E; 1996b, Volume 1, Section 2) and the associated records of  
38 decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a,c).

39  
40 If NRC approves the FWENC license application, DOE plans to transfer the SNF to the  
41 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility when that facility becomes operational. These transfers  
42 would occur completely within the boundaries of the INEEL site and would comply with INEEL  
43 procedures and DOE requirements. On arrival at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the  
44 SNF would be (i) removed from the containers in which it is currently stored, (ii) visually  
45 inspected, (iii) inventoried, (iv) placed into new storage containers, and (v) placed into interim  
46 storage. The storage containers are intended to be packaged for transportation and shipped to  
47 a national high-level waste (HLW) repository when it becomes available. The potential



1

Figure 1-1. Location of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (FWENC, 2001b)

## Introduction

1 environmental impacts of on-site SNF transfers within INEEL have been documented by DOE in  
2 earlier NEPA documents (DOE, 1995a,b). An environmental checklist will be used to verify  
3 whether the actual impacts are within the expected range (FWENC, 2003).

4  
5 If approved, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will receive, repackage, and provide interim  
6 dry storage for

- 7
- 8 • 1,601.5 elements of Peach Bottom reactor SNF;
- 9 • 2,971 rods of Shippingport reactor SNF; and
- 10 • Approximately 1,600 elements of TRIGA SNF.

11  
12 The Peach Bottom and Shippingport reactors ceased operation in 1974 and 1983, respectively.  
13 Because of the lengthy cooling period since final operation, these fuels produce relatively low  
14 decay heat compared to typical commercial SNF. The TRIGA SNF originated from TRIGA  
15 reactors worldwide. Although the age of the TRIGA SNF varies, it also generates low decay  
16 heat because of the design and operational characteristics of the TRIGA reactors.

### 17 18 **1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

19  
20 The purpose and need for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is to implement, in part, the  
21 portion of the DOE SNF management program and INEEL record of decision (DOE, 1995a,  
22 1996a) concerning construction of a dry SNF storage facility. Implementation also would allow  
23 DOE to satisfy, in part, its commitments in the 1995 Settlement Agreement to procure dry  
24 storage facilities to replace wet storage and below-ground facilities, employ multipurpose  
25 canisters to prepare SNF for disposal, and complete removal of all SNF from Idaho by 2035.  
26 These objectives would be accomplished at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility by

- 27
- 28 • Receiving SNF generated at the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature, Gas-Cooled  
29 Reactor; the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor; and various TRIGA reactors;
- 30
- 31 • Transferring SNF from the DOE storage containers in which it is currently stored at  
32 INTEC into new storage containers; and
- 33
- 34 • Placing the storage containers into an ISFSI licensed by NRC per 10 CFR Part 72.

35  
36 Additionally, DOE specified the canister dimensions in its original request for proposal for the  
37 construction of the Idaho Spent Fuel Storage Facility to meet the anticipated criteria of a  
38 national HLW geologic repository and facilitate eventual removal of the SNF from the proposed  
39 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the INEEL.

### 40 41 **1.4 NRC Regulation of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility**

42  
43 On November 19, 2001, FWENC filed an application with NRC for a license per 10 CFR Part 72  
44 to receive, transfer, and possess SNF and operate an ISFSI at the INEEL in Butte County,  
45 Idaho. If approved, the initial term of the license would be for 20 years, with the option for  
46 additional renewals (10 CFR 72.42) (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix A). The NRC decisionmaking  
47 process includes an environmental and safety review of the construction and operation of the  
48 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. On completion of both reviews, NRC will decide whether to  
49 grant a license with or without conditions, or deny the FWENC request.

1 As required in 10 CFR 51.102(a),  
 2 any NRC decision on this action  
 3 will be accompanied by a public  
 4 record of decision. The record of  
 5 decision may be integrated into  
 6 any other record prepared by NRC  
 7 in connection with the action [10  
 8 CFR 51.103(b)].

9  
 10 The NRC regulations for an ISFSI  
 11 are contained in 10 CFR Part 72.  
 12 Compliance with these regulations  
 13 will provide reasonable assurance  
 14 that the design and operation of  
 15 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
 16 Facility will provide adequate

17 protection for public health and safety. The NRC regulations for compliance with NEPA are  
 18 contained in 10 CFR Part 51. Consistent with NEPA, the NRC regulations require an EIS be  
 19 completed for Federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment.  
 20 The NRC previously determined that licensing an away-from-reactor ISFSI requires the  
 21 preparation of an EIS [10 CFR 51.20(b)(9)]. Because the proposed location for the Idaho Spent  
 22 Fuel Facility is at a site not occupied by a nuclear power reactor, NRC is, therefore, preparing  
 23 an EIS for the environmental review associated with this licensing action.

## 24 25 **1.5 Scope of This Environmental Analysis**

26  
 27 As required by NEPA, NRC used the scoping process to solicit public involvement and  
 28 comment, and to identify, in general, the issues that need to be addressed in an EIS. The  
 29 scoping process has also helped NRC to identify significant issues requiring indepth analysis.  
 30 Such information has been used by NRC in preparing this EIS to support the decision whether  
 31 to issue a license to FWENC for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. During the scoping  
 32 process, commenters noted that previous NEPA analyses have been prepared by DOE for  
 33 INEEL (DOE, 1995b; 2002a) and by NRC for the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI situated within  
 34 the INTEC facility (NRC, 1998). Based on the scoping process, NRC reviewed the relevant  
 35 sections of these previous EISs in preparing this EIS. Adequacy of the existing NEPA analyses  
 36 prepared by DOE and NRC for actions at the INEEL facility (DOE, 1995b, 2002a; NRC, 1998)  
 37 has been examined within the context of the proposed action and supplemented and updated  
 38 as necessary. Because the scope of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility EIS is limited to  
 39 the licensing action now being reviewed by NRC, issues related to decisions already made by  
 40 DOE or NRC will be addressed by referencing the appropriate existing NEPA analysis and by  
 41 summarizing the information, as appropriate. Development of this EIS has also been closely  
 42 coordinated with development of the safety evaluation report prepared by NRC to evaluate the  
 43 health and safety impacts of the proposed action.

44

### Background Information on the NRC Safety Review Process

The NRC safety review of an ISFSI includes the preparation of a detailed report published as a Safety Evaluation Report. This publicly available report is based, in part, on the Safety Analysis Report submitted by the applicant (i.e., FWENC). The Safety Evaluation Report also includes the NRC review of technical issues such as adequacy of the facility design to withstand external events (e.g., earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes); radiological safety of facility operation, including doses from normal operations and accidents; emergency response plans; physical security of the facility; fire protection; maintenance and operating procedures; and decommissioning. NRC also performs a detailed safety review of the storage containers against design criteria contained in 10 CFR Part 72. The NRC standards for protection against radiation are contained in 10 CFR Part 20.



## Introduction

### 1.5.1 Issues Studied in Detail

The notice of intent (NRC, 2002b) proposed several areas for detailed discussion in this EIS as they relate to the proposed action.

- Health and Safety: potential public and occupational consequences from construction, routine operation, transportation, and credible accident scenarios;
- Waste Management: types of wastes expected to be generated, handled, and stored and the potential consequences to public safety and the environment;
- Water Resources: surface and groundwater hydrology, water use and quality, and the potential impacts of the proposed action;
- Air Quality: meteorological conditions, ambient background levels, pollutant sources, and the potential impacts of the proposed action;
- Earth Resources: physical geography, topography, geology, and soil characteristics;
- Ecological Resources: wetlands, aquatic and terrestrial resources, economically and recreationally important species, and threatened and endangered species;
- Socioeconomic: demography, economic base, labor pool, housing, transportation, utilities, public services/facilities, education, recreation, and cultural resources;
- Natural Disasters: floods, tornadoes, volcanic activity, and seismic events;
- Cumulative Effects: impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at and near the site;
- Indirect Effects: transportation to the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility;
- Unavoidable Adverse Impacts: negative impacts of the proposed action and any mitigative measures; and
- Environmental Justice: any potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

No additional issues were raised during the public scoping process (Appendix A). Detailed analysis of the effects of operation of the proposed facility on human health and safety are considered in the safety evaluation report prepared by the NRC.

### 1.5.2 Issues Eliminated from Detailed Study

Issues not directly related to the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed action now being considered were eliminated from detailed study in this EIS. The lack of in-depth discussion in the EIS, however, does not mean that an issue lacks value. Issues beyond the scope of this EIS may not yet be ripe for resolution, have already been decided, or are more appropriately discussed and decided in other venues. Examples of items not analyzed in detail

1 include health and safety issues that will be considered in detail in the safety evaluation report  
2 prepared by NRC and summarized in this EIS, past DOE decisions related to the management  
3 of SNF at INEEL, and terrorist activities. Other issues that will not be addressed in detail are  
4 summarized next.

- 5  
6 • **Land Use:** The area that would be used for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is  
7 adjacent to the INTEC industrial facility. The area is currently used for construction  
8 laydown and is disturbed from its natural state with only approximately 5-percent  
9 vegetative cover (FWENC, 2001a). The land is outside areas on INEEL used for grazing  
10 and will not prevent access to areas not already restricted. Only 3.2 ha [8 acres] are to  
11 be committed to the proposed facility, with an additional 4.1 ha [10 acres] to be disturbed  
12 as a construction laydown area. These two areas represent a small percentage of the  
13 2,305-km<sup>2</sup> [890-mi<sup>2</sup>] INEEL.
- 14  
15 • **Noise:** The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be adjacent to an industrial facility  
16 already regulated by INEEL procedures that establish workplace noise limits in  
17 compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. The site is at  
18 least 5 mi [8 km] away from public areas, and noise associated with the construction  
19 and operation of the proposed facility is not expected to exceed current noise levels  
20 at INTEC.
- 21  
22 • **Scenic and Visual Resources:** The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be  
23 adjacent to INTEC, an industrial facility similar in structure and appearance. The site is  
24 at least 8 km [5 mi] away from public areas, and neither air emissions associated with  
25 the construction and operation of the proposed facility nor the facility itself are expected  
26 to alter the current visual/aesthetic resources surrounding INTEC.

27  
28 These issues will be summarized in this EIS, however, detailed analyses will not be conducted,  
29 and readers are referred to existing studies (DOE, 1995b; 2002a).

### 30 31 **1.5.3 Scoping Process**

32  
33 On July 26, 2002, NRC published a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for the proposed Idaho  
34 Spent Fuel Facility (NRC, 2002b). In this notice of intent, NRC announced the public scoping  
35 period would extend until September 16, 2002. Announcements of the scoping process were  
36 provided on the NRC Idaho Spent Fuel Facility web page  
37 (<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/idaho-spent-fuel.html>) and in the following  
38 local newspapers:

- 39  
40 • *The Idaho News*, Idaho Falls, Idaho (Sunday, August 4, and Wednesday, August 7,  
41 2002); and
- 42  
43 • *The Idaho Statesman*, Boise, Idaho (Sunday, August 4, and Wednesday,  
44 August 7, 2002).

## Introduction

1 During the public comment period, NRC received about 15 written comments from  
2 two organizations. The public comments, discussed in the scoping summary report  
3 (Appendix A), were categorized under the following issue headings:

- 4
- 5 • NEPA Issues;
- 6 • Policy Issues;
- 7 • Ecology, Air, and Water;
- 8 • Cumulative Impacts;
- 9 • Human Health Impacts;
- 10 • Waste Management;
- 11 • Security and Terrorism; and
- 12 • INEEL Infrastructure and Existing Conditions.
- 13

14 The scoping process was used to help identify those issues to be discussed in detail in this EIS  
15 (see Section 1.5.1) and those issues that are either beyond the scope of this EIS or are not  
16 directly related to the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed action (see  
17 Section 1.5.2). Additional issues, beyond those identified in the scoping process, will be  
18 discussed in this EIS.

## 20 **1.6 Applicable Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and** 21 **Regional Consultations**

22

23 There are numerous applicable regulations, Federal and State licenses, permits, and other  
24 approvals required for the protection of the environment in connection with construction and  
25 operation of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The NRC consultations are documented in  
26 Appendix B. Status of the negotiations between FWENC and the responsible regulatory  
27 agencies is provided in Section 12 of FWENC (2001a).

### 29 **1.6.1 Applicable Statutes, Regulations, and Permits**

#### 31 **1.6.1.1 Federal Statutes and Regulatory Requirements**

32

33 The following Federal statutes are applicable to the proposed action:

- 34
- 35 • The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 USC §2011 et seq.), gives NRC  
36 authority to license and regulate the possession, use, storage and transfer of byproduct  
37 and special nuclear materials to protect public health and safety and the common  
38 defense and security. Section 202(3) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, as  
39 amended (42 USC §5801 et seq.), permits NRC to license and regulate the DOE  
40 facilities used primarily for the receipt and storage of HLWs resulting from activities  
41 licensed by the Atomic Energy Act. If the license application for the proposed Idaho  
42 Spent Fuel Facility is approved, it will be operated per an NRC license.
- 43
- 44 • The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC §1996 et seq.) reaffirms  
45 Native American religious freedom in the First Amendment and ensures the protection to  
46 Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their religious traditions. According  
47 to this law, sacred locations and traditional resources integral to the practice of their  
48 religions, as well as access to those locations, are protected.

- 1 • The Archaeological Resources Protection Act, as amended (16 USC §470aa et seq.),  
2 requires a permit for excavation or removal of archaeological resources from publicly  
3 held or Native American lands. If archaeological resources are discovered and  
4 removed, they are to remain the property of the United States. If a resource is found on  
5 land owned by a Native American tribe, the tribe must give its consent before a permit is  
6 issued, and the permit must contain terms or conditions requested by the tribe. Because  
7 the proposed construction area for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is on government-  
8 owned property and has been thoroughly surveyed, it is unlikely that any unknown sites  
9 will be discovered. If any resources are found, however, requirements of the  
10 Archaeological Resources Protection Act will be followed.  
11
- 12 • The Clean Air Act, as amended (42 USC §7506 et seq.), establishes regulations to  
13 ensure air quality and authorizes individual states to manage permits. Compliance with  
14 the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act 58.01.01, and Rules for the Control of Air  
15 Pollution in Idaho meets Clean Air Act requirements (40 CFR Part 52).  
16
- 17 • Section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 USC §344 et seq.), establishes  
18 water quality standards for contaminants in surface waters. The Clean Water Act  
19 requires a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit before  
20 discharging any point source pollutant into U.S. waters. Although the  
21 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can delegate permission, administration,  
22 and enforcement of the NPDES program to individual states, the State of Idaho does not  
23 have this delegation. There are no anticipated process discharges from the proposed  
24 facility, however, storm water and snow melt runoff from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
25 Facility must be considered as part of the NPDES permitting process. DOE filed for a  
26 Construction General Permit in accordance with 40 CFR Part 122. By its provisions,  
27 FWENC is required to submit a notice of intent (EPA Form 3510-9) at least 2 days prior  
28 to the start of construction. The INEEL facility maintains storm water pollution  
29 prevention plans for industrial and Construction activities (DOE, 2001, 1998). A  
30 site-specific Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be developed, but  
31 does not need to be submitted to EPA. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is  
32 exempt from the industrial activities storm water permit, because it is not included in  
33 EPA-identified sectors or subsectors requiring this permitting process (EPA, 2000).  
34
- 35 • The Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 USC §1531 et seq.), is intended to  
36 prevent the further decline of endangered and threatened species and to restore these  
37 species and their habitats. The Act is jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of  
38 Commerce and the Interior. Section 7 of the Act requires consultation with the U.S. Fish  
39 and Wildlife Service to determine whether endangered and threatened species or their  
40 critical habitats are known to be in the vicinity of the proposed action.  
41
- 42 • The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC §3001  
43 et seq.) directs the Secretary of the Interior to administer the development of procedures  
44 and monitor unexpected discoveries of graves or grave-related artifacts that may be  
45 unearthed during ground disturbing activities on federal or Tribal owned lands. The  
46 proposed location for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is on heavily disturbed land that has  
47 been surveyed for archeological resources. Although it is unlikely that an undiscovered  
48 site will be found, construction activities will be monitored to ensure that requirements of  
49 this Act will be followed in the event that resources are discovered.

## Introduction

- 1 • Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended  
2 (16 USC §470 et seq.), and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800 protect  
3 cultural and historic resources. If a particular Federal activity may affect an historic  
4 property resource, coordinations with the State Historic Preservation officer are also  
5 undertaken to ensure that potentially significant sites are properly identified and  
6 appropriate mitigative actions are implemented. In 2001, the Idaho State Historical  
7 Society (State Historic Preservation Office) was consulted by the Cultural Resources  
8 Management Office at INEEL regarding the potential construction activities of the  
9 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. A letter was sent by the Cultural Resources  
10 Management Office to the Idaho State Historical Society seeking concurrence that the  
11 proposed construction activities would not affect any historic properties. The Idaho  
12 State Historical Society replied in a letter dated May 4, 2001, that the project could be  
13 completed with no effect to historic properties (Idaho State Historical Society, 2001).  
14
- 15 A Memorandum of Agreement was negotiated in 1998 between DOE, Idaho Field Office,  
16 and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office for the Fuel Receiving and Storage building  
17 (CPP-603) within the INTEC boundaries and was submitted to the Advisory Council on  
18 Historic Preservation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6 (A). The Memorandum of Agreement  
19 recognizes that the Fuel Receiving and Storage building will be “fully or partially  
20 decontaminated and dismantled (D&D) for reasons of environmental concern, human  
21 health and safety, security, and economy.” Although the construction of the proposed  
22 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is not the impetus for the removal of the Fuel Receiving and  
23 Storage building, once the fuel has been transferred from that building to the proposed  
24 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the building will be in a more ready state for removal as  
25 referenced in the Memorandum of Agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement states  
26 the stipulations and requirements to be followed before and after the removal of the Fuel  
27 Receiving and Storage building.  
28
- 29 • The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (42 USC §10101 et seq.),  
30 authorizes federal agencies to develop a geologic repository for the permanent disposal  
31 of SNF and HLW. The Act specifies the process for selecting a repository site and  
32 constructing, operating, closing, and decommissioning the repository. DOE would apply  
33 for an NRC license according to regulations in 10 CFR Part 63. SNF that would be  
34 stored at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would eventually be transported to a  
35 repository that becomes available, in accordance with the DOE shipment schedules.  
36
- 37 • The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, as amended (29 USC §651 et seq.),  
38 establishes standards to enhance safe and healthy working conditions in places of  
39 employment throughout the United States. The Act is administered and enforced by the  
40 Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a U.S. Department of Labor agency.  
41 The Occupational Safety and Health Administration jurisdiction is limited to safety and  
42 health conditions that exist in the workplace environment. In general, per the Act, it is  
43 the duty of each employer to furnish all employees with a place of employment free of  
44 recognized hazard likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Employees have a  
45 duty to comply with the occupational safety and health standards and all rules,  
46 regulations, and orders issued according to the Act. Occupational Safety and Health  
47 Administration regulations (published in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations)  
48 establish specific standards for a safe and healthful working environment. DOE places  
49 emphasis on compliance with these regulations at DOE facilities and prescribes through

1 DOE orders the Occupational Safety and Health Act standards that contracts shall meet,  
2 as applicable to the work at government-owned, contractor-operated facilities (DOE  
3 Order 5480.1B, 5483.1A). DOE keeps and makes available the various records of minor  
4 illnesses, injuries, and work-related deaths required by Occupational Safety and Health  
5 Administration regulations.  
6

7 • The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as amended (42 USC §692  
8 et seq.), requires EPA to establish standards for hazardous waste generators. As  
9 identified in 40 CFR Part 272, compliance with the requirements of the Idaho Hazardous  
10 Waste Management Program (Idaho Administrative Procedures Act 58.01.05) will meet  
11 requirements for permission, administration, and enforcement of RCRA.  
12

13 • The Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended [42 USC §300 (F) et seq.], is intended to  
14 protect the quality of the public water supplies and sources of drinking water. The  
15 implementing regulations, administered by the EPA unless delegated to the states,  
16 establish standards applicable to public water systems. Other programs established by  
17 the Safe Drinking Water Act include the Sole Source Aquifer Program, the Wellhead  
18 Protection Program, and the Underground Injection Control Program. The Snake River  
19 Plain Aquifer below the INEEL and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is classified  
20 as a sole source aquifer.  
21

22 • Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) directs Federal agencies to establish  
23 procedures to ensure that the potential effects of flood hazards and floodplain  
24 management are considered for any action undertaken in a floodplain and that floodplain  
25 impacts be avoided to the extent practicable.  
26

27 • Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) directs Federal agencies to achieve  
28 environmental justice by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately  
29 high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and  
30 activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and  
31 its territories and possessions. The Order creates an Interagency Working Group on  
32 Environmental Justice and directs each Federal agency to develop strategies within  
33 prescribed time limits to identify and address environmental justice concerns. The Order  
34 further directs each Federal agency to collect, maintain, and analyze information on the  
35 race, national origin, income level, and other readily accessible and appropriate  
36 information for areas surrounding facilities or sites expected to have a substantial  
37 environmental, human health, or economic effect on the surrounding populations, when  
38 such facilities or sites become the subject of a substantial Federal environmental  
39 administrative or judicial action, and to make such information publicly available.  
40

41 • Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites) directs Federal agencies, to the extent  
42 permitted by law and not inconsistent with agency missions, to avoid adverse effects to  
43 sacred sites and to provide access to those sites to Native Americans for traditional  
44 religious practices.  
45

46 • Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments)  
47 directs Federal agencies to establish consistent consultation and collaboration with tribal  
48 governments in the development of Federal policies that are relative to tribal interests, to

## Introduction

1 strengthen relationships between Federal and tribal governments, and to maintain  
2 significant communications.

### 4 **1.6.1.2 State Licenses and Permits**

5  
6 Prior to submitting the November 2001 license application to NRC, FWENC consulted with the  
7 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality–Idaho Falls Regional Office, which is responsible  
8 for the geographic area that includes INEEL. The Idaho regional administrator is responsible for  
9 approving the Permit to Construct. As part of these consultations, FWENC committed to submit  
10 a Permit to Construct Categorical Exemption request at least 1 year prior to beginning  
11 construction at the proposed facility. FWENC also consulted with the Idaho Department of  
12 Environmental Quality INEEL Oversight Committee on August 15, 2001.

13  
14 State permits include

- 15  
16 • The State of Idaho regulates pollutant emissions through the Idaho Administrative  
17 Procedures Act 58.01.01, Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho. Because the  
18 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is not a major facility as defined by the Idaho  
19 Administrative Procedures Act 58.01.01, Part 006.55, and expected radionuclide  
20 emissions are less than 1 percent of the site boundary dose limit of 10 mrem/yr  
21 [0.1 mSv/yr], the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will be exempt from the need for a  
22 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants application. FWENC will  
23 submit a Permit to Construct Categorical Exemption request to the Idaho Department of  
24 Environmental Quality prior to any construction activities (FWENC, 2001a).
- 25  
26 • The State of Idaho regulates hazardous waste through the Idaho Administrative  
27 Procedures Act 58.01.05, Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste and incorporates  
28 the EPA RCRA requirements. FWENC is considered a conditionally exempt,  
29 small-quantity generator of hazardous waste {<100 Kg [220 lb] of hazardous waste per  
30 month} at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, and is thus exempt from the need for  
31 a RCRA permit per 40 CFR 270.1(c)(2)(iii).

### 33 **1.6.2 Consultations**

34  
35 FWENC consulted with the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office for information on the  
36 historic, scenic, archaeological, architectural, and cultural aspects of the site of the proposed  
37 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Idaho State Historical Society, 2001). A supplemental report was  
38 prepared and provided as an appendix to the FWENC environmental report (FWENC, 2001a).  
39 In preparing this EIS, NRC consulted with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office to identify  
40 other parties to the proposed action and to confirm previous findings of no adverse impacts to  
41 historic properties. DOE currently maintains an INEEL Architectural Properties Management  
42 Plan and is party to a Memorandum of Agreement with the Idaho State Historic Preservation  
43 Office (Braun, 2002; DOE, 2002a).

44  
45 NRC consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see Appendix B) to determine the status  
46 of endangered and threatened species that may be present at the site of the proposed Idaho  
47 Spent Fuel Facility and to evaluate the proposed action for compliance with the Endangered  
48 Species Act.

49

1 As part of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan (DOE, 2002b), DOE has committed  
2 to keep the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes informed of activities on INEEL. At INEEL facility, DOE  
3 and the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation entered into an agreement in  
4 principle to govern formal communication.

5

### 6 **1.6.3 Cooperating Agencies**

7

8 During the scoping process, no federal, state, or local agencies were identified as potential  
9 cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS.

10

### 11 **1.6.4 Organizations Involved in the Proposed Action**

12

13 Three organizations have specific roles in the proposed action:

14

15 DOE and its subcontractors operate and manage the activities at INEEL through the DOE Idaho  
16 Operations Office. These activities include managing SNF storage in accordance with the terms  
17 of the 1995 Settlement Agreement. With regard to the proposed action, DOE is responsible for  
18 moving the SNF from its current location at INTEC to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
19 adjacent to INTEC. DOE will retain ownership of the SNF stored in the proposed Idaho Spent  
20 Fuel Facility and will remain financially responsible for the eventual decontamination and  
21 decommissioning of the facility. According to terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement, DOE is  
22 responsible for removing the SNF from Idaho prior to 2035.

23

24 FWENC is the license applicant. An indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Foster Wheeler Ltd.,  
25 FWENC would design, construct, and initially operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
26 per contract with DOE. According to terms of the contract, the specific fuel to be stored at the  
27 applicant facility consists of Cores 1 and 2 from the Peach Bottom Unit 1, High-Temperature,  
28 Gas-Cooled Reactor that operated from March 1966 until October 1974; various reflector  
29 modules and rods from Shippingport, an experimental light water breeder reactor that ceased  
30 operation in 1983; and SNF assemblies from various TRIGA reactors.

31

32 NRC is the licensing agency. NRC has the responsibility to evaluate the license application for  
33 compliance with the NRC regulations associated with dry storage installations. These include  
34 standards for protection against radiation in 10 CFR Part 20 and requirements for independent  
35 storage of SNF in 10 CFR Part 72. To fulfill the NRC responsibilities in NEPA, the  
36 environmental impacts of the proposed action will be evaluated against the requirements of  
37 10 CFR Part 51 and documented in this EIS.

38

## 39 **1.7 References**

40

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## 2 ALTERNATIVES

1  
2  
3 During the past 40 years, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies  
4 have stored spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the DOE facilities around the country, including the  
5 Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The SNF has been stored  
6 in wet (in SNF pools/canals) or dry (in casks, vaults, or dry wells) facilities. In 1991, the State of  
7 Idaho initiated litigation against DOE related to the environmental impacts of SNF storage and  
8 transportation. During this litigation, DOE issued a record of decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a)  
9 based on the Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and INEEL Environmental  
10 Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement [referred  
11 to herein as the DOE programmatic SNF environmental impact statement (EIS)]. Volume 2 of  
12 the DOE programmatic SNF EIS dealt with the INEEL environmental restoration and waste  
13 management program (DOE, 1995b).

14  
15 The DOE effort to manage the national issue of SNF involved evaluation of many national  
16 alternatives: No Action, Decentralization, 1992/1993 Planning Basis, Regionalization, and  
17 Centralization. The detailed information on each alternative is provided in DOE programmatic  
18 SNF EIS (DOE, 1995b). The DOE programmatic SNF EIS identified Regionalization by Nuclear  
19 Fuel Type as the preferred national SNF management alternative. Consistent with these  
20 national alternatives, alternatives considered for the INEEL environmental restoration and waste  
21 management program, found in Volume 2 of the DOE programmatic EIS, included No Action;  
22 Ten-Year Plan; Minimum Treatment, Storage, and Disposal; and Maximum Treatment, Storage,  
23 and Disposal. The Ten-Year Plan was identified as the preferred alternative for SNF  
24 management at the INEEL site.

25  
26 The record of decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a) also designated Regionalization by Fuel Type as  
27 the chosen programmatic alternative for management of SNF. And, this record of decision  
28 announced the DOE decision to implement a modified version of the Ten-Year Plan, including  
29 construction of a dry fuel storage facility and other site-specific environmental restoration and  
30 waste management actions at INEEL.

31  
32 In accordance with the DOE programmatic SNF EIS and the record of decision and as part of  
33 the implementation of the 1995 Settlement Agreement, DOE requested proposals from the  
34 private sector to design, license, construct, and operate an SNF dry storage facility. On May 19,  
35 2000, DOE awarded a contract to Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC)  
36 (hereinafter, the applicant). One contract requirement was that FWENC obtain a U.S. Nuclear  
37 Regulatory Commission (NRC) license to receive, possess, transfer, and store SNF at the  
38 proposed SNF dry storage facility.

### 2.1 Process Used to Formulate Alternatives

39  
40  
41  
42 During the scoping process conducted to prepare this EIS, NRC solicited public input to help  
43 define alternatives to the proposed action by placing announcements in the *Federal Register*  
44 and local newspapers. Announcements and additional information on the proposed action were  
45 also posted on the NRC Idaho Spent Fuel Facility web page. During the public comment  
46 period, NRC received about 15 written comments from two organizations, none of which  
47 provided suggestions for alternatives beyond the proposed action and the  
48 no-action alternatives.

## Alternatives

1 NRC reviewed the alternatives documented in the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995b)  
2 and in the accompanying records of decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a). NRC also examined  
3 alternatives proposed for construction and operation of the Three-Mile Island Unit-2  
4 independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) (NRC, 1998) which is located within the  
5 Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), as alternatives to the proposed  
6 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. These alternatives were evaluated by NRC against the programmatic  
7 needs of the DOE SNF management program at INEEL and against the terms of the 1995  
8 Settlement Agreement. The alternatives evaluated or eliminated are discussed next.

### 10 **2.2 No-Action Alternative**

11  
12 The no-action alternative would be to not build the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
13 According to the no-action alternative, NRC would not approve the license application to  
14 receive, possess, transfer, and store SNF at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Hence,  
15 DOE would continue to store the SNF from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature,  
16 Gas-Cooled Reactor, the Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, and the training, research,  
17 and isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactor) SNF at their current locations  
18 within INTEC (see Figure 1-1). Remaining TRIGA reactor fuel will continue to be shipped and  
19 stored at INEEL as identified in the previous DOE records of decision (DOE, 1996a,b). Other  
20 SNF activities would continue as described in DOE (1995a,b). Other activities at the INTEC  
21 facility will continue as described in DOE (2002).

22  
23 Short-term impacts of not constructing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be  
24 negligible. Current storage and fuel-handling facilities at INTEC, however, would be open and  
25 operational longer than planned. Ultimately, existing facilities would need to be modified or  
26 similar facilities to those described in the proposed action would need to be built. For example,  
27 the current storage location of Shippingport SNF at the INTEC Irradiated Spent Fuel Storage  
28 Facility (CPP-603) would be modified to expand the hot cell and add a load-out facility in lieu of  
29 the availability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Long-term impacts would be similar to  
30 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, because the SNF must be repackaged before shipment  
31 from INEEL to a geologic repository can occur.

### 33 **2.3 Applicant's Proposed Action Alternative**

34  
35 The applicant's proposed action is to (i) receive SNF generated at Peach Bottom Unit 1, the  
36 Shippingport Light Water Breeder Reactor, and various TRIGA reactors from DOE; (ii) transfer  
37 SNF from the existing DOE storage facilities into new storage containers; and (iii) place the  
38 storage containers in a redundant confinement storage tube system consisting of a vault  
39 structure that provides radiological shielding and passive natural convection air cooling  
40 (FWENC, 2001a,b,c). The tallest structures would be about 24 m [80 ft]. DOE would transfer  
41 the SNF from its existing storage locations in INEEL to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
42 The SNF transfer would occur completely within the boundaries of INTEC (Figure 2-1) and  
43 would be conducted in accordance with INEEL procedures and DOE orders. Movement and  
44 transfer of SNF within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site would be conducted  
45 according to the provisions of 10 CFR Part 72. As described by FWENC, the proposed action  
46 can be divided into three major activities: (i) facility construction, (ii) fuel-handling operations,  
47 and (iii) storage operations. Additional aspects of the proposed action include monitoring,  
48 emergency planning, and quality assurance.

2-3

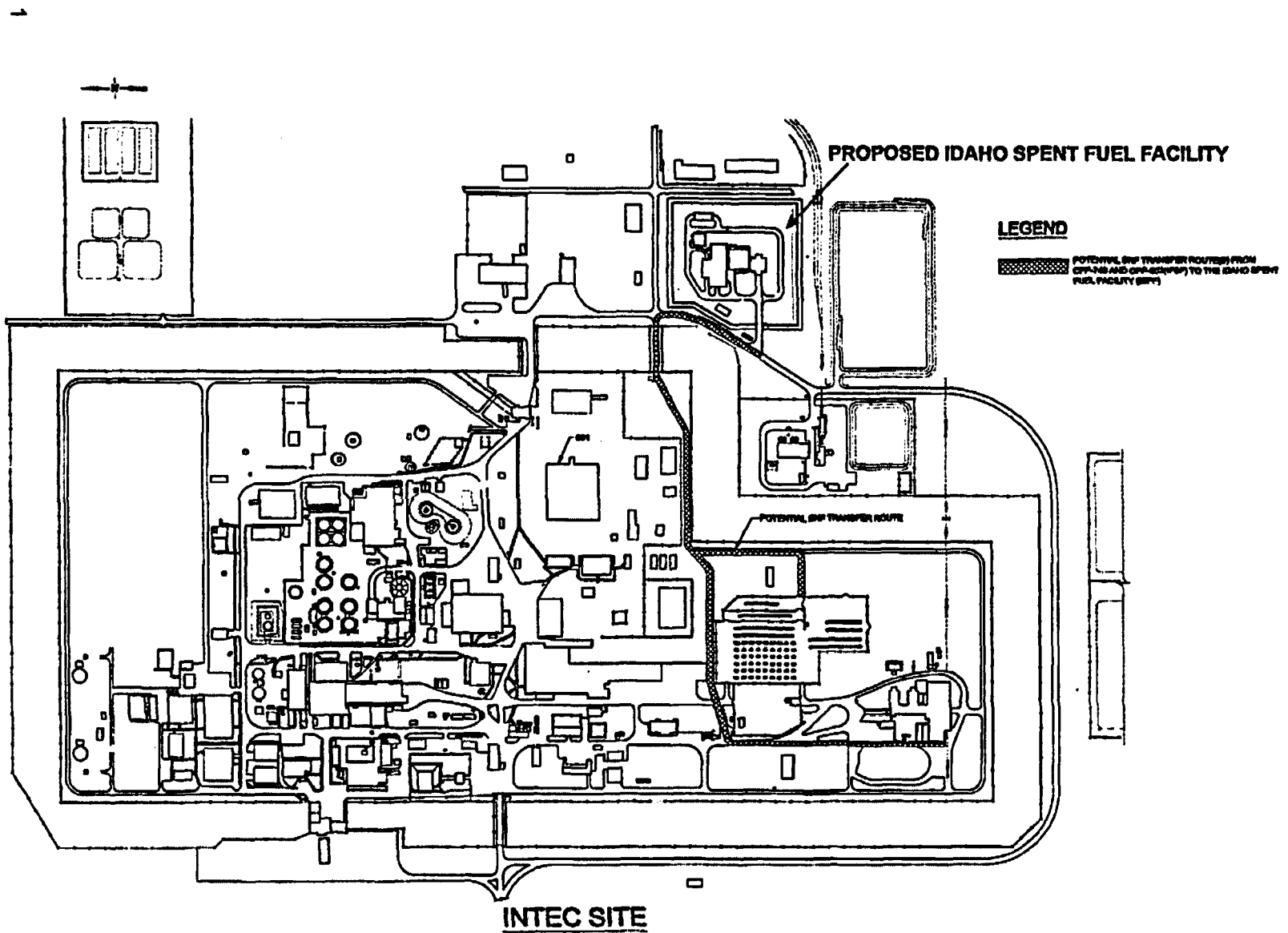


Figure 2-1. Location of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Modified from FWENC, 2003)

## Alternatives

### 1 **2.3.1 Facility Construction**

2

3 If constructed, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will be located on a previously disturbed  
4 site adjacent to INTEC (Figure 2-1). INTEC occupies about 101 ha [250 acres] of the south-  
5 central portion of the INEEL and is 68 km [42 mi] west of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The proposed  
6 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site would occupy 3.2 ha [8 acres] adjacent to the southeast boundary  
7 of INTEC. In addition to the site, about 4.1 ha [10 acres] adjacent to the northeast corner of the  
8 site would be disturbed to provide a laydown area during construction. Mobile construction  
9 equipment will excavate the foundation and establish the facility grade. Explosives would not be  
10 used to establish below-grade areas. The facility would consist of a fully enclosed two-story  
11 building with three principal areas for cask receipt, fuel transfer operations, and fuel storage  
12 (Figure 2-2). The principal areas are connected by a below-grade tunnel designed to transfer  
13 fuel throughout the facility via shielded, rail-mounted trolleys. Support structures such as a  
14 warehouse, administrative offices, a guard house, a visitor center, and parking are also planned  
15 for the facility. During construction, equipment delivering cement and other construction  
16 materials would access the site. Construction is anticipated to last nearly 2 years  
17 (FWENC, 2001c).

18

### 19 **2.3.2 Fuel-Handling Operations**

20

21 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be fully enclosed to allow year-round operations  
22 for receipt, packaging, and storage of SNF.

23

24 The Cask Receipt Area (Figure 2-2) would provide for transfer of incoming DOE transport casks  
25 from truck-mounted transporters to the rail-mounted trolley for movement into other areas within  
26 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The two-story Cask Receipt Area would use a single-  
27 failure-proof crane to lift the transport cask from its transport vehicle and place it on a rail-  
28 mounted trolley for transfer within the proposed facility. The rail-mounted trolley would move in  
29 an enclosed Transfer Tunnel that connects the Cask Receipt Area with the Transfer and  
30 Storage Areas.

31

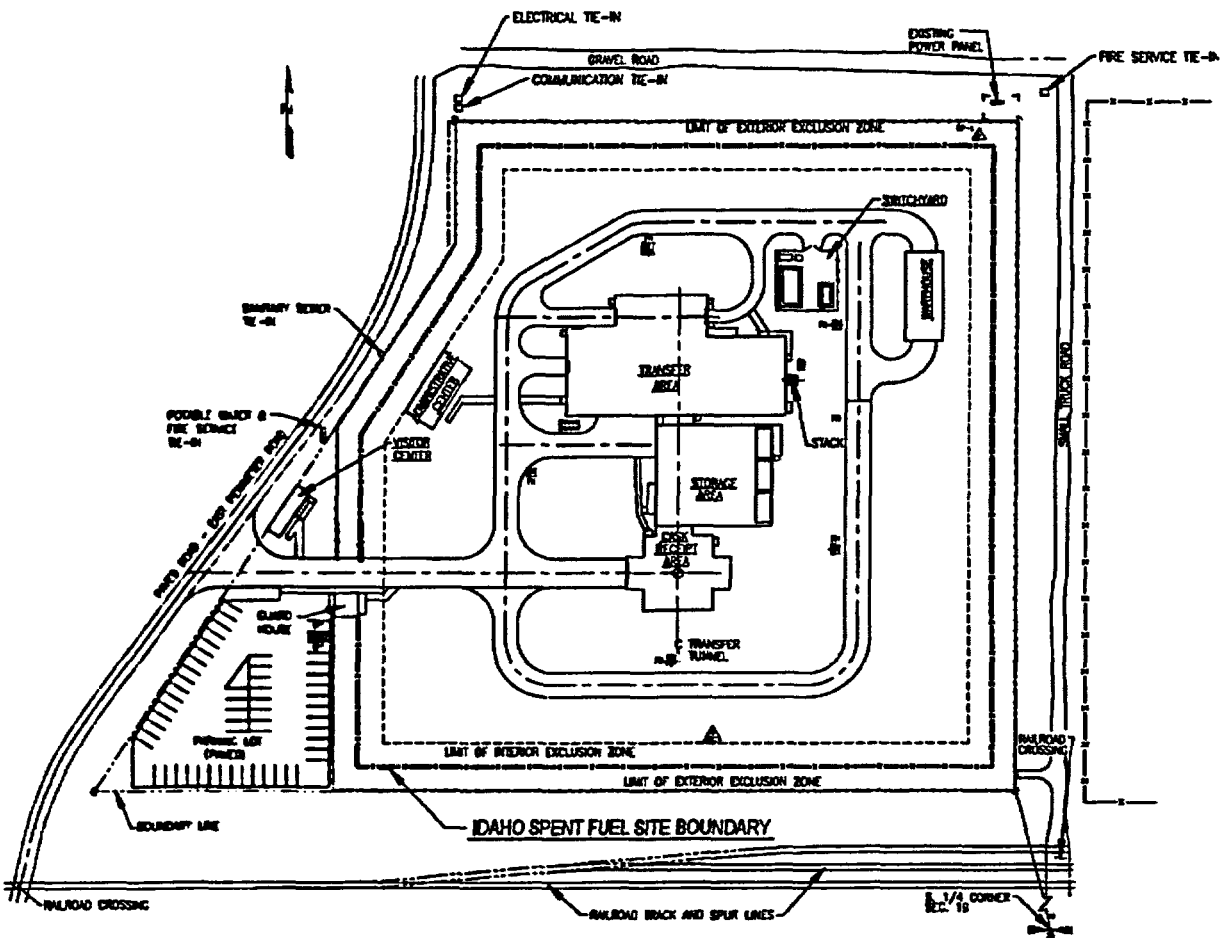
32 The Transfer Area (Figure 2-2) comprises the Fuel Packaging Area and the Canister Closure  
33 Area. These areas would provide the facilities for remote-controlled unloading of the DOE  
34 transport cask. After removal from the DOE transfer cask, the SNF would be inspected,  
35 inventoried, and repackaged into new storage containers designed to be compatible with future  
36 transportation and disposal requirements. The containers would be welded closed, vacuum  
37 dried, and backfilled with helium to provide an inert storage environment for the SNF. SNF  
38 handling would be performed entirely by remote manipulation using a fuel-handling machine  
39 and master/slave manipulators. The Transfer Area would be equipped with shielded windows  
40 and a closed-circuit television system to aid in remote operations. Fuel-handling operations are  
41 anticipated to last about 3 years.

42

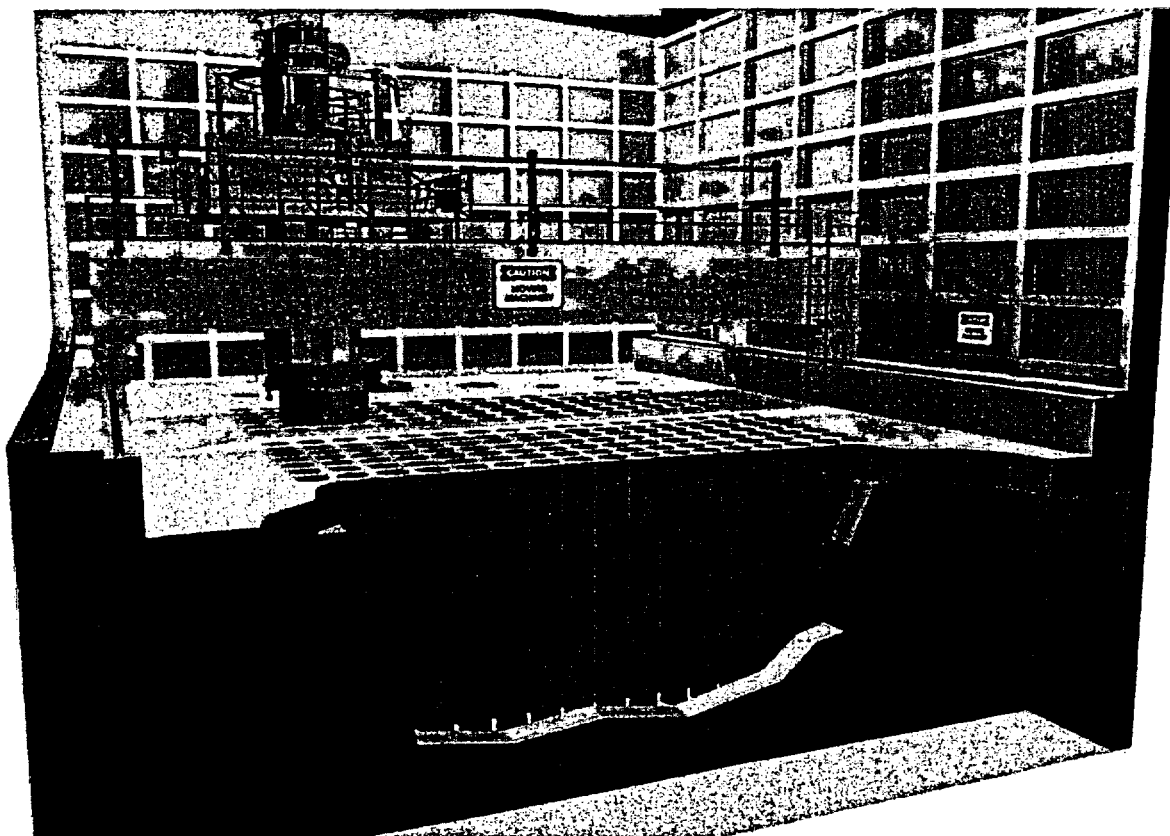
### 43 **2.3.3 Storage Operations**

44

45 The Storage Area (Figure 2-2) would provide for the interim dry storage of the SNF. The  
46 Storage Area would include reinforced concrete storage vaults covering an area 24 × 15 m  
47 [79 × 49 ft]. The storage vaults would provide passively cooled housing for 246 below-grade  
48 storage tubes in which the containers would be placed (Figure 2-3). The area above the  
49 concrete vault would be enclosed in a two-story, metal-sided building to facilitate year-round



1 **Figure 2-2. Site Plan for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Modified from FWENC, 2001b)**



1 **Figure 2-3. Storage Vault Configuration for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
(Modified from FWENC, 2001b)**



1 SNF loading operations. Each storage tube would provide interim storage for a single  
2 container. A canister-handling machine would move the individual containers from the Transfer  
3 Tunnel to the storage tube location. After the container is lowered into a storage tube, the  
4 storage tube would be sealed with a cover plate with dual metallic seals, and the air would be  
5 evacuated. The storage tubes would then be filled with an inert gas to further reduce the  
6 potential of corrosion during storage.

7  
8 Material balances and SNF inventories at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be used  
9 to ensure safe container storage. Each container would be labeled with a unique identifier.  
10 Information, including location, on all storage containers would be documented and kept with  
11 other proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility records. Prior to any movement of a container,  
12 established procedures would require a review of the documentation to help ensure the proper  
13 container is being moved. In addition, a physical inventory of the containers at the proposed  
14 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be performed in accordance with NRC requirements to ensure  
15 all containers are untampered with and are in their assigned locations. Records of the results of  
16 the current inventory, material control, and accounting procedures would be maintained in  
17 accordance with requirements of 10 CFR Part 72 and retained until termination of the  
18 NRC license.

19  
20 The SNF would remain in storage at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility until a high-level  
21 waste (HLW) geologic repository becomes available. The storage containers would then be  
22 removed from the facility, loaded into a transportation cask (to be licensed in accordance with  
23 10 CFR Part 71), and transported offsite by DOE. Because of uncertainties in scheduling fuel  
24 shipment to a geologic repository, it is difficult to place a time limit on the duration of fuel  
25 storage at the proposed facility. The terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement call for shipment  
26 of fuel by 2035, so storage may be as long as about 27 years. After removal, the facility would  
27 be decontaminated and decommissioned in accordance with the NRC regulations.

#### 28 29 **2.3.4 Monitoring and Emergency Response**

30  
31 Process and effluent radiation monitoring for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would  
32 include criticality monitoring, area radiation monitoring, radiation signature monitoring,  
33 continuous air monitoring, and record sample air monitoring. Because there would be no liquid  
34 releases, the only effluent radioactive release point would be the exhaust stack. Continuous air  
35 monitors would be used to monitor the general level of airborne material in work areas and to  
36 detect breakthrough of the high efficiency particulate air filters downstream of the Fuel  
37 Packaging Area. Effluent monitoring would consist of exhaust stack sampling for particulate  
38 radionuclides iodine-129 and tritium. Any undue rise in radiation levels would trigger an alarm  
39 to signal a prompt evacuation of the immediate area. All monitoring would be conducted in  
40 accordance with radiation protection standards in 10 CFR Part 20 (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6).

41  
42 Primary emergency response at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be provided by  
43 DOE and its qualified management and operating contractor staff located at INEEL. In  
44 accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72, FWENC must have an approved  
45 emergency plan. FWENC has submitted an emergency plan that will be reviewed by NRC in  
46 preparing the safety evaluation report for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
47 (FWENC, 2001d).

48

## Alternatives

### 1 **2.3.5 Quality Assurance**

2  
3 In compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72, Subpart G, activities associated with  
4 design, fabrication, construction, testing, operation, modification, and decommissioning of the  
5 structures, systems, and components of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be  
6 conducted in accordance with an approved quality assurance program. FWENC would ensure  
7 the provisions of the Quality Program Plan and its implementation are understood by the  
8 personnel involved in their execution (FWENC, 2001b, Section 11). FWENC would also  
9 maintain an adequate complement of trained and certified personnel prior to receipt of the SNF  
10 for storage and throughout the different phases of the project.

### 12 **2.4 Other Reasonable Alternatives**

13  
14 The proposed action is consistent with both the programmatic objectives and the preferred  
15 alternative identified in earlier DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses  
16 (DOE, 1995a,b). Also, no additional alternatives to the proposed action were identified during  
17 the public scoping process. The proposed action and the no-action alternatives are considered  
18 to bound the impacts of storing the designated SNF. Based on these considerations, no other  
19 alternatives are reasonably likely to exceed these impacts or meet the DOE programmatic  
20 obligations from the 1995 Settlement Agreement.

### 22 **2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated**

23  
24 In preparing its programmatic EIS for SNF management at the INEEL (DOE, 1995b), DOE  
25 considered a number of alternatives to dry SNF storage at INEEL:

- 26 • No Action;
- 27 • The Ten-Year Plan;
- 28 • Minimum Treatment, Storage, and Disposal; and
- 29 • Maximum Treatment, Storage, and Disposal.

30  
31  
32 Based on these considerations, the DOE record of decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a) selected a  
33 modified Ten-Year Plan for SNF management at the INEEL as the preferred alternative for  
34 meeting programmatic objectives. The modified Ten-Year Plan was considered to be consistent  
35 with the terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement and included the construction of dry interim  
36 storage facilities similar to the proposed action (DOE, 1995b, Volume 2, Part B, Appendix C).  
37 The proposed action considered in this EIS is a part of the modified Ten-Year Plan alternative  
38 documented in that DOE 1995 record of decision.

39  
40 In 1998, DOE obtained an NRC license to construct and operate an ISFSI at the INTEC facility  
41 for fuel debris from Three-Mile Island Unit 2. In fulfilling NEPA requirements of 10 CFR Part 51,  
42 NRC developed an EIS(NRC, 1998). That EIS was prepared by adopting previous DOE NEPA  
43 analyses (DOE, 1995b, 1997). Several alternatives to dry-cask storage were considered that  
44 are relevant to the proposed action:

- 45 • Construct New Wet Storage;
- 46 • Store Three-Mile Island Unit 2 Fuel in Existing INTEC Storage Systems;
- 47

- 1 • Construct an ISFSI Test Area North; and
- 2 • Construct an ISFSI at a Point Removed from Above the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

3  
 4 These alternatives were eliminated from consideration on the basis of not meeting the  
 5 programmatic objectives for fuel consolidation at INTEC documented in the DOE record of  
 6 decision (DOE, 1995a, 1996a).

7  
 8 Similar to the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is part of  
 9 the DOE effort to meet the terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement. In developing design  
 10 criteria for a dry ISFSI at INEEL, DOE specified operational performance characteristics and  
 11 specific design criteria such as container dimensions, year-round operation, storage containers  
 12 that can be transported by truck or rail, personnel and public exposure limits, and minimization  
 13 of decommissioning activities (FWENC, 2001a). In evaluating design approaches, DOE  
 14 considered both cost and value to the government. Based on these objectives and criteria,  
 15 DOE selected the FWENC design for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

16  
 17 Dry fuel storage is the alternative preferred by DOE for SNF consolidation and management at  
 18 INEEL. Other alternatives either do not meet programmatic objectives or do not meet the terms  
 19 of the 1995 Settlement Agreement. Based on previous DOE and NRC NEPA analyses (DOE,  
 20 1995b; NRC, 1998) and comments received during the public scoping period, the proposed  
 21 action alternative and the no-action alternatives are likely to bound the impacts of dry fuel  
 22 storage at INEEL, and only these alternatives are evaluated in this EIS.

23  
 24 **2.6 Comparison of the Predicted Environmental Impacts**

25  
 26 A more detailed evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the  
 27 no-action alternative is presented in Section 4 of this EIS. The impacts are summarized in  
 28 Table 2-1.

29  
 30 **2.7 Preliminary Recommendation Regarding the Proposed Action**

31  
 32 After weighing the costs and benefits of the proposed action and comparing alternatives (see  
 33 Sections 2.6, 4.15, and 7 of this EIS), the NRC staff, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.71(e), set  
 34 forth their preliminary NEPA recommendation regarding the proposed action. The NRC staff  
 35 recommend that, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, the action called for is the issuance  
 36 of the proposed license to FWENC. In this regard, the NRC staff preliminarily conclude (i) the  
 37 applicable environmental monitoring program described in Section 6 and (ii) the proposed  
 38 mitigation measures discussed in Section 5 would eliminate or substantially lessen any potential  
 39 adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

40  
 41 The NRC staff have preliminarily concluded the overall benefits of the proposed Idaho Spent  
 42 Fuel Facility outweigh the disadvantages and costs, based on consideration of the following:

- 43
- 44 • The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will have small-to-negligible impacts on the  
 45 physical environment and human communities in the vicinity. Long-term impacts of the  
 46 no-action alternative are likely to be similar to the impacts of the proposed action.
- 47
- 48 • The proposed action is designed to support the INEEL mission and comply with  
 49 agreements and commitments negotiated by DOE, including the 1995 Settlement

**Table 2-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the No-Action Alternative**

	Impacts	
Affected Environment	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	No-Action Alternative <sup>a</sup>
Land Use	SMALL. Construction activities to occur on a 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site and an adjoining 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. The 7.3 ha [18 acres] are adjacent to the southeast corner of INTEC and have been previously disturbed by other construction activities and land uses. Operational impacts include restricted access to the 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site and use of the site for SNF receiving, processing, and storage.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Transportation	SMALL. Operational impacts are related to transfer of the SNF from current storage facilities at INTEC, a maximum distance of approximately 700 m [2,300 ft] to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, and shipment of the remaining TRIGA fuel to INEEL for storage at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. On-site transfers will be made in DOE-supplied casks loaded on trailers and managed in accordance with DOE orders and procedures.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. No fuel transfers would occur. TRIGA fuel would continue to be shipped to INEEL for storage in existing facilities.
Geology and Soil	SMALL. Construction-related impacts to soil will occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and, to some extent, on the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Excavation, earthmoving, and grading will occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site. There is no soil contamination at the site above regulatory limits. No construction or operational impacts will occur on known mineral deposits or unique geological resources.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Water Quality	SMALL. Construction phase impacts will be minimal to both surface water quality and groundwater quality. A storm water pollution prevention plan is in effect at INEEL. The proposed site is 140 to 148 m [460 to 480 ft] above the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Water used for construction phase dust control will evaporate or seep into surface soils. No new groundwater wells or percolation ponds will be required. There are no planned liquid discharges from the facility.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction of new facilities, and water usage would continue at current rates.
Water Use	SMALL. During the first year of construction, approximately 1.5 million L [396,000 gal] of water will be used for dust suppression, with an additional estimated 1.91 million L [505,000 gal] estimated for concrete production at the site. During the second year of construction, it is estimated that water needs will be reduced by half. Drinking water usage during operation will be approximately 141,950 L/mo [37,500 gal/mo]. These amounts are a small fraction of the 7.4 billion L [2.0 billion gal] used annually at the INEEL and the annual withdrawal of 43 billion L [11.4 billion gal] permitted by the DOE/State of Idaho Water Rights Agreement. Wastewater treatment requirements will be met via existing INTEC facilities.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction of new facilities, and water quality would not be affected.

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**Table 2-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the No-Action Alternative (continued)**

Affected Environment	Impacts	
	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	No-Action Alternative <sup>a</sup>
Ecology	SMALL. Minimal impacts from the construction and operation of the facility are anticipated. There are no wetlands or habitats for threatened or endangered plant or animal species at the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site or 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Secondary impacts on wildlife from noise and various human activities are expected to be minimal, of short duration, or both.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Air Quality	SMALL. Construction-related fugitive dusts and exhaust emissions will be temporary and highly localized. With construction phase watering, the fugitive dusts and particulates will be approximately 8.2 metric tons [9 tons]; this is small in relation to the INEEL emission inventory for particulates. No impacts to radiological air quality are anticipated from construction activities. During operation, there will be no chemical air discharges, and the vehicular exhausts will be small and within limitations. Therefore, no significant impacts to nonradiological air quality are anticipated. Facility operations are not expected to result in the atmospheric discharge of significant amounts of gaseous radioactive effluents. The facility is fully enclosed and includes a special ventilation system along with HEPA filters. Monitoring of stack emissions for particulate radionuclides, iodine-129, and tritium will be used to identify any releases.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Noise	SMALL. Construction phase noise levels will be typical of industrial areas; further, they will be temporary and highly localized. Noise from construction and operational traffic will be minimal in relation to existing traffic noise levels in the INTEC area. Potential noise levels from operations will be less than those from construction. Hearing protection will be required for workers per 29 CFR 1910.95. No unique noise receptors are in the vicinity of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Therefore, noise impacts are not expected to be significant.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Historical, Cultural, and Paleontological Resources	SMALL. There are no known historic, cultural resources, or paleontological resources within the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Thirty-eight buildings and structures within INTEC are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, although only two (CPP-603 and CPP-642) are close to the current storage location or proposed transfer routes. There are no plans for modification or demolition of either of these buildings. The proposed facility would not introduce a built environment into a pristine natural setting. There are potential cumulative effects from withdrawal of access to the proposed 7.3-ha [18-acre] site by the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes, but these lands are already contained within the limited access buffer area around the INTEC.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.

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Alternatives

**Table 2-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the No-Action Alternative (continued)**

Affected Environment	Impacts	
	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	No-Action Alternative <sup>a</sup>
Visual/Scenic Resources	SMALL. Due to its smaller scale in relation to the adjacent INTEC facilities, construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not cause visual impacts to the BLM Class IV rating for the INTEC area. Fugitive dusts and exhaust emissions from construction would be localized and temporary and would not impair the BLM Class III rating of lands adjacent to INEEL, nor would the minimal to nil releases of radioactive particulates and gases during operations. No significant visual or scenic impacts are anticipated.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.
Socioeconomic	SMALL. The total population in 2000 in the 7-county region of influence was 250,365, and population in the region of influence is estimated to reach almost 269,000 by 2005 and 339,700 by 2025. In the 1990s, employment in the region of influence grew at an average annual rate of approximately 2.6 percent. The region of influence experienced the lowest unemployment rate in a decade in 2000—4.0 percent. This rate was lower than the 4.9 percent for the state, though rates varied widely in the region of influence (from 2.5 percent in Madison County to 5.0 percent in Bannock County). The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would employ a maximum of 250 construction workers during the 2-year construction period and 60 workers during the first 4 years of operations. These numbers are small relative to the total employment at INEEL; for example, in fiscal year 2001, INEEL accounted for 8,100 jobs, or approximately 6 percent of the total jobs in the region of influence. Finally, housing and key community services such as education, law enforcement, fire protection, and medical services do not appear to be overstressed in the region of influence, and the additional workers can be accommodated in the region.	SMALL. Negligible impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. The land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area. Approximately 250 construction jobs and 60 operational jobs would not be created.
Environmental Justice	SMALL. The environmental justice study area was chosen to encompass an 80-km [50-mi] radius around INTEC. This area includes portions of the seven counties composing the region of influence for socioeconomic. The 2000 population within the 80-km [50-mi] radius was 203,165, including a minority population of 21,898 (11 percent). The low-income population was based on 1990 data because the 2000 data were not available. The 1990 population was 170,989, including 20,110 meeting the definition of low income (12 percent). Overall, impacts from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are small and do not disproportionately affect minority and low-income populations.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.

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Table 2-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the No-Action Alternative (continued)		
Affected Environment	Impacts	
	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	No-Action Alternative <sup>a</sup>
Public and Occupational Health and Safety	<p>SMALL. Potential impacts were examined for normal, off-normal, and accident conditions. For normal operating conditions, no chemical discharges are planned, and a health and safety program will be in place for the workers. The primary pathway for off-site radiation exposure to the public is from atmospheric emissions of radioactive particulates, iodine-129, tritium, and a few other radionuclides. Iodine-129 and tritium contribute approximately 80 percent of the total dose. The estimated annual dose for the maximally exposed individual at the southern boundary of INEEL is <math>3 \times 10^{-7}</math> mSv [<math>3 \times 10^{-5}</math> mrem] from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; from all nearby facility operations (including the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility), the dose is less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem]. The regulatory annual dose limit is 0.1 mSv [10 mrem] and the natural background annual radiation is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem] in this general area. Therefore, public radiation impacts during normal operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are minimal and insignificant. Occupational radiological doses from the construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will be less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem] annually to construction workers. The NRC annual occupational limit is 50 mSv [5,000 mrem], and the natural background radiation dose is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem]. The maximum occupational doses to SNF-handling workers is 9.1 mSv [910 mrem] annually, with the NRC annual occupational limit of 50 mSv [5,000 mrem]. The annual radiation dose to all workers within an 8-km [5-mi] radius is <math>6.68 \times 10^{-5}</math> person-mSv [<math>6.68 \times 10^{-3}</math> person-mrem]. Detailed analyses of the radiation doses from off-normal events and accidents at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are in the safety analysis report<sup>b</sup> and will be evaluated as part of the NRC Safety Evaluation Report. Further, analyses were also made of the public and occupational health impacts of external events such as flooding, aircraft impact, volcanic hazards, seismic hazards, and extreme wind and wind-generated missiles. Design features and operational practices are expected to minimize the public and occupational health impacts of these events and accidents.</p>	<p>NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area.</p>

Alternatives

**Table 2-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the No-Action Alternative (continued)**

Affected Environment	Impacts	
	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	No-Action Alternative <sup>a</sup>
Waste Management	SMALL. Small quantities of gaseous, liquid, and solid low-level radioactive waste will be generated during the SNF receipt and repackaging operations planned for the first 3 years. Once fuel is repackaged and stored, no gaseous releases or liquid or solid radioactive wastes are anticipated on a regular basis. Less than 17,790 L [4,700 gal] of low-level liquid wastes will be generated annually from decontamination activities. The INEEL Radioactive Waste Management Complex has the capacity to handle the small quantities of wastes generated during the storage period for the repackaged SNF.	NO IMPACT. No impacts would occur because SNF would continue to be stored at existing facilities. There would be no construction or operational activities, and the land would continue to be used as a restricted access construction laydown area. No new wastes would be created or added to the existing waste stream.

BLM = Bureau of Land Management  
 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation  
 HEPA = high efficiency particulate air  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center  
 NRC = U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 SNF = spent nuclear fuel  
 TRIGA = training, research, and isotope reactors built by General Atomics

<sup>a</sup> Environmental impacts of current and planned DOE programs are addressed in two existing NEPA documents [(DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995); (DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002)].

<sup>b</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

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1 Agreement among DOE, the State of Idaho, and the U.S. Navy to remove SNF from  
2 Idaho by 2035.

- 3
- 4 • Currently, most SNF to be received by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is stored  
5 at INTEC. Transfer distances from current storage locations to the proposed facility are  
6 relatively short.
- 7
- 8 • Although the current storage configuration has worked well, it does not prepare the SNF  
9 for shipment from INEEL to a national HLW repository.

10

11 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will provide the ability to remove the SNF from existing  
12 canisters, place it in specially designed storage containers, then seal and place the loaded  
13 containers in interim storage. The new containers are designed to be compatible with  
14 transportation systems and with the eventual permanent disposal systems. Hence, once the  
15 SNF is placed in the canisters, it would not need to be repackaged for shipment to a national  
16 HLW repository when one becomes available.

17

18 **2.8 References**

19

20 DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final  
21 Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

22

23 ———. DOE/EA-1217, "Environmental Assessment. Test Area North Pool Stabilization  
24 Project." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1997.

25

26 ———. "Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering  
27 Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs." *Federal Register*.  
28 Vol. 61. pp. 9441-9443. March 8, 1996a.

29

30 ———. "Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on a Proposed  
31 Nuclear Weapons Nonproliferation Policy Concerning Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear  
32 Fuel; Notice." *Federal Register*. Vol. 61. pp. 25092-25103. May 17, 1996b.

33

34 ———. "Environmental Statements Availability, etc; Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel  
35 Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste  
36 Management Programs." *Federal Register*. Vol. 60. pp. 28680-28696. June 1, 1995a.

37

38 ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel  
39 Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste  
40 Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE,  
41 Idaho Operations Office. 1995b.

42

43 FWENC. "Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Response to  
44 NRC Request for Additional Information Related to Environmental Review." NRC  
45 Docket No. 72-25, TAC No. L20768. FW-NRC-ISF-03-0048. Letter (March 7) from R.D. Izatt  
46 to NRC. Richland, Washington: FWENC. 2003. [The preceding document is available for  
47 public review through the NRC electronic reading room at  
48 <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.]  
49

## Alternatives

- 1 ———. "Environmental Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25,  
2 ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001a.  
3
- 4 ———. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
5 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001b.  
6
- 7 ———. "License Application, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
8 ISF-FW-RPT-0127. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001c.  
9
- 10 ———. "Emergency Plan, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket 72-25. ISF-FW-PLN-0021.  
11 Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001d.  
12
- 13 NRC. NUREG-1626, "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and  
14 Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation to Store the Three-Mile Island  
15 Unit 2 Spent Fuel at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory."  
16 Washington, DC: NRC. March 1998.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section establishes a baseline for current conditions at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) site. The baseline provides a starting point from which to assess impacts of the proposed action described in Section 2.3. This baseline may include regional features and conditions, but where practicable, it is focused on the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) facility, the site of the proposed action. Much of the information in this section is taken from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE, 1995), the DOE Idaho High-Level Waste (HLW) and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a), and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) EIS for the Three-Mile Island Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) (NRC, 1998). Specific information on the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility has been taken from the environmental and safety analysis reports submitted by Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) in support of its license application to NRC (FWENC, 2001a,b,c).

#### 3.1 Site and Facility Description

This description of the INEEL facility is based on information provided in the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.2).

##### 3.1.1 The INEEL

The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is to be located at the INEEL, one of nine multiprogram laboratories within the DOE complex. The INEEL covers about 230,850 ha [570,000 acres] in southeast Idaho (Figure 3-1). Most of the INEEL is undeveloped, and only about 2 percent of the total area (4,617 ha [11,400 acres]) has been developed to support the DOE mission at INEEL.

The INEEL has nine primary facility areas. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be sited adjacent to the southeast corner of the INTEC, a facility with the mission to receive and store SNF and radioactive wastes (see Figure 2-1). Other INEEL facilities include Test Area North, Naval Reactors Facility, Test Reactor Area, Central Facilities Area, Power Burst Facility, Auxiliary Reactor Area, Argonne National Laboratory-West, and the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (Figure 3-2). These facilities are not directly involved in the proposed action.

The INEEL is remote from major population centers, permanent

#### Existing and Proposed Facilities

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)—This existing facility is managed for the U.S. Department of Energy and contains about 230,850 ha [570,000 acres], most of which is undeveloped, but under controlled access.

Idaho Nuclear Energy Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC)—This existing facility, formerly known as the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant (ICPP), consists of about 150 buildings located on 101 ha [250 acres] in the south central part of the INEEL. It is the current site of HLW and SNF storage activities at INEEL, including current interim storage for the Peachbottom and Shippingport SNF.

Idaho Spent Fuel Facility—This proposed facility is the focus of the proposed action. If licensed, this facility would provide dry storage for SNF from the Peachbottom and Shippingport commercial reactors, as well as SNF from training, research, and isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactor).

Description of the Affected Environment

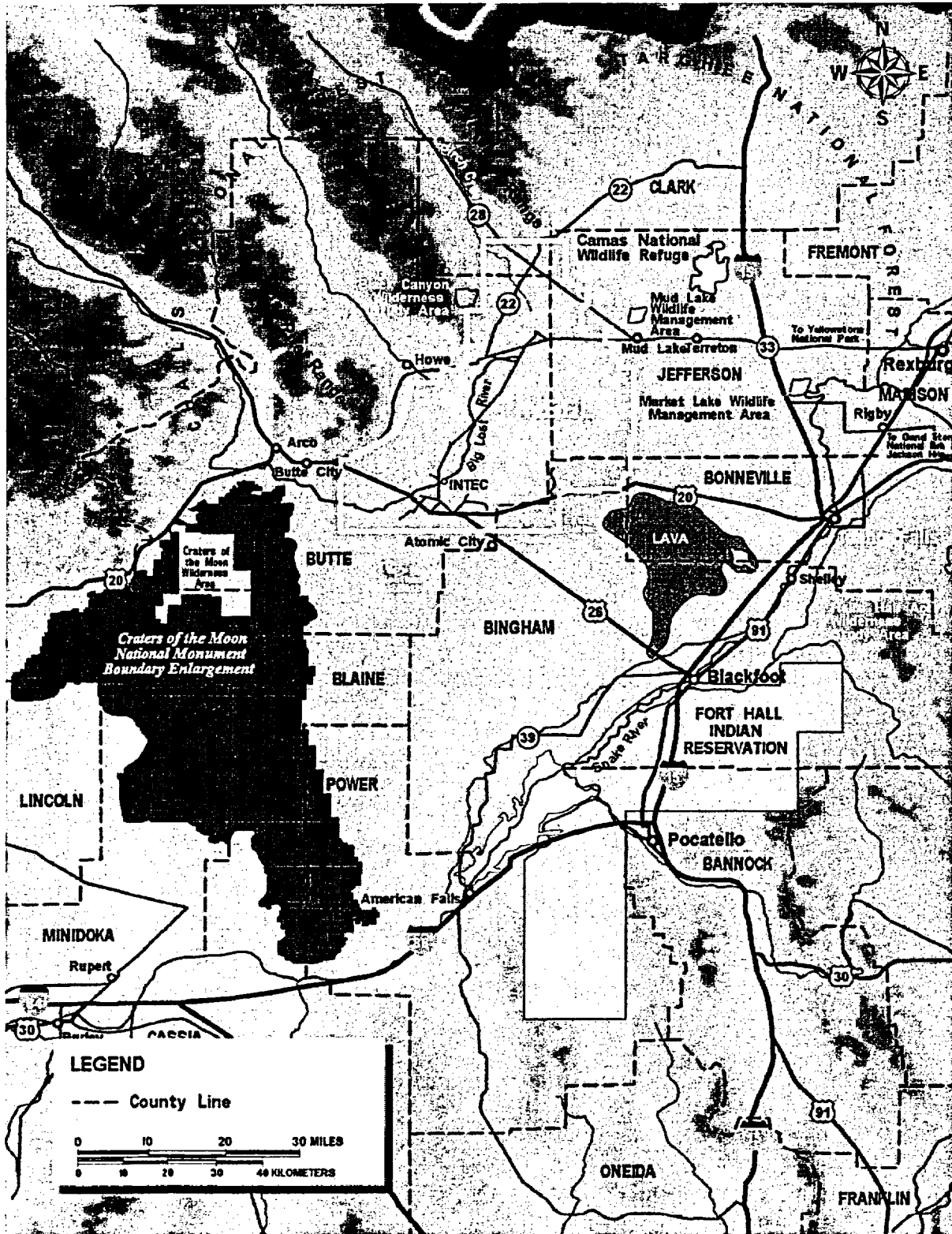
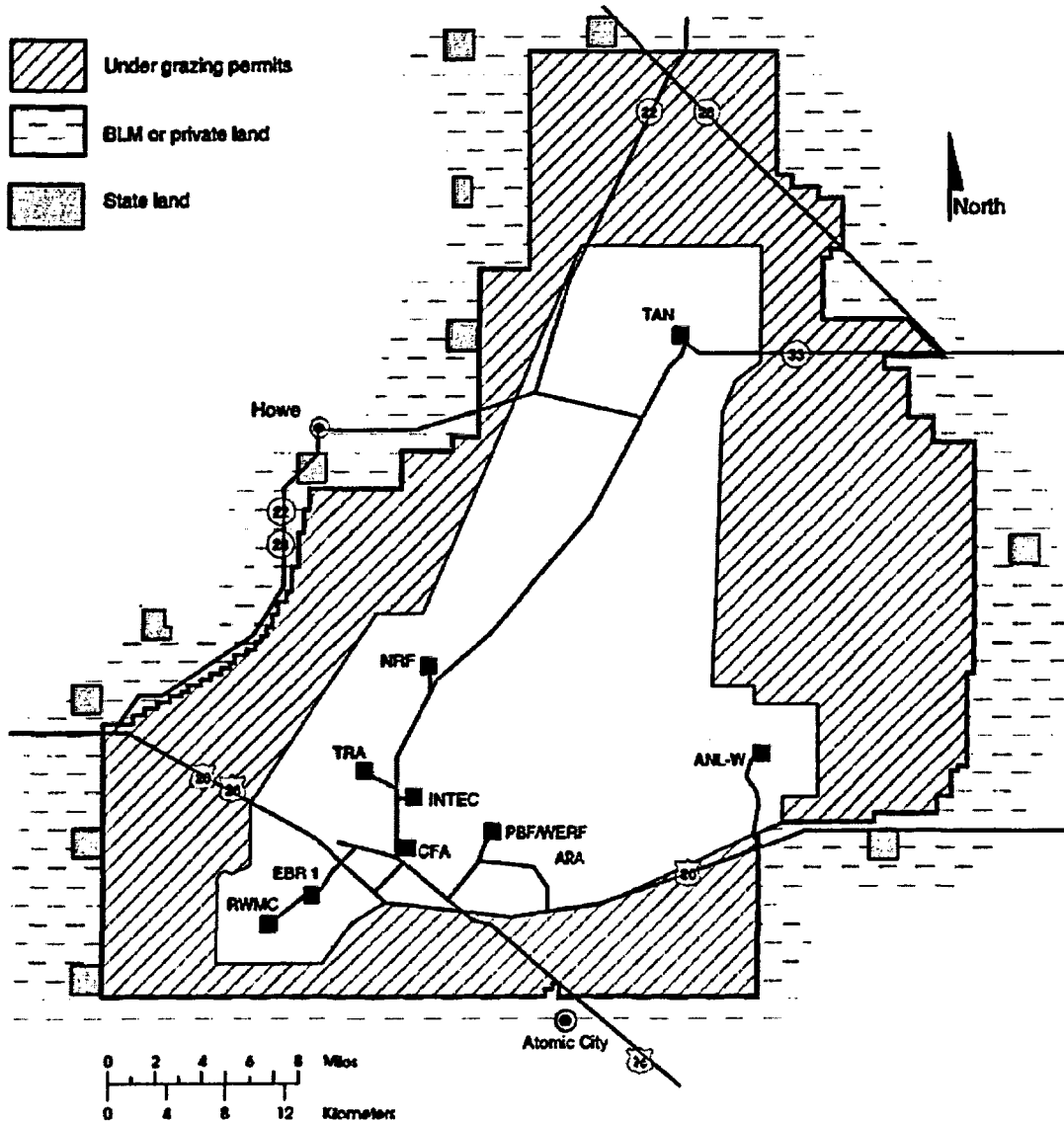


Figure 3-1. Regional Location of INEEL (Modified from FWENC, 2001a)

## Description of the Affected Environment

- ANL-W Argonne National Laboratory-West
- ARA Auxiliary Reactor Area
- CFA Central Facilities Area
- EBR-I Experimental Breeder Reactor - I
- INTEC Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center
- NRF Naval Reactors Facility
- PBF Power Burst Facility
- RWMC Radioactive Waste Management Complex
- TAN Test Area North
- TRA Test Reactor Area
- WERF Waste Experimental Reduction Facility



1

**Figure 3-2. Current Land Use at INEEL (Modified from FWENC, 2001a)**

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 waterways, and interstate transportation routes. INEEL has no permanent residents, and  
2 access to the INEEL facilities is controlled by DOE. Visitor access to the INEEL is also  
3 restricted, except for persons driving through INEEL on one of four public highways and visitors  
4 to the Experimental Breeder Reactor-1, a national historic landmark open to the public during  
5 summer months.

6  
7 The INEEL is located entirely in the state of Idaho, mostly within Butte County, but with portions  
8 in Bingham, Bonneville, Jefferson, and Clark Counties. Nearby cities include Mud Lake and  
9 Terreton to the east; Arco, Butte City, and Howe to the west; and Atomic City to the south.  
10 Larger communities at are further from the INEEL include Idaho Falls {80 km [50 mi]} and  
11 Rexburg {132 km [82 mi]} to the east; and Blackfoot {64 km [40 mi]} and Pocatello {80 km  
12 [50 mi]} to the southeast.

13  
14 Tourist and recreation destinations surrounding the INEEL site include Craters of the Moon  
15 National Monument and Preserve, Hell's Half Acre Wilderness Study Area, Black Canyon  
16 Wilderness Study Area, Camas National Wildlife Refuge, Market Lake Wildlife Management  
17 Area, North Lake State Wildlife Management Area, Targhee and Challis National Forests, and  
18 the Snake River (Figure 3-1).

### 19 20 **3.1.2 The INTEC**

21  
22 If licensed, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Figure 3-3) would be constructed adjacent  
23 to the eastern boundary of the INTEC. The INTEC facility consists of about 150 buildings  
24 located on 101 ha [250 acres] in the south-central part of the INEEL. The facility is located  
25 about 13.7 km [8.5 mi] north of the southern boundary, and the closest community is Atomic  
26 City, 16.9 km [10.5 mi] to the southeast (Figure 3-2). The INTEC facility is the current storage  
27 location of the Peachbottom and Shippingport SNF and the majority of the TRIGA fuel. It is also  
28 the location of the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI (see Figure 1-1).

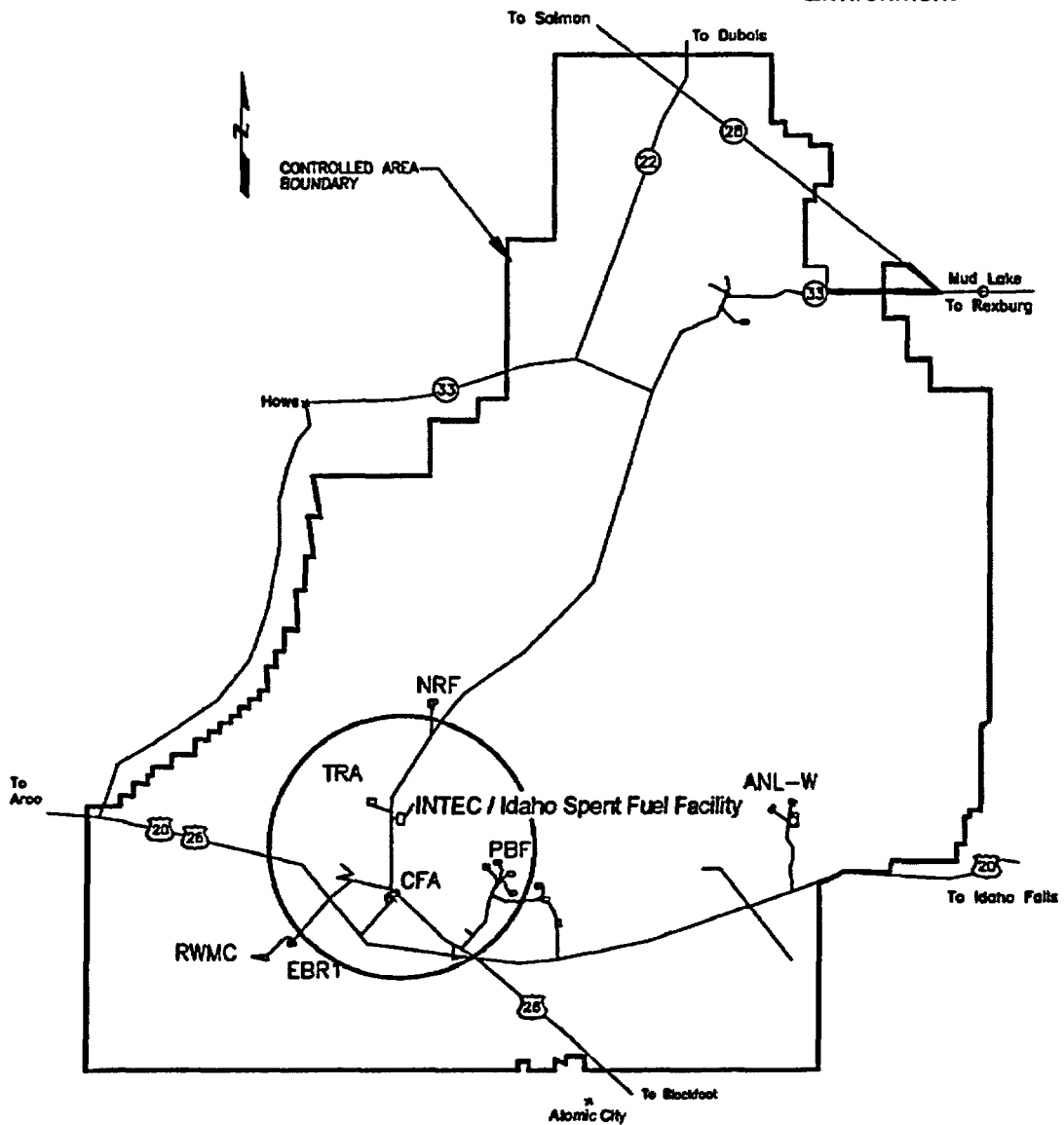
29  
30 INTEC was originally constructed in the 1950s to reprocess and recover uranium-235 from SNF  
31 from government reactors. In addition, a treatment process known as calcining was developed  
32 at INTEC to reduce the volume of liquid radioactive waste generated during reprocessing and  
33 place it in a more-stable solid form. The INTEC was renovated and facilities upgraded during  
34 the 1980s. However, with a continued low demand for highly enriched uranium, reprocessing  
35 activities at INTEC ended in 1992.

36  
37 The site for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is a flat-lying area near the Big Lost River in  
38 the south-central part of the INEEL. The area is underlain by approximately 9 to 18 m [30 to  
39 60 ft] of Big Lost River alluvial silts, sands, and gravels, which lie on an alternating sequence of  
40 basalt lava flows and interbedded sediments extending to a depth of about 600 to 700 m [2,000  
41 to 2,300 ft]. Landforms in the vicinity of ISFSI consist of braided channels (some abandoned) of  
42 the Big Lost River to the west and north of the site and irregular flow lobes of basalt lavas to the  
43 east of the site (DOE, 2002a).

### 44 45 **3.1.3 The Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility**

46  
47 If constructed, the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be located on a previously disturbed site  
48 adjacent to the southeast corner of INTEC (Figure 2-1). The land currently serves as a  
49 construction laydown area for INTEC. It is sparsely vegetated, with only about 5 percent

# Description of the Affected Environment



- Central Facilities Area (CFA)
- Argonne National Laboratory West (ANL-W)
- Experimental Breeder Reactor-1 (EBR-1)
- Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC)
- Naval Reactor Facility (NRF)
- Power Burst Facility (PBF)
- Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC)
- Test Area North (TAN)
- Test Reactor Area (TRA)
- Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (ISF)

Figure 3-3. Location of Major Operating Facilities on INEEL (Modified from FWENC, 2001a)

1

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 coverage (FWENC, 2001a). The site is located above the estimated 100- and 500-year flood  
2 plains. The roads nearest to the proposed facility are INEEL-controlled access and include  
3 Spruce Avenue on the north, Balsa Street on the east, and East Perimeter road to the west. A  
4 railroad spur line from the Mackay Branch of the Union Pacific Railroad is just south of the site.  
5 No cities or towns are within a 16-km [10-mi] radius of the site (Figure 3-1).

### 6 7 **3.2 Land Use**

8  
9 This description of existing and planned land uses for the INEEL and the surrounding area  
10 summarizes the current and projected land uses based on the discussion presented in the DOE  
11 Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.2).

#### 12 13 **3.2.1 INEEL Land Use**

14  
15 DOE is the designated federal agency with the responsibility and authority for effectively  
16 managing the INEEL lands in accordance with a series of Land Withdrawal Public Land Orders  
17 PLO 318, PLO 545, PLO 637, and PLO 691 that include approximately 204,930 ha  
18 [506,000 acres]. In addition, approximately 8,505 ha [21,000 acres] of state land and 17,415 ha  
19 [43,000 acres] of private land were transferred to DOE ownership and management, for a total  
20 of approximately 230,850 ha [570,000 acres] (Peterson, 1995). DOE is responsible for  
21 ensuring that the future use and management of these lands are in accordance with the Public  
22 Land Orders.

23  
24 Most of the INEEL is undeveloped high-desert terrain, and most of the operations are performed  
25 within the nine primary facility areas that occupy 823 ha [2,032 acres]. A 139,725-ha  
26 [345,000-acre] security and safety buffer zone surrounds these developed areas.  
27 Approximately 6 percent of INEEL {13,770 ha [34,000 acres]} is devoted to utility rights-of-way  
28 and public roads (Figure 3-2). U.S. Highway 20 runs east and west and crosses the southern  
29 portion of INEEL, U.S. Highway 26 runs southeast and northwest, and Idaho State  
30 Highways 22, 28, and 33 cross the northeastern part of INEEL (DOE, 1995). Up to 137,700 ha  
31 [340,000 acres] of INEEL are leased for cattle and sheep grazing (DOE, 1995, volume 2, Part A,  
32 Section 4.2), with grazing permits administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).  
33 However, livestock grazing is prohibited within 0.8 km [0.5 mi] of any primary facility boundary  
34 and within 3.2 km [2 mi] of any nuclear facility. In addition, 365 ha [900 acres] located on the  
35 northeast boundary of the INEEL at the junction of Idaho State Highways 28 and 33 serve as  
36 the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station as a winter feedlot for sheep (DOE, 1997a).

37  
38 On July 17, 1999, the Secretary of Energy and representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
39 Service, BLM, and Idaho State Fish and Game Department designated 29,672 ha  
40 [73,263 acres] of the INEEL as the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Reserve. The sagebrush  
41 steppe ecosystem was identified as critically endangered across its entire range by the National  
42 Biological Service in 1995. The INEEL Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Reserve, designated to  
43 ensure this portion of the ecosystem receives special consideration, is located in the northwest  
44 portion of the area. The southern boundary of the reserve runs east and west along section  
45 lines and is 17.6 km [11 mi] north of INTEC at the closest point. A natural resources  
46 management plan is being developed for the reserve (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.2).

47  
48 In preparing its programmatic EIS for SNF management, DOE projected land-use scenarios at  
49 INEEL for the next 25, 50, 75, and 100 years (DOE, 1995). In general, the DOE analyses



## Description of the Affected Environment

1 indicate that energy research and waste management activities would continue in the existing  
2 facility areas and, in some areas, expand into adjacent undeveloped areas. Future industrial  
3 development is projected to take place in the central portion of INEEL within existing major  
4 facility areas (DOE, 1993, 1997a, 2002a).

5  
6 At INTEC, where most of the activities under the proposed action would take place, primary  
7 facilities include storage and treatment facilities for SNF, mixed HLW, and mixed transuranic  
8 waste/sodium-bearing waste, and process development and robotics laboratories. The original  
9 mission of INTEC was to function as a processing facility to extract uranium-235 from  
10 government-owned nuclear fuels from research and defense reactors. INTEC recovered  
11 uranium and rare gases from SNF so that these materials could be reused. Currently, INTEC  
12 operations include receipt and storage of DOE-assigned SNF; management of HLW prior to  
13 disposal in a repository; technology development for final disposition of SNF, mixed HLW,  
14 and mixed transuranic waste/sodium-bearing waste; and development of new waste  
15 management technologies.

16  
17 Other than of activities directly associated with the DOE mission, there are other uses for the  
18 land at INEEL. For example, recreational uses of the INEEL include public tours of general  
19 facility areas and the Experimental Breeder Reactor-1, a national historic landmark. Controlled  
20 hunting is also permitted on INEEL to assist the Idaho Department of Fish and Game in  
21 reducing crop damage caused by wild game on adjacent private agricultural lands. These hunts  
22 are restricted to specific locations. INEEL is a designated National Environmental Research  
23 Park, functioning as a field laboratory set aside for ecological research and evaluation of the  
24 environmental impacts from nuclear energy development.

25  
26 INEEL does not lie within any of the land boundaries established by the Fort Bridger Treaty of  
27 1868. The entire INEEL is land occupied by DOE; therefore, the provision in the Fort Bridger  
28 Treaty that allows the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to hunt on unoccupied lands of the United  
29 States does not presently apply to any land upon which INEEL is located.

30

### 31 **3.2.2 Off-Site Land Use**

32

33 Approximately 75 percent of the land adjacent to the INEEL is managed by the federal  
34 government and administered by the BLM for wildlife habitat, mineral and energy production,  
35 grazing, and recreation. Approximately 1 percent of the adjacent land is owned by the State of  
36 Idaho and used for purposes similar to that of the federal government. The remaining 24  
37 percent of the land adjacent to INEEL is privately owned and is primarily used for grazing and  
38 crop production (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.2).

39

40 In addition to the areas described in Section 3.1.1, the region surrounding INEEL has recreation  
41 and tourist attractions including Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the  
42 Jackson Hole recreation complex, Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Sawtooth Wilderness  
43 Area, and Sawtooth National Forest.

44

45 Lands surrounding INEEL are governed by federal and state planning laws and regulations.  
46 Land-use planning in the State of Idaho is derived from the Local Planning Act of 1975.  
47 Currently, the State of Idaho does not have a land-use planning agency (DOE, 2002a,  
48 Section 4.2). Therefore, the Idaho legislature requires that each county adopt its own land use  
49 planning and zoning guidelines. At present, most of the surrounding counties have

Description of the Affected Environment

1 implemented guidelines to focus development adjacent to previously developed areas, with a  
 2 goal of avoiding urban sprawl and the pressures that it might place on existing infrastructure.  
 3 Because INEEL is remotely located, adjacent areas are not likely to experience residential and  
 4 commercial development, and no new development is planned. However, recreational and  
 5 agricultural uses are expected to increase in the surrounding area in response to greater  
 6 demand for recreational areas and the conversion of rangeland to cropland (DOE, 2002a,  
 7 Section 4.2).

8

9 **3.3 Transportation and Infrastructure**

10

11 Transportation and infrastructure at INEEL are described in the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities  
 12 Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.10). Two interstate highways serve the regional area  
 13 surrounding INEEL. Interstate 15, a north-south route that connects several cities along the  
 14 Snake River, is 40 km [25 mi] east of INEEL. Interstate 86 intersects Interstate 15  
 15 approximately 64 km [40 mi] south of INEEL and provides linkage to points west. Interstate 15  
 16 and U.S. Highway 91 are primary access routes to the Fort Hall reservation. U.S. Highways 20  
 17 and 26 are the main access routes to the southern portion of INEEL. State Route 33 provides  
 18 access to the northern INEEL facilities. Table 3-1 provides average daily and peak hourly traffic  
 19 data for selected local highway segments in the vicinity of INEEL.

20

21 INEEL contains an on-site road system of approximately 140 km [87 mi] of paved service roads  
 22 that are closed to the public (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.1). Most of the roads  
 23 undergo continuous maintenance and are adequate for the current level of normal  
 24 transportation activity. On-site roads presently have the capacity for increased traffic volume.

25

26 Railroad access to INEEL is provided by a DOE-owned spur line at Scoville Siding that is  
 27 connected to a Union Pacific Blackfoot-to-Arco branch off a main line that follows the Snake  
 28 River to the Pacific Northwest (DOE, 2002a). Rail shipments to INEEL include bulk  
 29 commodities, SNF, and radioactive waste. Non-DOE air traffic over INEEL is limited to altitudes

30

31 **Table 3-1. Baseline Traffic for Selected Highway Segments in the Vicinity of INEEL<sup>a</sup>**

32	Route	Average Daily Traffic	Peak Hourly Traffic <sup>b</sup>
33	U.S. Highway 20—Idaho Falls to INEEL	2,100	315
34	U.S. Highways 20/26—INEEL to Arco	1,900	285
35	U.S. Highway 26—Blackfoot to INEEL	1,400	210
36	State Route 33—West from Mud Lake	600	90
37	Interstate 15—Blackfoot to Idaho Falls	11,000	1,650
38	EIS = environmental impact statement		
39	INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory		
40			
41	<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.		
42			
43	<sup>b</sup> Estimated as 15 percent of average daily traffic		

44

1 greater than 305 m [1,000 ft] over buildings and populated areas. Primary air traffic includes  
2 high-altitude commercial jets.

3  
4 Hazardous, radioactive, industrial, commercial, and recyclable wastes are transported to and  
5 from INEEL. Hazardous materials include commercial chemical products and hazardous  
6 wastes that are nonradioactive and are regulated and controlled by the Department of  
7 Transportation based on the material's chemical reactivity, toxicity, and flammability. Table 3-2  
8 summarizes shipments associated with INEEL from 1998 through 2001 based on data from the  
9 Enterprise Transportation Analysis System (DOE, 2002a). These shipments include express  
10 mail packages, radioactive waste shipments, and SNF shipments. Nonhazardous materials  
11 shipments accounted for more than 95 percent of INEEL shipments. Radioactive materials  
12 and hazardous materials shipments accounted for 1.2 percent and 3.2 percent of the  
13 shipments, respectively.

14  
15 Occupational and public exposures from radioactive waste shipments have been estimated in  
16 prior EISs (DOE, 2002a, 1996c,d, 1995). These past estimates have indicated doses and  
17 estimated latent cancer fatalities from radioactive material transportation are small and indicate  
18 no adverse environmental impacts are associated with radioactive material transportation  
19 to INEEL.

### 20 21 **3.4 Geology and Soils**

22  
23 This description of the general geology of the affected environment at the INEEL facility is  
24 based on information provided in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2,  
25 Part A, Section 4.6).

26  
27 **Table 3-2. Annual Average Shipments to and from INEEL (1998–2001) by Type of  
28 Cargo and Transportation Mode<sup>a</sup>**

29 Mode	Hazardous	Nonhazardous	Radioactive	Total
30 Air	221	18,549	177	18,947
31 Motor <sup>b</sup>	294	4,439	109	4,842
32 Other <sup>c</sup>	273	229	5	507
33 Rail	0	3	1	4
34 Total	788	23,220	292	24,300

35 EIS = environmental impact statement  
36 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

37  
38 <sup>a</sup> Enterprise Transportation Analysis System (DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities  
39 Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.)

40 <sup>b</sup> Commercial motor carriers

41 <sup>c</sup> Freight forwarder, private motor carrier, government vehicles, or parcel carriers

## Description of the Affected Environment

### 1 3.4.1 General Geology

2 -

3 The INEEL site is located on the Eastern Snake River Plain in southeast Idaho (Figure 3-4).  
4 Geologically, the Eastern Snake River Plain can be summarized as a broad northeast-trending  
5 basin that began filling with volcanic deposits approximately 6 million years ago. Most of the  
6 Plain that is visible today was shaped by volcanic eruptions of lava flows and domes during the  
7 last 1.2 million years. Overlying the lavas are thin, discontinuous deposits of wind-blown sand  
8 and loess, floodplain, riverbed and lake sediments, and landslope debris. These sedimentary  
9 deposits are often found between the lava flows, showing that a quiet period occurred between  
10 past volcanic eruptions. To the northeast, the Plain merges with the Yellowstone Plateau.  
11 Higher elevation mountains and valleys of the Basin and Range Province bound the Plain to the  
12 north and south. These mountains are formed by rocks more than 70 million years old, which  
13 have been folded and faulted. This Basin and Range deformation, which began 20 to 30 million  
14 years ago, affects some ongoing volcanic and tectonic processes in the INEEL area.

15

16 Earthquake histories and seismic characteristics of the Eastern Snake River Plain and the  
17 adjacent Basin and Range Province are different (Figure 3-5). The Plain historically has  
18 produced only infrequent, small-magnitude earthquakes (King, et al., 1987; Pelton, et al., 1990;  
19 Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 1992; Jackson, et al., 1993). Larger historical earthquakes and  
20 active faulting are associated with tectonic activity in the Basin and Range Province. For  
21 example, the 1959 Hebgen Lake Earthquake (moment magnitude 7.5) occurred approximately  
22 150 km [93 mi] from the INEEL. The October 28, 1983, Borah Peak earthquake (moment  
23 magnitude 6.9, Richter magnitude 7.3) occurred along the Lost River fault approximately  
24 100 km [62 mi] from the INEEL site. Although the Borah Peak earthquake produced peak  
25 ground accelerations of 0.022 *g* to 0.078 *g* at INEEL (Jackson, 1985), INEEL facilities were not  
26 damaged significantly (Guenzler and Gorman, 1985).

27

28 The tectonic forces that control nearby Basin and Range Province faulting likely affected the  
29 development of four northwest-trending volcanic zones that cross the Plain (Figure 3-5). Along  
30 with a northeast-trending zone that runs along the axis of the Plain, these zones have localized  
31 volcanism during the last 1.2 million years (Bowman, 1995; Hackett and Smith, 1992; Kuntz,  
32 et al., 1990). Most of this volcanism has consisted of thin basaltic lava flows and small volcanic  
33 vents like those on the island of Hawaii. Some past eruptions of rhyolite, however, have been  
34 more energetic and produced ash deposits and steep-sided volcanoes called domes. The last  
35 of these rhyolite eruptions occurred about 300,000 years ago (Kuntz, et al., 1990). The nearest  
36 volcano to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site is 3 km [1.8 mi] to the northwest and is  
37 approximately 600,000 years old (Kuntz, et al., 1994). Although lava flows younger than  
38 approximately 200,000 years old are exposed within 5 km [3 mi] of the proposed Idaho Spent  
39 Fuel facility site, the young volcanoes that produced these lavas all occur more than 10 km  
40 [6 mi] from the site (Kuntz, et al., 1994).

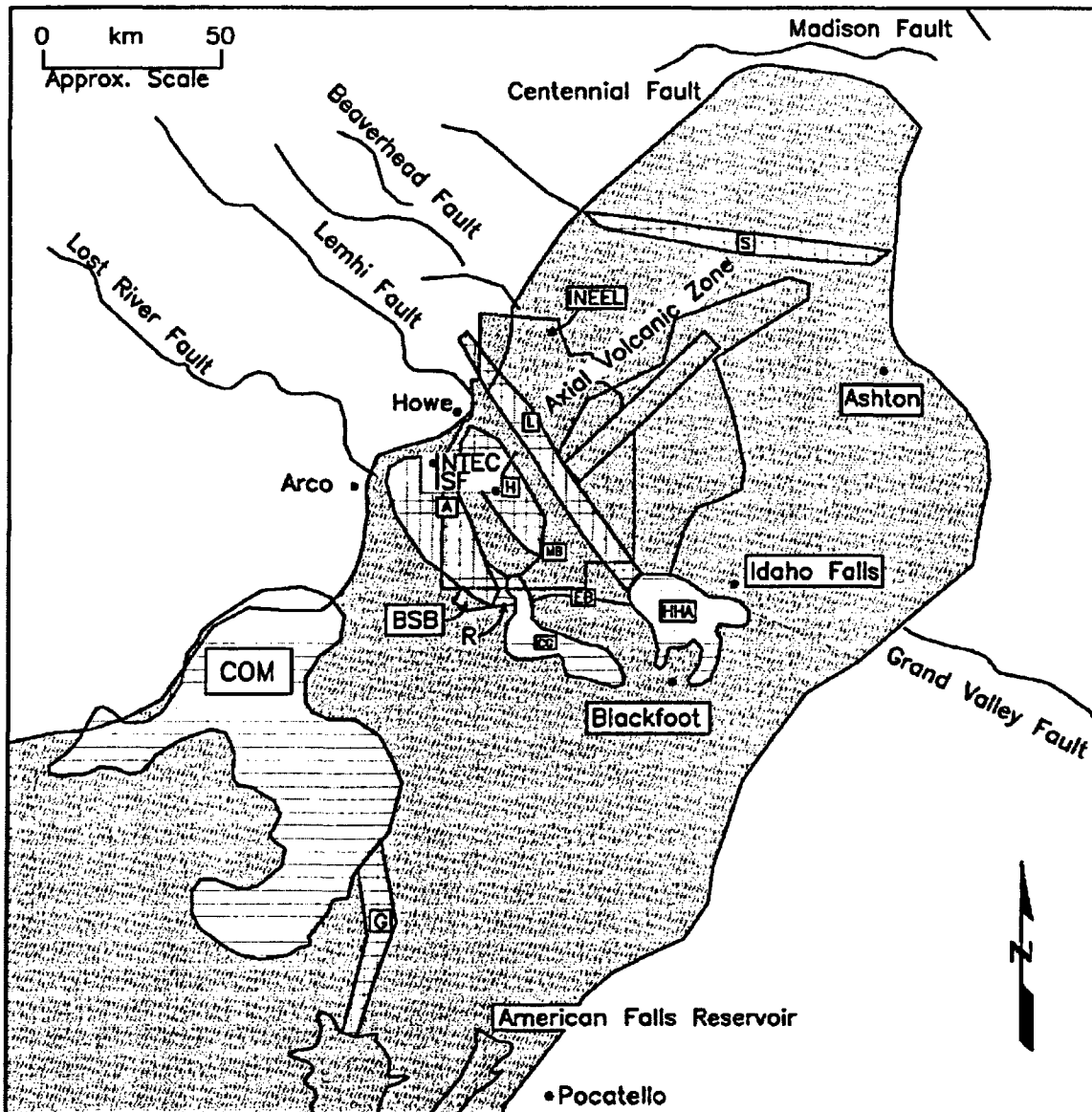
41

### 42 3.4.2 Soils

43

44 According to FWENC (2001a, Section 2.5), "surficial sediments ... at the ISF [proposed Idaho  
45 Spent Fuel] Facility site consist mostly of gravel, gravelly sands, and sands," and vegetative  
46 cover is only about 5 percent. Soils have been characterized and consist of 1.5 m [5 ft] of silt of  
47 "loose to medium-dense consistency" of aeolian and fluvial origin, underlain by "about 7.6 m  
48 [25 ft] of dense sand and gravel" (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.1). The proposed Idaho Spent  
49 Fuel Facility would be built on a previously disturbed site.

Description of the Affected Environment



Holocene Lava Fields



Volcanic Rift Zones



Eastern Snake River Plain



COM=Craters of the Moon  
 CG=Cerro Grande  
 HHA=Hells Half Acre  
 R=North & South Robbers

S=Spencer-High Point  
 L=Lava Ridge-Hells Half Acre  
 H=Howe-East Butte  
 A=Arco  
 G=Great Rift

BSB=Big Southern Butte  
 MB=Middle Butte  
 EB=East Butte

  
 Basin and Range Province  
 ISF = IDAHO SPENT FUEL FACILITY

Figure 3-4. Volcanic Zones on the Eastern Snake River Plain (Modified from FWENC, 2001a)

1

3-12

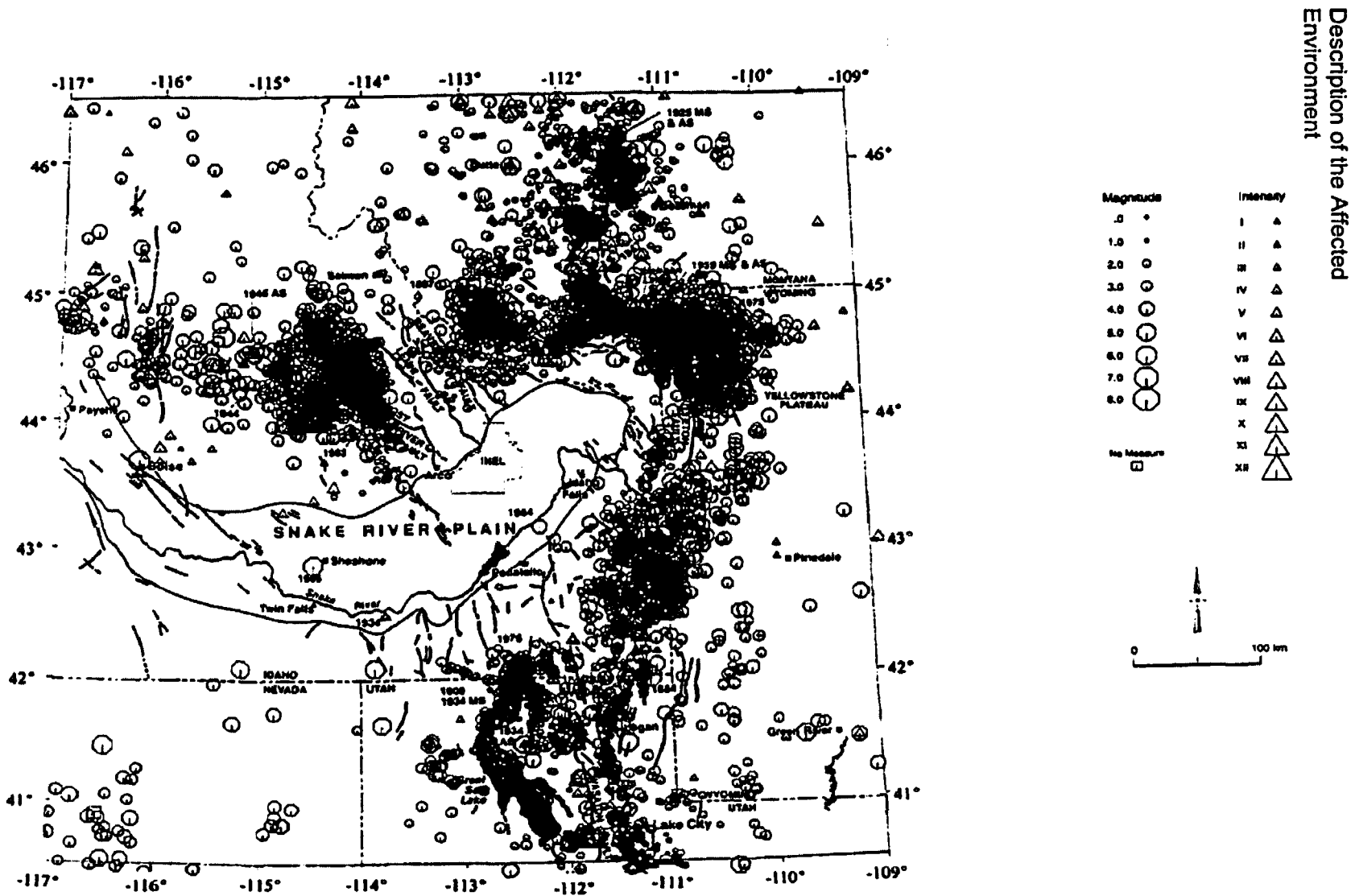


Figure 3-5. Historical Seismicity in the Region Surrounding INEEL (from FWENC, 2001b)

1 A remedial investigation of the INTEC site did not identify the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
2 Facility site as contaminated (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). Site investigations, in which soil  
3 contaminant levels were measured, were subsequently carried out by the DOE and FWENC on  
4 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. A radiological screening was performed in 2002,  
5 and all measured cesium-137 concentrations were well below the risk-based soil remediation  
6 goal of 23 pCi/g defined in the INTEC final record of decision (Idaho Department of  
7 Environmental Quality, 1999); in fact, none exceeded the INEEL background value of 0.8 pCi/g,  
8 also from that report. Because cesium-137 is consistently the highest activity soil contaminant  
9 elsewhere at INTEC and has the lowest activity remediation goal among radionuclides of  
10 concern (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1999, Sections 5 and 8), it is an  
11 appropriate marker for establishing soil contamination. Therefore, the proposed Idaho Spent  
12 Fuel Facility site is not radiologically contaminated.

13  
14 Nonradiological soil contamination is also of concern as a potential health hazard. FWENC  
15 performed sampling and analyses for nonradiological contaminants in 2000; results are shown  
16 in Table 3-3, which is reproduced from FWENC (2003). FWENC used a five-step process to  
17 eliminate contaminants from consideration. In the first two steps, metals were eliminated if the  
18 maximum measured concentration was below background or if the metal is considered an  
19 essential nutrient. Table 3-3 presents the metals eliminated by these comparisons. The  
20 maximum measured iron concentration was 24,100 mg/kg [24,100 ppm], which is slightly higher  
21 than the background value of 24,000 mg/kg [24,000 ppm] (LMITCO, 1996). However, this  
22 difference is not considered significant. First, there are uncertainties in both the measurement  
23 and the statistical method used for calculating the background value that, though not reported in  
24 FWENC (2003), will exceed the 0.4 percent difference. Second, the 24,000-mg/kg  
25 [24,000-ppm] background value is an upper tolerance limit for composite samples. Lockheed  
26 Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO) (1996) states that the upper tolerance limit for  
27 composite samples should not be applied to grab samples. The corresponding LMITCO (1996)  
28 upper tolerance limit for grab samples is 35,000 mg/kg [35,000 ppm]. Thus, it is concluded that  
29 iron has been appropriately screened out.

30  
31 In Step 3, organic constituents and remaining metals were compared to U.S. Environmental  
32 Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) for residential soil. For  
33 arsenic, the higher noncancer PRG was appropriately used because the cancer-based PRG  
34 was below background. Although all contaminants for which PRGs were available were below  
35 the PRG levels (Step 3 in Table 3-3), the potential combined effects must be considered.  
36 FWENC addressed this issue by stating that because the PRGs were based on a carcinogenic  
37 risk level of  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ , combining their effects would still result in risk below the INEEL-employed  
38 risk level of  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ . However, this rationale is not appropriate for the 13 contaminants for  
39 which noncancer PRGs were used. The potential additive risk can be evaluated by applying the  
40 methodology recommended in EPA (2002, Section 3.3), in which carcinogenic and  
41 noncarcinogenic risks are considered separately using maximum concentrations. The additive  
42 carcinogenic risk is below  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ , and the noncarcinogenic Hazard Index is below one. Thus,  
43 the additive risks are below the respective levels of concern. (Note: if arsenic is considered,  
44 the noncarcinogenic Hazard Index is 1.2; however, considering the high natural background,  
45 this value is not considered a significant exceedence of the level of concern.)

46  
47 The first three screening steps eliminated all contaminants for which PRGs are defined. Step 4  
48 compared the two remaining organic contaminants (phenanthrene, total petroleum  
49 hydrocarbons–diesel) to EPA Ecologically Based Screening Levels (EBSLs) (EPA, 1999). An

Description of the Affected Environment

**Table 3-3. Idaho Spent Fuel Site Soil Contamination Screening Results<sup>a</sup>**

Detected Contaminant	Number of Samples	Sample Results		Step 1		Step 2	Step 3		Step 4		Step 5
		Minimum Concentration (mg/kg)	Maximum Concentration (mg/kg)	Background (Composite) (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than Background?	Non-Toxic Metal?	Region IX PRG <sup>b</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than PRG?	Region IV EBSL <sup>c</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than EBSL?	Potential Concern?
Aluminum	16	3,850	15,400	16,000	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Arsenic	16	2.3	8.9	5.8	Yes	No	22 <sup>d</sup>	No	—	—	No
Barium	16	59.2	234	300	No	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beryllium	16	0.24	0.96	1.8	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Cadmium	2	0.12	0.25	2.2	No	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calcium	16	8,080	42,700	24,000	Yes	Yes	—	—	—	—	No
Chromium	16	9.0	32.6	33	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Cobalt	16	2.5	8.8	11	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Copper	16	5.3	19.3	22	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Iron	16	6,340	24,100	24,000	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Lead	16	4.2	98.9 <sup>e</sup>	17	Yes	No	400	No	—	—	No
Magnesium	16	3,600	9,170	12,000	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Manganese	16	158	542	490	Yes	No	1,800	No	—	—	No
Mercury	4	0.03	0.05	0.05	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Nickel	16	6.2	25.2	35	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Potassium	16	1,040	4,060	4,300	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
Selenium	16	0.52	1.7	0.22	Yes	No	390	No	—	—	No

3-14



Table 3-3. Idaho Spent Fuel Site Soil Contamination Screening Results<sup>a</sup> (continued)

Detected Contaminant	Number of Samples	Sample Results		Step 1		Step 2	Step 3		Step 4		Step 5
		Minimum Concentration (mg/kg)	Maximum Concentration (mg/kg)	Background (Composite) (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than Background?	Non-Toxic Metal?	Region IX PRG <sup>a</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than PRG?	Region IV EBSL <sup>a</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than EBSL?	Potential Concern?
Sodium	16	243	636	320	Yes	Yes		—	—	—	No
Thallium	11	0.22	0.86	0.43	Yes	No	5.2	No	—	—	No
Vanadium	16	13.2	50.0	45	Yes	No	550	No	—	—	No
Zinc	16	26.4	104	150	No	—	—	—	—	—	No
AcetoneChromium 16 9.0 32.6 33 No — — — — — No — —	14	0.002	0.054	NA	NA	No	1,600	No	—	—	No
Trichlorofluoromethane	1	0.003	0.003	NA	NA	No	390	No	—	—	No
2-Methylnaphthalene	2	0.25	0.45	NA	NA	No	1,600 <sup>f</sup>	No	—	—	No
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	1	0.073	0.073	NA	NA	No	0.62	No	—	—	No
Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate	7	0.088	1.1	NA	NA	No	35	No	—	—	No
Chrysene	1	0.091	0.091	NA	NA	No	62	No	—	—	No
Dibenzofuran	2	0.081	0.12	NA	NA	No	290	No	—	—	No
Fluoranthene	2	0.082	0.13	NA	NA	No	2,300	No	—	—	No
Naphthalene	2	0.17	0.32	NA	NA	No	56	No	—	—	No
Phenanthrene	2	0.15	0.21	NA	NA	No	No PRG	No PRG	0.1	Yes	Yes
Pyrene	2	0.079	0.10	NA	NA	No	2,300	No	—	—	No

3-15

Description of the Affected Environment

**Table 3-3. Idaho Spent Fuel Site Soil Contamination Screening Results<sup>a</sup> (continued)**

Detected Contaminant	Number of Samples	Sample Results		Step 1		Step 2	Step 3		Step 4		Step 5
		Minimum Concentration (mg/kg)	Maximum Concentration (mg/kg)	Background (Composite) (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than Background?	Non-Toxic Metal?	Region IX PRG <sup>b</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than PRG?	Region IV EBSL <sup>c</sup> (mg/kg)	Is Maximum Concentration Greater Than EBSL?	Potential Concern?
TPH-Diesel	1	>51	>51	NA	NA	No	No PRG	No PRG	No EBSL	No EBSL	No
Motor Oil	3	>100	>100	NA	NA	No	No PRG	No PRG	No EBSL	No EBSL	No

EBSL = Ecologically Based Screening Level  
 EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation  
 NA = Not applicable  
 PRG = preliminary remediation goal  
 TPH = total petroleum hydrocarbons

<sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Related to Environmental Review." NRC Docket No. 72-25. TAC No. L20768. Table 5-1-1. Letter (March 7) from R.D. Izatt to NRC. FW-NRC-ISF-03-0048. Richland, Washington: FWENC. 2003.

<sup>b</sup> EPA Region IX, Preliminary Remediation Goals Table 2002 Update, Residential Soils (EPA. "Region 9 PRGs Table Users Guide/Technical Background Document." San Francisco, California: EPA, Region 9. 2002. <<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/prg/files/02userguide.pdf>>

<sup>c</sup> EPA Region IV, Recommended Ecological Screening Values (mg/kg) for soil (EPA. "Region 4 Waste Management Division Soil Screening Values for Hazardous Waste Sites." Atlanta, Georgia: EPA Region 4. <<http://www.epa.gov/region04/waste/ots/epatab4.pdf>> 1999. .

<sup>d</sup> The residential soils PRG for arsenic is 0.39 mg/kg [0.39 ppm]. However, when the natural background is higher than the risk-based concentration, EPA Region 4 allows use of the noncancer PRG (22 mg/kg [22 ppm]) to evaluate the site.

<sup>e</sup> Only one lead sample was greater than background; it is likely that a minute piece of metal was part of this sample and represents a hot spot.

<sup>f</sup> EPA Region III, Risked Based Concentration Table (EPA. "Region III Risk-Based Concentration Table." Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: EPA Region 3. <<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/risk/rbc1002.pdf>> 2002. Region 9 PRG not available

NOTE: To convert mg/kg to parts per million (ppm), multiply by 1..

3-16

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1 EBSL is defined only for one—phenanthrene—and it exceeded the EBSL. All three  
2 contaminants were then passed to Step 5, in which alternative considerations were made. The  
3 maximum phenanthrene concentration was twice as high as the EBSL, but the total for all  
4 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (a group to which phenanthrene belongs) was below the  
5 corresponding EBSL for the group. In addition, the maximum phenanthrene concentration of  
6 0.21 mg/kg [0.21 ppm] was well below the 5 mg/kg [5 ppm] value defined as moderate soil  
7 contamination that requires additional study (Beyer, 1990). Finally, FWENC (2003) shows that  
8 total petroleum hydrocarbons—diesel and motor oil are well below levels of concern.

### 9 10 **3.4.3 Geologic Natural Resources**

11  
12 No geologic resources are identified at the site of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
13 Known mineral resources inside the INEEL boundary are limited to several quarries or pits that  
14 supply sand, gravel, pumice, silt, clay, and aggregate for road construction and maintenance,  
15 new facility construction and maintenance, waste burial activities, and ornamental landscaping  
16 cinders. Outside the INEEL site boundary, mineral resources include sand, gravel, pumice,  
17 phosphate, and base and precious metals (Strowd, et al., 1981; Mitchell, et al., 1981). The  
18 geologic history of the Plain makes the potential for petroleum production at the INEEL very low.  
19 In 1979, INEEL drilled a geothermal exploration well to 3,159 m [10,365 ft]. Researchers  
20 measured a temperature of 142 °C [288 °F] but identified no commercial quantities of  
21 geothermal fluids (Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1980).

### 22 23 **3.4.4 Seismic Hazard**

24  
25 The distribution of earthquakes at and near the INEEL from 1884 to 1989 clearly shows that the  
26 Eastern Snake River Plain has a low rate of seismicity, whereas the surrounding Basin and  
27 Range Province has a relatively high rate (Figure 3-5) (Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 1992).  
28 The mechanism for faulting and generation of earthquakes in the Basin and Range Province is  
29 attributed to northeast-southwest directed crustal extension.

30  
31 Major seismic hazards include the effects from ground shaking and surface deformation  
32 (faulting, tilting). Other potential seismic hazards (e.g., avalanches, landslides, mudslides, soil  
33 settlement, and soil liquefaction) are not likely to occur at the INEEL because the local geologic  
34 conditions are not conducive. Based on the seismic history and the geologic conditions,  
35 earthquakes greater than moment magnitude 5.5 (and associated strong ground shaking and  
36 surface fault rupture) are not likely to occur in the Plain. However, moderate to strong ground  
37 shaking from earthquakes in the Basin and Range Province can affect the INEEL. Researchers  
38 use patterns of seismicity and locations of mapped faults to assess potential sources of future  
39 earthquakes and to estimate levels of ground motion at the site. The sources and maximum  
40 magnitudes of earthquakes that could produce the maximum levels of ground motions at all  
41 INEEL facilities include the following (Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 1990, 1992):

- 42
- 43 • A moment magnitude 7.0 earthquake at the southern end of the Lemhi fault along the
- 44 Howe and Fallert Springs segments;
- 45
- 46 • A moment magnitude 7.0 earthquake at the southern end of the Lost River fault along
- 47 the Arco segment;
- 48

## Description of the Affected Environment

- 1 • A moment magnitude 5.5 earthquake associated with dike injection in either the Arco or  
2 Lava Ridge–Hell’s Half Acre Volcanic Rift Zone and the Axial Volcanic Zone; and  
3
- 4 • A random moment magnitude 5.5 earthquake in the Eastern Snake River Plain.  
5

### 6 **3.4.5 Volcanic Hazard**

7  
8 Potential volcanic hazards to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility arise primarily from lava  
9 flows and airborne ash-falls. Lavas are hot {1,100 °C [2,000 °F]}, heavy {2,600 kg/m<sup>3</sup>  
10 [4,374 lb/yd<sup>3</sup>]} flows of molten rock that can travel down slopes at several miles per hour. Lava  
11 flows that could possibly affect the site would likely originate from a new basaltic volcano that  
12 formed in either the Axial Volcanic Zone or the Arco Volcanic Rift Zone (Figure 3-4). These  
13 volcanic zones are closest to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and contain volcanoes  
14 younger than 400,000 years old. Based on an analysis of past volcanic eruptions in the INEEL  
15 area, the Volcanism Working Group (1990) estimated a likelihood of  $<2 \times 10^{-5}$  per year for a  
16 new volcano forming in these zones and erupting a lava flow that would be long enough to  
17 reach the general area of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
18

19 Volcanic ash is a relatively hard, highly abrasive, fine-grained particulate that can produce loads  
20 on horizontal surfaces, readily clog air- and water-filtration systems, rapidly abrade pumps and  
21 seals, and short electrical systems. Volcanic ash-falls could occur at the site from eruptions as  
22 far away as the Cascade Mountains. Hoblitt, et al. (1987) calculated a  $10^{-3}$  annual probability  
23 for a 1-cm- [0.4-in-] thick ash deposit forming at the INEEL from a Cascade volcano eruption.  
24 This annual probability decreases to  $10^{-6}$  for a 10-cm- [4-in-] thick ash deposit (Hoblitt, et al.,  
25 1987). Rhyolite dome volcanoes, such as Big Southern Butte or East Butte, also have the  
26 potential to produce ash-fall deposits within tens of kilometers from the volcano (e.g., Scott,  
27 1987). In addition, large-volume eruptions from the Yellowstone Volcanic Zone could produce  
28 appreciable ash-fall deposits at INEEL in the unlikely event that regional winds were directed to  
29 the southwest during a potential eruption (Figure 3-4).  
30

## 31 **3.5 Water Resources**

### 32 **3.5.1 Surface Water Resources**

33  
34 This description of the surface water resources in the affected environment at the INEEL is  
35 based on the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). Other  
36 than surface-water bodies formed from accumulated runoff during snowmelt or heavy  
37 precipitation and artificial infiltration and evaporation ponds, there is little surface water at  
38 the site.  
39

#### 40 **3.5.1.1 Regional Drainage**

41  
42 INEEL is located in the Mud Lake–Lost River Basin (also known as the Pioneer Basin).  
43 Figure 3-6 shows major surface water features of this basin. This closed drainage basin  
44 includes three main streams—the Big and Little Lost Rivers and Birch Creek. These three  
45 streams drain the mountain areas to the north and west of INEEL, although most flow is diverted  
46 for irrigation in the summer months before it reaches the site boundaries.  
47

48  
49 The Big Lost River drains approximately 3,755 km<sup>2</sup> [1,450 mi<sup>2</sup>] of land before reaching the site.  
50 Approximately 48 km [30 mi] upstream of Arco, Idaho, Mackay Dam controls and regulates the

1 flow of the river, which continues southeast onto the Eastern Snake River Plain. The river  
2 channel then crosses the southwestern boundary of the INEEL, where the INEEL Diversion  
3 Dam controls surface-water flow. During heavy runoff events, the dam diverts surface water to  
4 a series of natural depressions, designated as spreading areas (Figure 3-6). During periods of  
5 high flow or low irrigation demand, the Big Lost River continues past the diversion dam to the  
6 northeast. It passes within 61 m [200 ft] of INTEC and 1,200 m [4,000 ft] of the proposed Idaho  
7 Spent Fuel Facility to an area of natural infiltration playas or sinks about 24 to 32 km [15 to  
8 20 mi] northeast of INTEC. In dry years, surface water does not usually reach the western  
9 boundary of the site. Because INEEL is located in a closed drainage basin, surface water does  
10 not flow off the site.

11

12 Birch Creek drains an area of approximately 1,940 km<sup>2</sup> [750 mi<sup>2</sup>]. Upstream of INEEL, surface  
13 water from Birch Creek is diverted during the summer to provide irrigation and to produce  
14 hydropower. In the winter, water flow crosses the northwest corner of the site, entering a  
15 humanmade channel 6.4 km [4 mi] north of Test Area North, where it then infiltrates into  
16 channel gravels.

17

18 The Little Lost River drains an area of approximately 1,825 km<sup>2</sup> [705 mi<sup>2</sup>]. Streamflow is  
19 diverted for irrigation north of Howe, Idaho. Surface water from the Little Lost River has not  
20 reached the site in recent years; however, during high stream flow years, water would reach the  
21 site and infiltrate into the subsurface (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).

22

### 23 3.5.1.2 Local Drainage

24

25 INTEC is located on an alluvial plain and its  
26 northwest corner is approximately 61 m  
27 [200 ft] east of the Big Lost River channel.  
28 Located at the southeast corner of INTEC,  
29 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is  
30 about 1,220 m [4,000 ft] east of the channel.  
31 Surface water generated from local  
32 precipitation would flow into lower areas on  
33 the site. This surface water either  
34 evaporates or infiltrates into the ground,  
35 increasing subsurface saturation and  
36 enhancing subsurface migration  
37 (Wilhelmson, et al., 1993). Localized  
38 flooding can occur at the site when the  
39 ground is frozen and melting snow  
40 combines with heavy spring rains. In 1969,  
41 rapid snowmelt caused extensive flooding in  
42 the lower Birch Creek Valley, and Test Area  
43 North was flooded (DOE, 2002a,  
44 Section 4.8).

45

46 INTEC is surrounded by a storm water  
47 drainage ditch system (DOE, 2002a,  
48 Section 4.8). The drainage system,  
49 including dikes and erosion-prevention

#### Flood Frequency Terms

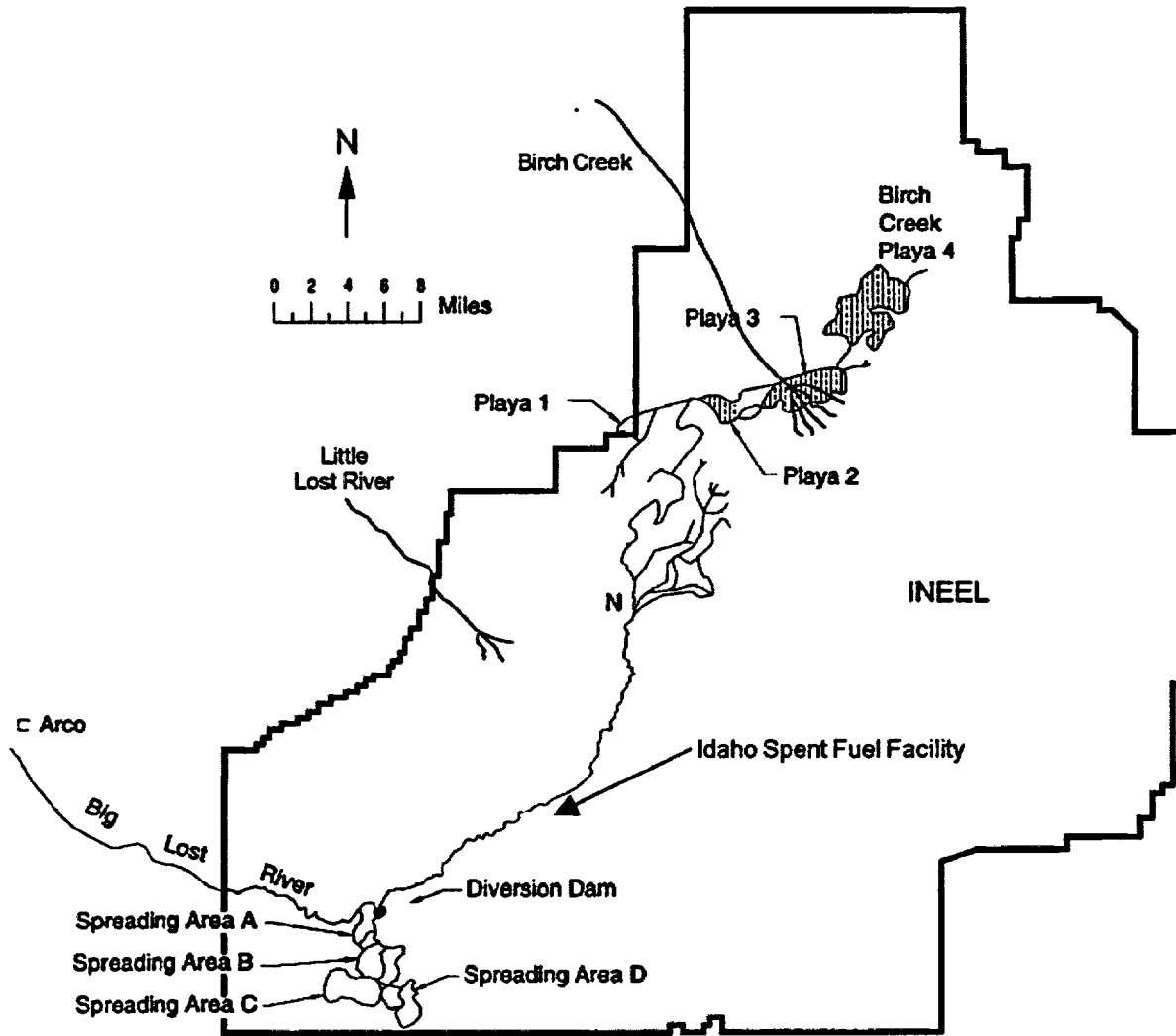
Flood frequency is typically characterized by the *recurrence interval* of a flood (or flow). This term is the average period of time that elapses between floods of a given size. Larger floods are more infrequent, and therefore have a larger recurrence interval. Recurrence intervals are calculated based on historical measurements of flow and on geologic evidence of flooding.

**100-Year Flood**—The 100-year flood does not necessarily occur only once every 100 years, but rather has a 1/100 (1 percent) probability of occurring in any given year.

**500-Year Flood**—Similar to the 100-year flood, the 500-year flood may occur more or less than once in a 500-year period, but has only a 1/500 (0.2 percent) probability in any given year.

**Probable Maximum Flood**—This hypothetical flow scenario is used to place an upper bound on the impacts of flooding. It is not assigned a probability, but is intended to represent the combination of events (snowmelt, precipitation, dam failure) that could lead to maximum streamflow.

Description of the Affected Environment



1 Figure 3-6. Surface Drainages Associated with the Big Lost River System (Modified from FWENC, 2001b)

1 features designed to mitigate potential surface water flooding, is being upgraded (DOE, 2001a,  
2 2002a). Storm water runoff from most areas of INTEC flows through the ditches to an  
3 abandoned gravel pit on the northeast side of INTEC. From the gravel pit, the runoff infiltrates  
4 and provides potential recharge to the Snake River Plain aquifer. The system is designed to  
5 handle a maximum 24-hour storm event with a 25-year recurrence interval. DOE built a  
6 secondary system around the facility to hold water if the first system overflows. Because the  
7 land is relatively flat (slopes of generally less than 1 percent) and annual precipitation is low,  
8 storm water runoff volumes are small and are generally spread over large areas where they  
9 evaporate or infiltrate the ground surface. Annual precipitation at INEEL averaged 22 cm/yr  
10 [8.7 in/yr] from 1951 through 1994. Annual net evaporation from large water surfaces in the  
11 Eastern Snake River Plain is 84 cm/yr [33 in/yr] (Rodriguez, et al., 1997).

12  
13 Artificial surface water features at INTEC consist of two percolation ponds used for disposal of  
14 water from the service waste system and sewage-treatment lagoons and infiltration trenches for  
15 treated wastewater. Service water consists of raw water, demineralized water, treated water,  
16 and steam condensate (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). The sewage-treatment plant receives an  
17 average sanitary sewage flow of 159,000 L/day [42,000 gal/day]. The percolation ponds receive  
18 approximately 5.7 to 9.5 million L/day [1.5 to 2.5 million gal/day] of service wastewater per day  
19 and are each approximately 1.8 ha [4.5 acres] in size (Rodriguez, et al., 1997).

### 20 21 3.5.1.3 Flood Plains

22  
23 Flood studies at the INEEL (Figure 3-7) include the examination of the flooding potential at  
24 INEEL facilities from a probable maximum flood (Koslow and Van Haaften, 1986) caused by the  
25 hypothetical failure of Mackay Dam, 73 km [45 mi] upstream of the INEEL. The U.S. Geological  
26 Survey has published a preliminary map of the 100-year flood plain for the Big Lost River on the  
27 INEEL (Berenbrock and Kjelstrom, 1998). As a result of this screening analysis, which  
28 indicated that INTEC may be subject to flooding from a 100-year flood, DOE commissioned  
29 additional studies (Ostenaa, et al., 1999) consistent with the requirements contained in DOE  
30 standards for a comprehensive flood hazard assessment (DOE, 1996a). There is no historical  
31 record of any flooding at the INTEC from the Big Lost River, although evidence of prehistoric  
32 flooding exists in the geologic sediments at the site.

33  
34 Estimates of the 100- and 500-year flows for the Big Lost River were most recently published by  
35 the U.S. Geological Survey (Berenbrock and Kjelstrom, 1996) and the U.S. Bureau of  
36 Reclamation (Ostenaa, et al., 1999). The U.S. Geological Survey 100-year flow estimate is  
37 205 m<sup>3</sup>/s [7,260 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] at the Arco gauging station 19 km [12 mi] upstream of the INEEL Diversion  
38 Dam. This estimate is based on 60 years of stream gauge data and conservative assumptions  
39 to account for the effects of Big Lost River regulation and irrigation. The U.S. Geological Survey  
40 published a preliminary map of the Big Lost River flood plain (Berenbrock and Kjelstrom, 1998)  
41 based on the 205-m<sup>3</sup>/s [7,260-ft<sup>3</sup>/s], 100-year flow estimate. In this study, it was assumed that  
42 the INEEL Diversion Dam did not exist and that 29.4 m<sup>3</sup>/s [1,040 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] would be captured by the  
43 diversion channel and flow to the spreading areas southwest of the Diversion Dam. The model  
44 then routed the remaining 176 m<sup>3</sup>/s [6,220 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] down the Big Lost River channel on the INEEL.  
45 A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers analysis of existing data (Bhamidipaty, 1997) and an INEEL  
46 geotechnical analysis (LMITCO, 1998) both concluded that the INEEL Diversion Dam could  
47 withstand flows up to 170 m<sup>3</sup>/s [6,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s]. Culverts running through the diversion dam could  
48 convey a maximum of 25 m<sup>3</sup>/s [900 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] downstream, but their condition and capacity as a  
49 function of water elevation is unknown (Bhamidipaty, 1997). Although the net capacity of the

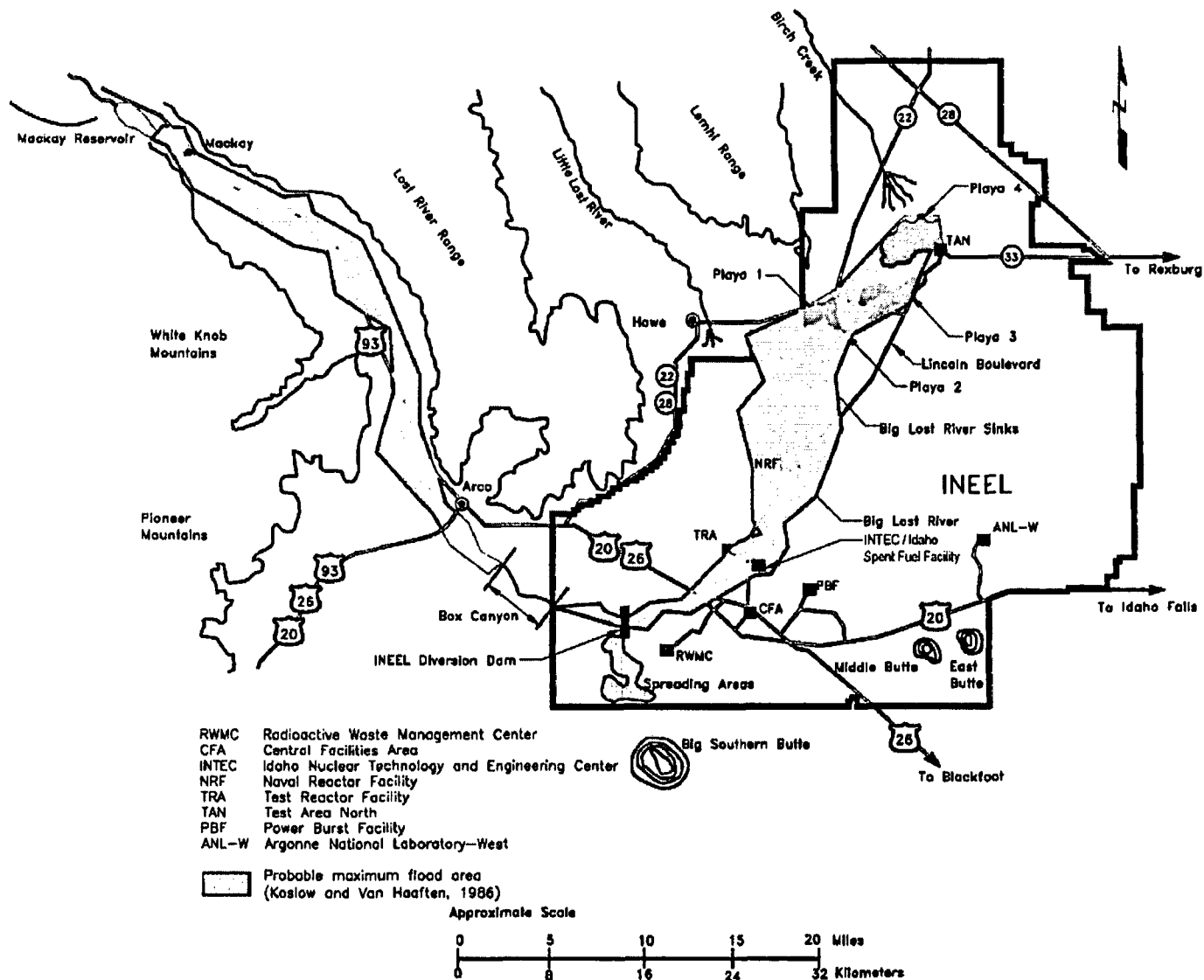


Figure 3-7. Predicted Inundation Area at INEEL for a Probable Maximum Flood Event with Overtopping of the Mackay Dam (Modified from FWENC, 2001b)



1 INEEL Diversion Dam may exceed U.S. Geological Survey 100-year flow estimates, it is not  
2 certified or used as a flood control structure for flood plain mapping purposes. The estimated  
3 100-year flood plain covers the northern part of INTEC, but does not reach the southeast corner  
4 where the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be located (DOE, 2002a, Figure 4-9).

5  
6 The flows and frequencies in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation study are based on statistical  
7 analyses with inputs from stream gauge data and two-dimensional flow modeling constrained by  
8 geomorphic evidence. Radiocarbon dating indicates that the geologic evidence records Big  
9 Lost River flow history over the last 10,000 years. The mean Bureau of Reclamation estimate  
10 for the 100-year flow of the Big Lost River is 82 m<sup>3</sup>/s [2,910 ft<sup>3</sup>/s]. The 100-year flood plain was  
11 estimated based on a flow with a 97.5-percent chance of not being exceeded in 100 years  
12 {92.6 m<sup>3</sup>/s [3,270 ft<sup>3</sup>/s]}. The mean Bureau of Reclamation estimate for the 500-year Big Lost  
13 River flow is 104 m<sup>3</sup>/s [3,669 ft<sup>3</sup>/s]. The 500-year flood plain was estimated based on a flow with  
14 a 97.5-percent chance of not being exceeded in 500 years {116 m<sup>3</sup>/s [4,086 ft<sup>3</sup>/s]}. These flood  
15 plain maps were generated assuming one-dimensional flow, no infiltration or flow loss along the  
16 Big Lost River flow path, and no diversion dam. With these conservative assumptions, small  
17 areas of the northern portion of INTEC could flood at the estimated 97.5 quantile 100- and  
18 500-year flows. However, the southeast corner of INTEC where the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
19 Facility would be located is not within the estimated 97.5 quantile 100- and 500-year flood plains  
20 (DOE, 2002a, Figure 4-9). Additional work is underway at INEEL by both the U.S. Geological  
21 Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation to refine flow frequency estimates further for the Big Lost  
22 River in the vicinity of INTEC.

#### 23 24 3.5.1.4 Surface Water Quality

25  
26 Water quality in the Big Lost River has remained fairly constant over the period of record.  
27 Applicable drinking water quality standards for measured physical, chemical, and radioactive  
28 parameters have not been exceeded (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.8). The  
29 chemical composition of the water reflects the carbonate mineral composition of the surrounding  
30 mountain ranges northwest of INEEL and the chemical composition of return irrigation water  
31 drained to the Big Lost River (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). INEEL activities do not directly affect  
32 the quality of surface water outside the site because discharges are to humanmade seepage  
33 and evaporation basins or storm water injection wells. Effluents are not discharged to natural  
34 surface waters. In addition, surface water does not flow directly off the site (Hoff, et al., 1990).  
35 However, water from the Big Lost River, as well as seepage from evaporation basins and storm  
36 water injection wells, does infiltrate the Snake River Plain Aquifer (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).  
37 These areas are inspected, monitored, and sampled as stipulated in the INEEL Storm Water  
38 Pollution Prevention Program (DOE, 2001a).

39  
40 DOE measures surface water quality at INTEC at two storm water monitoring locations, the  
41 percolation ponds and the sewage-treatment lagoons. The storm water monitoring locations are  
42 at the inlet to the retention basin on the northeast side of INTEC and on the south side of a coal  
43 pile at the discharge to a ditch. The coal pile is located on the southeast side of INTEC. DOE  
44 monitors for metals, inorganics, radiological constituents, and volatile organic compounds in  
45 storm water (LMITCO, 1997). EPA-specified nonradiological benchmarks (EPA, 1995) and  
46 radiological benchmarks from the Derived Concentration Guides from DOE Order 5400.5 form  
47 the baseline values from which DOE monitors. INTEC data for 1996 indicate that contaminants  
48 are below benchmark levels (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). Benchmarks are the pollutant  
49 concentrations above which EPA and DOE have determined represent a level of concern. The

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 level of concern is the concentration at which a storm water discharge could potentially impact  
2 or contribute to water quality impairment or affect human health as a result of ingestion of water  
3 or fish.

4  
5 Liquid effluents monitored at INTEC include effluent from the service waste system to the  
6 percolation ponds and effluent from the sewage-treatment plant prior to discharge to the rapid  
7 infiltration trenches. Wastewater Land Application Permits from the State of Idaho have been  
8 issued for these discharges. Monitoring results for the percolation pond in 1996 indicate the  
9 effluent constituent concentrations are within acceptable ranges, and annual flow volumes are  
10 within the limits specified in the permits (LMITCO, 1997). In 2000, the sewage treatment plant  
11 effluent did not exceed the 100-mg/L [100-ppm] total suspended solids limit, or the flow limit  
12 specified in the permit. The 20-mg/L [20-ppm] total nitrogen limit for the sewage treatment plant  
13 effluent was exceeded in three monthly samples during the calendar year. However, the 2000  
14 total nitrogen average was 15.6 mg/L [15.6 ppm]. As part of the ongoing nitrogen study, an  
15 indepth inventory of nitrogen sources contributing to the INTEC sewage treatment plant was  
16 performed. The study did not identify any new sources. Additional corrective actions are  
17 planned (DOE, 2001b).

### 18 19 **3.5.2 Groundwater Resources**

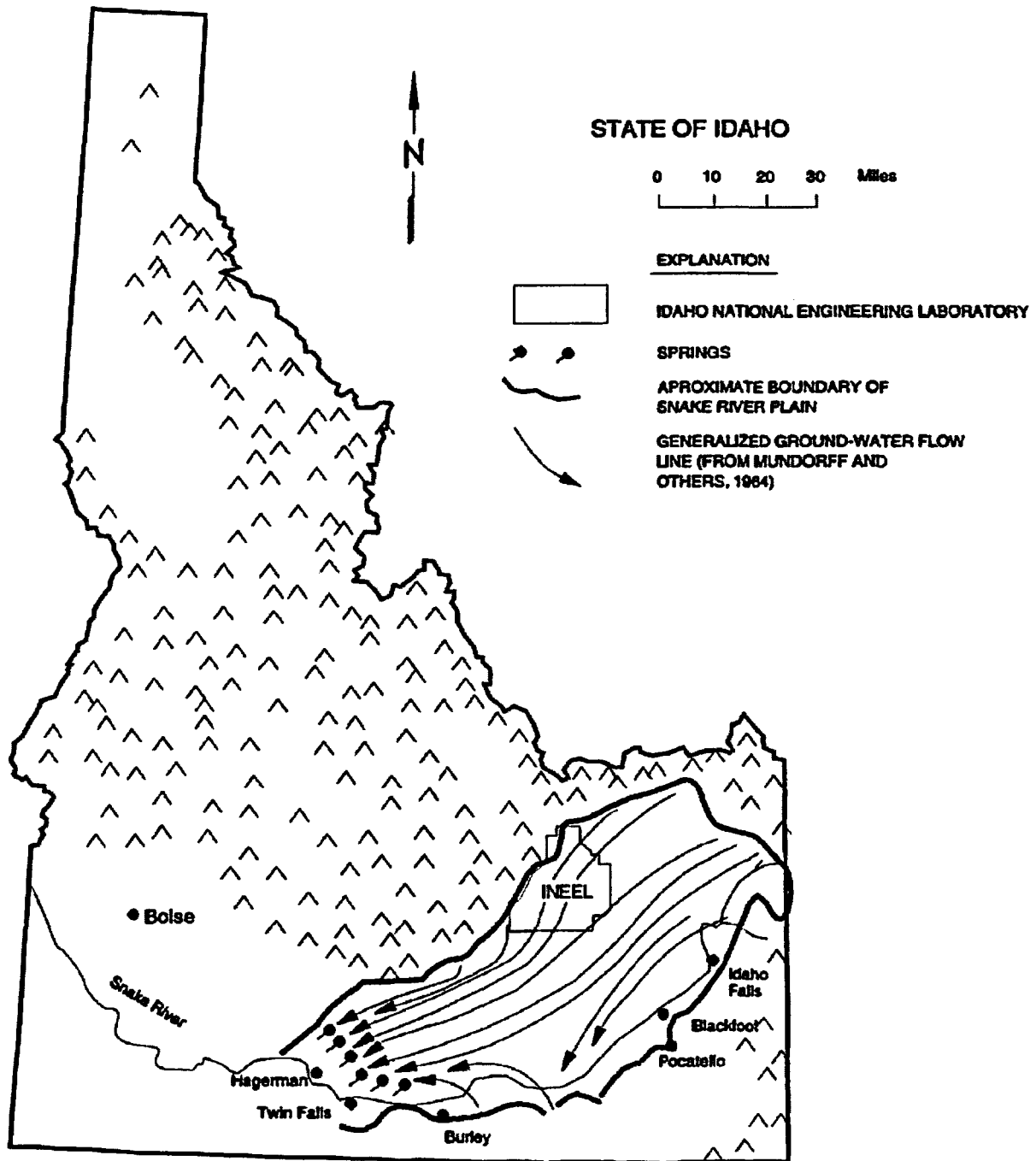
20  
21 This description of the subsurface water resources in the affected environment at the INEEL is  
22 based on the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).  
23 Subsurface water at the site occurs in the Snake River Plain Aquifer and the vadose zone.  
24 Generally, the term groundwater refers to usable quantities of water that enter freely into wells  
25 under confined and unconfined conditions within an aquifer.

#### 26 27 **3.5.2.1 Local Hydrogeology**

28  
29 The INEEL overlies the Snake River Plain Aquifer, the largest aquifer in Idaho (Figure 3-8).  
30 This aquifer is the major source of drinking water for southeast Idaho and has been designated  
31 a sole-source aquifer by EPA. This aquifer underlies the Eastern Snake River Plain and covers  
32 an area of approximately 24,900 km<sup>2</sup> [9,611 mi<sup>2</sup>]. The aquifer flows to the south and southwest.  
33 Depth to the top of the aquifer ranges from 61 m [200 ft] in the northern part of INEEL to about  
34 274 m [900 ft] in the southern part. Beneath the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the depth  
35 to water is estimated to be 140 to 146 m [460 to 480 ft] (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). The aquifer,  
36 with estimates of thickness ranging from 76 m [250 ft] to more than 914 m [3,000 ft], consists of  
37 thin basaltic flows, interspersed with sedimentary layers.

38  
39 The drainage basin recharging the Snake River Plain Aquifer covers an area of approximately  
40 90,640 km<sup>2</sup> [35,000 mi<sup>2</sup>] (DOE, 1995, 2002a). The aquifer is recharged by infiltration of  
41 irrigation water, seepage from stream channels and canals, underflow from tributary stream  
42 valleys extending into the watershed, and direct infiltration from precipitation (DOE, 2002a,  
43 Section 4.8). Most recharge is from irrigation water and by valley underflow from the mountains  
44 to the north and northeast of the plain and along the northeastern margins of the plain. Some  
45 recharge also occurs directly from precipitation (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). Groundwater in the  
46 aquifer generally flows south and southwestward across the Snake River Plain. The estimated  
47 water storage in the aquifer is  $2.5 \times 10^{12}$  m<sup>3</sup> [2 billion acre-ft]. A typical irrigation well can yield  
48 as much as 26,500 L/min [7,000 gal/min] (DOE, 1995) or 13.9 billion L/yr [3.7 billion gal/yr] of  
49

Description of the Affected Environment



1 Figure 3-8. Regional Groundwater Flow in the Snake River Plain Aquifer Beneath INEEL (Modified from FWENC, 2001b). To Convert Miles to Kilometers, Multiply by 1.6.

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 water if pumped every day (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). The Snake River Plain Aquifer is among  
2 the most productive aquifers in the nation.

3  
4 Groundwater discharges primarily from the aquifer through springs that flow into the Snake  
5 River and from pumping for irrigation. Major springs and seepages that flow from the aquifer  
6 are located near the American Falls Reservoir (southwest of Pocatello) and the Thousand  
7 Springs area between Milner Dam and King Hill (near Twin Falls) (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).

8  
9 The aquifer's ability to transmit water (transmissivity) and its ability to store water (storativity) are  
10 important physical properties of the aquifer. In general, the hydraulic characteristics of the  
11 aquifer enable the easy transmission of water, particularly in the upper portions. The rate at  
12 which water moves through the ground depends on the hydraulic gradient (change in elevation  
13 and pressure with distance in a given direction) of the aquifer, the effective porosity (percentage  
14 of void spaces), and hydraulic conductivity (capacity of a porous media to transport water) of the  
15 soil and bedrock. The local hydraulic gradient is low,  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  m/km [1.2 ft/mi], compared to the  
16 regional gradient of  $8 \times 10^{-4}$  km/mi [4 ft/mi] (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). In the INTEC area, the  
17 hydraulic conductivity ranges over five orders of magnitude {0.03 to 3,048 m/day [0.10 to  
18 10,000 ft/day]}, with an average of 246 m/day [1,300 ft/day] (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). Because  
19 aquifer porosity and hydraulic conductivity decrease with depth, most of the water in the aquifer  
20 moves through the upper 61 to 152 m [200 to 500 ft] of the basalts. Estimated flow rates within  
21 the aquifer range from 1.5 to 6.1 m [5 to 20 ft] per day (Barraclough, et al., 1981).

### 22 23 3.5.2.2 Vadose Zone Hydrology

24  
25 The vadose zone extends down from the ground surface to the regional water table (the top of  
26 the Snake River Plain Aquifer). Within the vadose zone, water and air occupy openings in the  
27 geologic materials. Subsurface water in the vadose zone is referred to as vadose water. At the  
28 site, this complex zone consists of surface sediments (primarily clay and silt, with some sand  
29 and gravel) and many relatively thin basaltic lava flows, with some sedimentary interbeds. Thick  
30 surficial deposits occur in the northern part of the site, which thin to the south where basalt is  
31 exposed at the surface. Perched water bodies are the exception. The vadose zone at INTEC  
32 extends from the ground surface to 140 to 146 m [460 to 480 ft] below the ground surface  
33 (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). The vadose zone protects the groundwater by filtering many  
34 contaminants through adsorption, buffering dissolved chemical wastes, and slowing the  
35 transport of contaminated liquids to the aquifer. The vadose zone also protects the aquifer by  
36 storing large volumes of liquid or dissolved contaminants released to the environment through  
37 spills or migration from disposal pits or ponds, allowing natural decay processes to occur.

38  
39 Travel times for water through the vadose zone are important for an understanding of  
40 contaminant movement. The flow rates in the vadose zone depend directly on the extent of  
41 fracturing, the percentage of sediments versus basalt, and the moisture content of vadose zone  
42 material. Flow increases under wet conditions and slows under dry conditions. During dry  
43 conditions, transport of contaminants downward toward the aquifer is slow. Measurements  
44 taken at the INEEL Radioactive Waste Management Complex during unsaturated flow  
45 conditions indicated a downward infiltration rate ranging from 0.55 to 1.7 mm/yr [0.14 to  
46 0.43 in/yr] (Cecil, et al., 1992). In another study during near-saturated flow conditions in the  
47 same area, standing water infiltrated downward 2.1 m [6.9 ft] in less than 24 hours (Kaminsky,  
48 1991). During 1994, an infiltration study was conducted at INTEC that showed significant  
49 increase in moisture to a depth of 3 m [10 ft] after 2 hours (LMITCO, 1995).

1 **3.5.2.3 Perched Water**

2  
3 Perched water occurs when water migrates vertically and laterally from the surface until it  
4 reaches an impermeable layer above the regional water table (Irving, 1993). As perched water  
5 spreads laterally, sometimes for hundreds of meters, it moves over the edges of the  
6 impermeable layer and continues downward. In general, perched water bodies slow the  
7 downward migration of fluids that infiltrate into the vadose zone from the surface because the  
8 downward flow is not continuous (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).

9  
10 Historically at INTEC there have been three zones of perched water ranging from approximately  
11 9 to 98 m [30 to 322 ft] below the ground surface. These zones include (i) a shallow perched  
12 water zone in the Big Lost River alluvium above the basalt, (ii) an upper basalt perched water  
13 zone, and (iii) a lower basalt perched water zone. Each zone is comprised of a number of  
14 smaller perched water bodies that may or may not be hydraulically connected.

15  
16 The shallow perched water zone in the Big Lost River alluvium in the southern area of INTEC is  
17 believed to no longer exist (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). The upper basalt perched water zone  
18 occurs between the depths of 30 and 43 m [100 and 140 ft]. At the northern end of INTEC,  
19 there is a body of upper basalt perched water beneath the sewage treatment ponds on the  
20 eastern side of INTEC extending toward the west under north-central INTEC. The western  
21 portion of the northern perched water body receives water from other sources including the Big  
22 Lost River, leaking fire water lines, precipitation infiltration, steam condensate dry wells, and  
23 lawn irrigation (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). In the southern area of INTEC, a large body of  
24 perched water in the upper basalt has resulted primarily from discharge to the percolation ponds  
25 (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). The lower basalt perched water zone occurs in the basalt between 97  
26 and 128 m [320 and 420 ft] below the ground surface. Two areas of perched water occur in the  
27 lower basalt, essentially directly beneath the upper basalt perched water. The northern body of  
28 lower basalt perched water is recharged from the sources contributing to the upper perched  
29 water. The lower perched water was influenced by the failure of an injection well in the late  
30 1960s and late 1970s that allowed injection of service wastewater directly into the northern  
31 lower perched water body. The southern lower basalt perched water body is recharged from  
32 the discharge from the percolation ponds (Rodriguez, et al., 1997).

33  
34 **3.5.2.4 Subsurface Water Quality**

35  
36 Natural water chemistry and contaminants originating at the site affect subsurface water quality.  
37 The INEEL Groundwater Protection Management Program and DOE perform groundwater  
38 monitoring at INTEC and the surrounding area to monitor drinking water, detect unplanned  
39 releases to groundwater, identify potential environmental problems, and ensure compliance with  
40 federal, State of Idaho, and DOE groundwater regulations and monitoring requirements.  
41 Subsurface water quality is also monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Bechtel  
42 BWXT Idaho, LLC, Environmental Monitoring Program. This program collects samples from  
43 surface water, perched water, and aquifer wells to identify contaminants and contaminant  
44 migration to and within the aquifer. Groundwater monitoring at INEEL is generally divided into  
45 four categories: drinking water monitoring, compliance monitoring, surveillance monitoring, and  
46 special studies.

47  
48 Several factors determine the natural groundwater chemistry of the Snake River Plain Aquifer  
49 beneath the site. These factors include the weathering reactions that occur as water interacts

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 with minerals in the aquifer and the chemical composition of (i) groundwater originating outside  
2 the site; (ii) precipitation falling directly on the land surface; and (iii) streams, rivers, and runoff  
3 infiltrating the aquifer (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). The chemistry of the groundwater is different,  
4 depending on the source areas. For example, groundwater from the northwest contains  
5 calcium, magnesium, and bicarbonate leached from sedimentary rocks, and groundwater from  
6 the east contains sodium, fluorine, and silicate resulting from contact with volcanic rocks.  
7 Although the natural chemical composition of groundwater beneath the site does not exceed the  
8 EPA drinking water standards for any component, the natural chemistry affects the mobility of  
9 contaminants introduced into the subsurface from INEEL activities. Many dissolved  
10 contaminants adsorb (or attach) to the surface of rocks and minerals in the subsurface, thereby  
11 retarding the movement of contaminants in the aquifer and inhibiting further migration of  
12 contamination. However, many naturally occurring chemicals compete with contaminants for  
13 adsorption sites on the rocks and minerals or react with contaminants to reduce their attraction  
14 to rock and mineral surfaces.

15  
16 INTEC drinking water wells are hydrologically upgradient of the INTEC facility. Measured  
17 drinking water parameters at INEEL are compared to the maximum contaminant levels  
18 established in the Safe Drinking Water Act. State regulations are in the Idaho Rules for Public  
19 Drinking Water Systems (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2001a). In 2000, the  
20 most recent year with published data, all drinking water samples collected at INTEC had  
21 concentrations below the maximum contaminant levels specified in federal and state drinking  
22 water regulations (DOE, 2001b).

23  
24 DOE performs compliance groundwater monitoring at INTEC to meet the requirements of the  
25 State of Idaho Wastewater Land Application Permits. The two areas monitored include wells in  
26 the vicinity of the percolation ponds and near the sewage treatment pond. The permits require  
27 compliance with the Idaho Groundwater Quality Standards in specified downgradient  
28 groundwater monitoring wells, annual discharge volume and application rates, and effluent  
29 quality limits (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2001b). Permit variance limits were  
30 granted for total dissolved solids and chloride at the percolation pond compliance monitoring  
31 wells. The primary source of total dissolved solids and chloride in the percolation ponds is the  
32 INTEC water treatment processes. The data for 1996 indicate that no permit limits (or permit  
33 variance limits) were exceeded at the percolation ponds in 1996 (LMITCO, 1997). At the  
34 compliance well for monitoring the sewage treatment plant, maximum allowable concentrations  
35 were not exceeded. However, at a shallow well (ICPP-MON-PW-024) adjacent to the sewage  
36 treatment plant, levels of total dissolved solids, chloride, and nitrogen compounds were  
37 elevated. DOE monitors this well to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment and to detect  
38 unplanned releases. Based on the information obtained from the monitoring data, DOE would  
39 alter treatment processes to optimize wastewater treatment and remove elevated nitrogen  
40 compounds (LMITCO, 1997).

41  
42 DOE conducts surveillance monitoring at INTEC to meet the requirements of DOE  
43 Order 5400.1. This order requires DOE facilities with contaminated (or potentially  
44 contaminated) groundwater resources to establish a groundwater monitoring program. The  
45 monitoring program is designed to determine and document the impacts of facility operations on  
46 groundwater quantity and quality and to demonstrate compliance with federal, state, and local  
47 regulations. DOE (2002a, Section 4.8) summarizes monitoring parameters that exceeded  
48 surveillance thresholds (Table 3-4). The surveillance thresholds are the Safe Drinking Water  
49 Act maximum contaminant levels and secondary maximum contaminant levels.

Table 3-4. Monitoring Parameters That Were Exceeded for INTEC Surveillance Wells<sup>a</sup>

Location	Exceeded Parameter	Maximum Concentration	Surveillance Threshold <sup>b</sup>
PW-1 <sup>c</sup>	Aluminum	0.254 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
	Iron	26 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
	Lead	0.0036 mg/L	0 mg/L
PW-2 <sup>c</sup>	Aluminum	1.49 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
	Chloride	287 mg/L	250 mg/L
	Iron	2.2 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
	Strontium-90	8.3 ± 3.4 pCi/L	8.0 pCi/L
PW-4 <sup>c</sup>	Iron	2.2 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
PW-5 <sup>c</sup>	Aluminum	0.0562 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
	Iron	2.93 mg/L	0.3 mg/L
USGS-036 <sup>d</sup>	Strontium-90	9.54 ± 1.34 pCi/L	8.0 pCi/L
USGS-052 <sup>d</sup>	Gross alpha	15 ± 3.86 pCi/L	15.0 pCi/L
USGS-057 <sup>d</sup>	Strontium-90	21.1 ± 3.43 pCi/L	8.0 pCi/L
USGS-067 <sup>d</sup>	Strontium-90	11.1 ± 1.47 pCi/L	8.0 pCi/L
ICPP-MON-A-021 <sup>e</sup>	Total coliform	20 colonies/100 mL	<1 colony/100 mL
ICPP-MON-A-022 <sup>f</sup>	Iron	0.487 mg/L	0.3 mg/L

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Surveillance thresholds are comparison values consisting of maximum contaminant levels and secondary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR Part 141).

<sup>c</sup> INTEC percolation pond perched water surveillance well

<sup>d</sup> INTEC percolation pond aquifer surveillance well

<sup>e</sup> INTEC upgradient background well (upgradient Sewage Treatment Plant well)

<sup>f</sup> INTEC Sewage Treatment Plant surveillance well

NOTE: To convert liters (L) to gallons (gal), multiply by 0.264; to convert milligrams per liter (mg/L) to parts per million, multiply by 1.0; to convert picocuries (pCi) to Becquerel, multiply by 0.037.

At the perched-water surveillance wells for the percolation ponds, the constituents elevated above the threshold limits include aluminum, chloride, iron, lead, and strontium-90. The causes for the elevated aluminum, lead, and iron concentrations are uncertain, although there may be some corrosion of well components. The chloride concentration is consistent with historical chloride concentrations and reflects the concentration within the percolation ponds. The source of chloride is the water-treatment processes. The strontium-90 concentrations are most likely residual from the historical discharges of radionuclides to the percolation ponds. Most

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 radionuclide discharges to the percolation ponds were discontinued in 1993 when the INTEC  
2 Liquid Effluent Treatment and Disposal Facility began operations.

3  
4 In 1995, surveillance monitoring at the sewage-treatment plant wells indicated measurements of  
5 total coliform, iron, and strontium-90 above threshold levels. DOE suspects that the total  
6 coliform measurement is the result of cross-contamination. The source of iron is unknown.  
7 Strontium-90 concentrations are consistent with historical values (LMITCO, 1997). In 2000,  
8 data were available for USGS-52, indicating the gross alpha concentrations were above  
9 threshold levels (DOE, 2002c). Constituents detected above threshold levels in surveillance  
10 wells are strontium-90 and tritium. Strontium-90 and tritium values are consistent with historical  
11 values and reflect discontinued discharge practices (LMITCO, 1997).

12  
13 In 1995, an indepth study of soil and groundwater contamination was conducted at INTEC  
14 (Rodriguez, et al., 1997), and in 2001, tracer and monitoring studies were conducted on INTEC  
15 perched water and the Snake River Plain Aquifer (DOE, 2002c,d). Table 3-5 shows the  
16 maximum concentrations of inorganics and radionuclides in the Snake River Plain Aquifer found  
17 in these studies and monitoring efforts. The percolation pond perched water body was not  
18 monitored as part of the 1995 study, but was previously described as part of the discussion of  
19 the surveillance monitoring program. All perched water bodies monitored in the 1995 study had  
20 samples exceeding the nitrate and nitrite federal and state drinking water maximum contaminant  
21 level of 10 mg/L [10 ppm]. The highest nitrate and nitrite concentration {69.6 mg/L [69.6 ppm]}  
22 was found in the northern lower perched water body. For radionuclides, the maximum gross  
23 alpha and gross beta concentrations in perched water are in the northern upper perched water  
24 body. Tritium, strontium-90, and technetium-99 were found in all perched water bodies. In  
25 2001, all the perched water bodies again exceeded the maximum contaminant level for nitrate  
26 and nitrite. However, only half of the 15 sample results were exceedences. The highest nitrate  
27 and nitrite concentration {60.3 mg/L [60.3 ppm]} is slightly lower at the same location (MW-1) of  
28 the maximum concentration observed in the 1995 study (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). The only  
29 inorganic found to exceed its maximum contaminant level in perched water was chromium.  
30 Chromium exceedences were found in all the perched water bodies. The only organic was  
31 methylene chloride from well PW-1. The highest radioactive contaminant levels (strontium-90  
32 and technetium-99) continue to be found in the northern upper perched water body. Tritium is  
33 the primary contaminant found in the southern upper perched water body. Gross alpha and  
34 beta were not analyzed in 2001. The maximum radiological contaminant levels for strontium-90,  
35 technetium-99, and tritium have decreased by as much as 50 percent since the 1995 study  
36 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).

37  
38 For the Snake River Plain Aquifer, the concentrations measured in the 1995 study are primarily  
39 related to the past disposal of waste through the INTEC injection well. The injection well was  
40 drilled to a depth of 183 m [598 ft] (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8) and was routinely used for  
41 disposal of service waste water through 1984, and permanently closed by pressure grouting in  
42 1989. An estimated 22,000 Ci [ $8.1 \times 10^{14}$  Bq] of radioactive contaminants were released  
43 through the injection well. Most of the radioactivity is attributed to tritium (96 percent).  
44 Americium-241, technetium-99, strontium-90, cesium-137, cobalt-60, iodine-129, and plutonium  
45 contribute the remaining radioactivity. The general trend in these contaminants is decreasing  
46 with time, including the most current data from 2001 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8).

47  
48 The combined tritium disposal to infiltration ponds at INTEC and the Test Reactor Area from  
49 1992 to 1995 averaged 107 curies per year, compared to 910 curies per year from 1952 to 1983



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<b>Table 3-5. Maximum Concentrations of Inorganics and Radionuclides in the Snake River Plain Aquifer in the Vicinity of INTEC<sup>a</sup></b>				
<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Maximum Concentration</b>	<b>Well</b>	<b>Maximum Contaminant Level<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>Inorganics (mg/L)</b>				
Aluminum	ND	—	0.2 <sup>c</sup>	—
Antimony	$4.6 \times 10^{-3}$	USGS-59	0.006	—
Arsenic	0.011	USGS-59	0.05	—
Barium	0.21	USGS-112	2	0.05-0.07
Beryllium	ND	—	0.004	—
Cadmium	$3.0 \times 10^{-3}$	USGS-39	0.005	<0.001
Calcium	76	CPP-2	NS	—
Chromium	0.039	USGS-39	0.1	0.002-0.003
Cobalt	$1.0 \times 10^{-3}$	USGS-85	NS	—
Copper	0.014	CPP-2	1.3	—
Iron	0.13	USGS-123	0.3 <sup>e</sup>	—
Lead	0.018	USGS-84	0.015	<0.005
Magnesium	22	USGS-67	NS	—
Manganese	0.044	USGS-122	0.05	—
Mercury	$3.6 \times 10^{-4}$	USGS-44	0.002	<0.0001
Nickel	$5.0 \times 10^{-3}$	USGS-123	0.1	—
Potassium	6.80	USGS-122	NS	—
Selenium	$3.0 \times 10^{-3}$	USGS-47	0.05	<0.001
Silver	$7.0 \times 10^{-4}$	USGS-77	0.1 <sup>c</sup>	<0.001
Sodium	77	USGS-59	NS	—
Thallium	ND	—	0.002	—
Vanadium	0.010	USGS-82	NS	—
Zinc	0.45	USGS-115	5 <sup>e</sup>	—
Zirconium	ND	—	NS	—
<b>Radionuclides (pCi/L)</b>				
Gross Alpha	$15 \pm 3.86$	MW-52	15	0-3
Gross Beta	$96.5 \pm 6$	MW-48	<4 mrem/yr <sup>d</sup>	0-7
Tritium	$1.4 \times 10^4 \pm 771$	USGS-114	20,000	0-40
Strontium-90	$45 \pm 7.57$	MW-47	8	0

Description of the Affected Environment

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Table 3-5. Maximum Concentrations of Inorganics and Radionuclides in the Snake River Plain Aquifer in the Vicinity of INTEC <sup>a</sup> (continued)				
Contaminant	Maximum Concentration	Well	Maximum Contaminant Level <sup>b</sup>	Background
Plutonium-238	ND	—	15	0
Plutonium-239/240	ND	—	15	0
Americium-241	0.742 ± 0.0336	LF2-8	15	0
Neptunium-237	ND	MW-18	15	—
Iodine-129	1.06 ± 0.19	LF3-8	1	0
Technetium-99	322 ± 6.6	USGS-52	900	—
Uranium-233/234	1.62 ± 0.153	USGS-123	—	—
Uranium-235/236	0.146 ± 0.057	USGS-35	—	—
Uranium-238	0.851 ± 0.126	USGS-85	—	—

EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center  
 MCL = Maximum contaminant levels  
 ND = Not detected  
 NS = No standard

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
<sup>b</sup> MCL from the Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR Part 140) and DOE Order 5400.5 unless otherwise noted.  
<sup>c</sup> Secondary MCL from the Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR Part 140).  
<sup>d</sup> Beta particle/photon radioactivity shall not produce annual dose equivalent to the total body or internal organ greater than 0.04 mSv [4 mrem/yr].

NOTE: To convert liters (L) to gallons (gal), multiply by 0.264; to convert milligrams per liter (mg/L) to parts per million, multiply by 1.0; to convert picocuries (pCi) to Becquerel, multiply by 0.037.

(DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). The tritium plume with a concentration exceeding 500 pCi/L decreased from an area of 117 km<sup>2</sup> [45 mi<sup>2</sup>] in 1988 to approximately 104 km<sup>2</sup> [40 mi<sup>2</sup>] in 1991. Since 1991, the concentration has remained nearly unchanged. However, the higher concentration lines have moved closer to their origin at INTEC and the Test Reactor Area. Prior to 1989, strontium-90 concentrations in the Snake River Plain Aquifer were decreasing. The concentrations from 1992 to 2001 have remained fairly constant. This constancy is due to the migration of contamination from the near-surface releases into the perched water bodies and subsequently into the Snake River Plain Aquifer (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). When the Big Lost River flows, the added infiltrating water would tend to reduce the concentrations observed in the Snake River Plain Aquifer due to dilution of the perched water bodies.

Iodine-129 was discharged to the aquifer until 1984 through the injection well previously described. More than 90 percent of the iodine-129 in the aquifer is from the injection well. Smaller contributions include the percolation ponds and contaminated soils. Measurements taken in 1990-1992 indicated the presence of iodine-129 in 32 of 51 wells at INTEC. The concentrations ranged from below the detection limit to 3.82 pCi/L (Rodriguez, et al., 1997). In 2001, only 2 of 41 wells sampled detected iodine-129 above the maximum contaminant level

1 (1 pCi/L). The two wells are located south of INTEC at the Central Facilities Area landfill. In  
2 addition, iodine-129 was not detected in the sample analyzed from well USGS-46  
3 (DOE, 2002b).

4

### 5 **3.5.3 Water Use and Rights**

6

7 The surface and subsurface water use in the affected environment at INEEL is described in the  
8 DOE SNF Programmatic EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.8.3).

9

10 The INEEL does not withdraw or use surface water for site operations, nor does it discharge  
11 effluents to natural surface water. However, the three surface-water bodies at or near the site  
12 (Big and Little Lost Rivers and Birch Creek) have the following designated uses: agricultural  
13 water supply, cold-water biota, salmonid spawning, and primary and secondary contact  
14 recreation. In addition, waters in the Big Lost River and Birch Creek have been designated for  
15 domestic water supply and as special resource waters.

16

17 Groundwater use on the Snake River Plain includes irrigation; food processing and aquaculture;  
18 and domestic, rural, public, and livestock supply. Water use for the upper Snake River drainage  
19 basin and the Snake River Plain Aquifer was 16.4 trillion L [4.3 trillion gal] per year in 1985,  
20 which was more than 50 percent of the water used in Idaho and approximately 7 percent of  
21 agricultural withdrawals in the nation. Most of the water withdrawn from the Eastern Snake  
22 River Plain {1.8 trillion L [0.47 trillion gal] per year} is for agriculture. The aquifer is the source of  
23 all water used at the INEEL. Site activities withdraw water at an average rate of 7.4 billion L/yr  
24 [1.9 billion gal/yr] (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.8). However, the baseline annual withdrawal rate  
25 dropped to 6.5 billion L [1.7 billion gal] in 1995. The average annual withdrawal is equal to  
26 approximately 0.4 percent of the water consumed from the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer,  
27 or 53 percent of the maximum annual yield of a typical irrigation well. Of the quantity of water  
28 pumped from the aquifer, a substantial portion is returned to the aquifer through seepage  
29 ponds, with the remaining water lost to the atmosphere through evaporation (DOE, 2002a,  
30 Section 4.13.1).

31

32 A sole-source aquifer, as designated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, is one that supplies  
33 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. Sole-source  
34 aquifer areas have no alternative source or combination of sources that could physically, legally,  
35 and economically supply all those who obtain their drinking water from the aquifer. Because  
36 groundwater supplies 100 percent of the drinking water consumed within the Eastern Snake  
37 River Plain (Gala Northwest, Inc., 1988) and an alternative drinking water source or combination  
38 of sources is not available, the EPA designated the Snake River Plain Aquifer a sole-source  
39 aquifer in 1991.

40

41 DOE holds a Federal Reserved Water Right for the INEEL, which permits a water-pumping  
42 capacity of 2.3 m<sup>3</sup>/s [80 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] and a maximum water consumption of 43.2 billion L/yr  
43 [11.4 billion gal/yr] for drinking, process water, and noncontact cooling. Because it is a Federal  
44 Reserved Water Right, the site's priority on water rights dates back to the establishment  
45 of INEEL.

46

Description of the Affected Environment

1 **3.6 Ecological Resources**

2  
3 During the past decade, many detailed studies have been documented that include descriptions  
4 of the ecology at and in the vicinity of INTEC. Several of these studies were reviewed and are  
5 summarized here to describe the ecological resources at or near INTEC (Rope, et al., 1993;  
6 DOE, 1995, 2002a; NRC, 1998). To ensure that this ecological information was up to date, the  
7 NRC consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about potential threatened, endangered,  
8 and sensitive species near INTEC. This section discusses the following ecological resources of  
9 INEEL: (i) plant communities and associations; (ii) animal communities (both terrestrial and  
10 aquatic); (iii) threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and (iv) wetlands.

11  
12 **3.6.1 Plant Communities and Associations**

13  
14 The flora at and near INTEC has been well characterized by previous studies, some for EISs  
15 related to other projects at INEEL. A detailed description of the flora of the potentially affected  
16 environment near INTEC is provided in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995,  
17 Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.9).

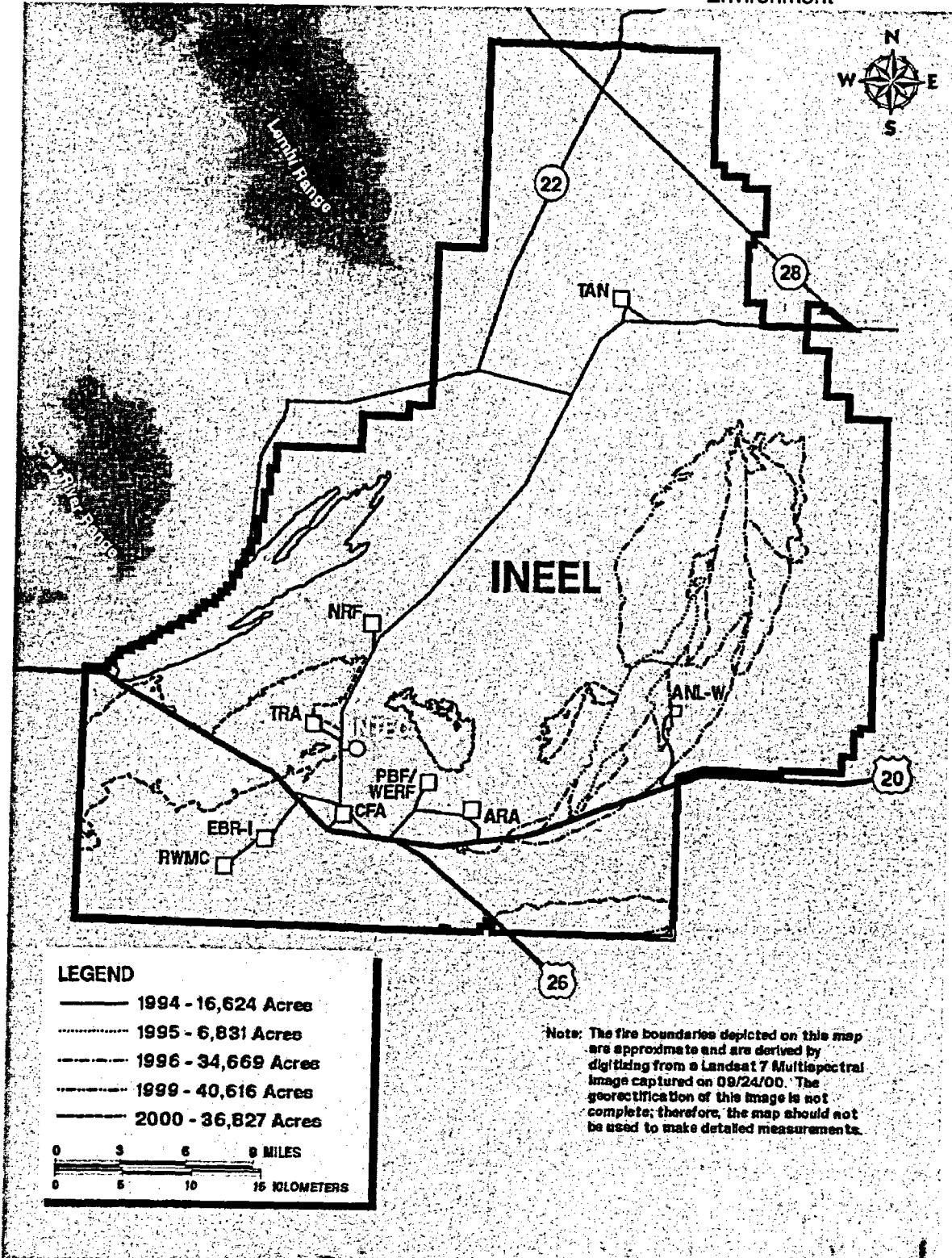
18  
19 Vegetation on the INEEL site is primarily of the shrub-steppe type and is a small fraction of the  
20 45,000 km<sup>2</sup> [17,375 mi<sup>2</sup>] of this vegetation type in the Intermountain West. The 15 vegetation  
21 associations on the INEEL site range from primarily shadescale-steppe vegetation at lower  
22 altitudes through sagebrush- and grass-dominated communities to juniper woodlands along the  
23 foothills of the nearby mountains and buttes (Rope, et al., 1993; Kramber, et al., 1992;  
24 Anderson, 1991). These associations can be grouped into six basic types: juniper woodland,  
25 grassland, shrub-steppe (which consists of sagebrush-steppe and salt desert shrubs), lava,  
26 bareground-disturbed, and wetland vegetation. Shrub-steppe vegetation, which is dominated by  
27 big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.), and rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus*  
28 spp.) covers more than 90 percent of the INEEL. Grasses include cheatgrass (*Bromus*  
29 *tectorum*), Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), wheatgrasses (*Agropyron* spp.), and  
30 squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*). Herbaceous plants include phlox (*Phlox* spp.), wild onion (*Allium*  
31 spp.), milkvetch (*Astragalus* spp.), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), and various mustards.

32  
33 Facility and human-disturbed (grazing not included) areas cover only about 2 percent of the  
34 INEEL. Introduced annuals, including Russian thistle and cheatgrass, frequently dominate  
35 disturbed areas. These species usually are less desirable to wildlife as food and cover and  
36 compete with more desirable perennial native species. These disturbed areas serve as a seed  
37 source, increasing the potential for the establishment of Russian thistle and cheatgrass in  
38 surrounding less-disturbed areas. Vegetation inside facility boundaries is generally disturbed or  
39 landscaped. Species richness on INEEL is comparable to that of like-sized areas with similar  
40 terrain in other parts of the Intermountain West. Plant diversity is typically lower in disturbed  
41 and modified areas.

42  
43 Although no wildfires have occurred recently near INTEC, a study conducted for the DOE Idaho  
44 HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.9) added information about how  
45 large wildfires in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, and 2000 have changed the vegetation cover at  
46 INEEL in the affected areas.

47  
48 Large wildfires in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, and 2000 played an important role in the vegetation  
49 cover at INEEL. Figure 3-9 shows the location of the wildfires. In July 1994, the Butte City fire

Description of the Affected Environment



1 Figure 3-9. Approximate Location of Wildfires at INEEL (Modified from DOE, 2002a). To Convert Acres to Hectares, Multiply by 0.405.

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 burned 6,928 ha [17,107 acres] along the western boundary of INEEL (Anderson, et al., 1996).  
2 In August 1995, 2,767 ha [6,831 acres] along a corridor running north and south of the Argonne  
3 National Laboratory–West facility burned (Anderson, et al., 1996). During the summer of 1996,  
4 six fires burned a total of 14,762 ha [36,450 acres] on and adjacent to INEEL. These fires  
5 burned virtually all the aboveground biomass, resulting in severe wind erosion and, therefore,  
6 blowing dust (Patrick and Anderson, 1997). Wildfires in 1999 burned approximately 16,200 ha  
7 [40,000 acres] more of the INEEL and in the summer and early fall of 2000, three separate fires  
8 burned an additional 14,580 ha [36,000 acres]. The first of these fires in late July 2000 burned  
9 approximately 12,150 ha [30,000 acres] northwest of the Radioactive Waste Management  
10 Complex. A second fire in early August burned approximately 810 ha [2,000 acres] west of  
11 Argonne National Laboratory–West. A third fire in mid-September burned approximately  
12 1,620 ha [4,000 acres] northwest of INTEC.

13  
14 Although the growth of grasses and forbs that typically follow wildfires in sagebrush-steppe  
15 areas of the INEEL offers food for foraging mule deer, pronghorn, and elk (Environmental  
16 Science and Research Foundation, Inc., 1999), those plants do not provide suitable winter  
17 habitat and food for sage grouse. Sage grouse are dependent on sagebrush, particularly for  
18 important winter habitat (ideal winter habitat consists of healthy, mature stands of big  
19 sagebrush). The INEEL contains one of the largest contiguous areas of protected sagebrush-  
20 steppe habitat in the world, and is one of the most important wintering areas for sage grouse in  
21 Idaho (Environmental Science and Research Foundation, Inc., 2000). The wildfires that burned  
22 more than 54,675 ha [135,000 acres] of sagebrush steppe on the INEEL since 1994 are  
23 certainly cause for concern, particularly in view of sage grouse population declines across the  
24 region. DOE is continuing to study the impacts of wildfires on the ecological resources of the  
25 site and the region in attempts to better understand the dynamics of that ecosystem and to  
26 identify ways of preserving the biodiversity at INEEL.

27

### 28 3.6.2 Animal Communities

29

30 The terrestrial fauna at and near INTEC has been characterized by previous studies, some for  
31 EISs related to other projects at INEEL. A detailed description of the terrestrial fauna of the  
32 potentially affected environment near INTEC is provided in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS  
33 (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.9.).

34

35 The INEEL site supports animal communities characteristic of shrub-steppe vegetation and  
36 habitats. More than 270 vertebrate species occur, including 46 mammal, 204 bird, 10 reptile,  
37 2 amphibian, and 9 fish species (Arthur, et al., 1984; Reynolds, et al., 1986). Common  
38 small-mammal genera include mice (*Reithrodontomys* spp. and *Peromyscus* spp.), chipmunks  
39 (*Tamias* spp.), jackrabbits (*Lepus* spp.), and cottontails (*Sylvilagus* spp.).

40

41 Songbirds and passerines commonly observed at the INEEL include the American robin  
42 (*Turdus migratorius*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), black-billed magpie (*Pica pica*), sage  
43 thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), sage sparrow (*S. belli*),  
44 and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), while resident upland gamebirds include the  
45 sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), and grey partridge (*Perdix*  
46 *perdix*). Common migratory bird species, that use INEEL for part of the year include a variety of  
47 waterfowl [e.g., mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), Canada goose  
48 (*Branta canadensis*)] and raptors [e.g., Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), rough-legged hawk  
49 (*B. lagopus*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)].

1 The most abundant big-game species that occurs on the INEEL is the pronghorn, but mule deer  
2 (*Odocoileus hermonius*), moose (*Alces alces*), and elk (*Cervus elaphus*) are present in small  
3 numbers as transients. Other large mammals observed on the INEEL include the coyote (*Canis*  
4 *latrans*), which is common across the site, and the badger (*Taxidea taxus*) and bobcat (*Felis*  
5 *rufus*), both of which are present across the site but are much less abundant.

6  
7 A more recent study conducted for the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE,  
8 2002a, Section 4.9) adds that mountain lions have been observed in the area, along with a  
9 variety of snakes and lizards.

10  
11 Numerous researchers have studied effects of radiation exposure from contaminated areas at  
12 INEEL on small mammals and birds. They have concluded that subtle sublethal effects  
13 (e.g., reduced growth rates and life expectancies) can occur in individual animals as a result of  
14 radiation exposure. However, they can attribute no population or community-level impacts to  
15 such exposures (Halford and Markham, 1978; Evenson, 1981; Arthur, et al., 1986; Millard,  
16 et al., 1990).

17  
18 The monitoring of radionuclide levels outside the boundaries of the various INEEL facilities and  
19 off the INEEL site has detected radionuclide concentrations above background levels in  
20 individual plants and animals (Craig, et al., 1979; Markham, et al., 1982; Morris, 1993), but  
21 these limited data suggest that populations of exposed animals (e.g., mice and rabbits) as well  
22 as animals that feed on these exposed animals (e.g., eagles and hawks) are not at risk.

### 23 24 3.6.3 Aquatic Fauna

25  
26 The aquatic fauna near INTEC has been characterized by previous studies, some for EISs  
27 related to other projects at INEEL. Only intermittent streams cross the INEEL in the vicinity of  
28 INTEC. While streams are active, the INEEL site supports nine fish species (Arthur, et al.,  
29 1984; Reynolds, et al., 1986). A detailed description of the aquatic fauna of the potentially  
30 affected environment near INTEC is provided in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995,  
31 Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.9).

### 32 33 3.6.4 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

34  
35 Threatened, endangered, and sensitive  
36 species were identified in the applicant's  
37 environmental report (FWENC, 2001a,  
38 Appendix A). These species were identified  
39 using the Idaho Department of Fish and  
40 Game's list of Species with Special Status in  
41 Idaho (Idaho Conservation Data Center,  
42 1997). This species list is included as  
43 Table 3-6 and includes federal- and  
44 state-listed species of plants and animals.

45 To ensure that this information is up to date  
46 and in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, NRC obtained the most  
47 recent list of potential threatened, endangered, and sensitive species at INEEL  
48 (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2002).

#### Protected Species

Endangered Species—Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened Species—Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Description of the Affected Environment

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Table 3-6. Listed Threatened and Endangered Species, Species of Concern, and Other Unique Species That Occur, or Possibly Occur, on INEEL				
	Species	Classification		Occurrence on INEEL <sup>a, b</sup>
		Federal <sup>a</sup>	State <sup>b</sup>	
Amphibians and Reptiles	Northern sagebrush lizard ( <i>Sceloporus graciosus graciosus</i> )	C <sup>c</sup>	—	Resident
Birds	American peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	—	E	Winter visitor
	Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	LT	E	Occasional wintering area
	Ferruginous hawk ( <i>Buteo regalis</i> )	C	P	Widespread summer resident
	Boreal owl ( <i>Aegolius funereus</i> )	—	SC	Recorded, but not confirmed
	Flammulated owl ( <i>Otus flammeolus</i> )	—	SC	Recorded, but not confirmed
	Long-billed curlew ( <i>Numenius americanus</i> )	C	P	Limited summer distribution
	Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )	C	—	Upland resident
Mammals	Gray wolf ( <i>Canis Lupus</i> )	XN	E	Several sightings since 1993
	Long-eared myotis ( <i>Myotis evotis</i> )	C	—	Limited onsite distribution
	Small-footed myotis ( <i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i> )	C	—	Resident
	Townsend's big-eared bat ( <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> )	C	SC	Resident
	Pygmy rabbit ( <i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i> )	C	SC	Limited onsite distribution
	Merriam's shrew ( <i>Sorex merriami</i> )	C	—	Resident
Plants	Ute's ladies tresses ( <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> )	—	INPS-GP2	Found near, but not on, INEEL
	Speal-tooth dodder ( <i>Cuscuta denticulata</i> )	—	INPS-1	Found near, but not on, INEEL
	Spreading gilia ( <i>Ipomopsis [Gilia] polycladon</i> )	—	INPS-2	Common in western foothills
	Lemhi milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus aquilonius</i> )	—	INPS-GP3	Limited distribution
	Painted milkvetch ( <i>Astragalus ceramicus var. apus</i> )	C	—	Resident
	Winged-seed evening primrose ( <i>Carrissonia pterosperma</i> )	—	INPS-S	Rare and limited

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
EIS = environmental impact statement  
INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<b>Federal</b>		<b>State</b>	
LT	Listed Threatened	E	Endangered
XN	Experimental Population	P	Protected Non-Game Species
C	Of Concern	SC	Special Concern
		INPS-1	Idaho Native Plant Society-State Priority 1
		INPS-2	Idaho Native Plant Society-State Priority 2
		INPS-GP2	Idaho Native Plant Society-Global Priority 2
		INPS-GP3	Idaho Native Plant Society-Global Priority 3
		INPS-S	Idaho Native Plant Society-Sensitive

<sup>a</sup> From U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list number 1-4-02-SP-921 (U.S. Department of the Interior. "Department of Energy, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Species List Update." Letter (September 3) to R.D. Blew. Boise, Idaho: U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002.)  
<sup>b</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
<sup>c</sup> Federal species labeled as "C" are of concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but have no legal status on the Endangered Species Act. However, in the context of ecosystem-level management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suggests that these species and their habitats be considered in project planning and review.



1 A detailed description of the threatened and endangered species near INTEC is provided in  
2 Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.9.3, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species, of the DOE  
3 SNF Programmatic EIS (DOE, 1995). State and federal regulatory agency lists (DOE, 2002a,  
4 Section 4.9, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2002), the Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
5 Conservation Data Center list, and information from site surveys provided the information to  
6 identify federal- and state-protected, candidate, and sensitive species that potentially occur on  
7 INEEL. This information identified one federal-listed threatened (bald eagle), one federal listed  
8 nonessential experimental population (gray wolf), and nine special-concern species (northern  
9 sagebrush lizard, ferruginous hawk, long-billed curlew, greater sage-grouse, long-eared myotis,  
10 small-footed myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat, pygmy rabbit, and Merriam's shrew) as animals  
11 that potentially occur on the INEEL site (Table 3-6). Three additional animal species listed by  
12 the state as endangered or species of special concern occur on the site. No frequent  
13 observations of the federal- or state-listed animal species have occurred near any of the  
14 facilities where proposed actions would occur. This analysis did not identify any federal- or  
15 state-listed plant species as potentially occurring on the INEEL site. Six plant species identified  
16 by federal agencies or the Idaho Native Plant Society as sensitive, rare, or unique occur on the  
17 site (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2002; DOE, 2002a).

### 18 3.6.5 Wetlands

19 Results of wetland surveys at INEEL have  
20 been reported by DOE (1995, 2002a). The  
21 wetlands of the affected environment at the  
22 INEEL is described in Wetlands, of the  
23 DOE SNF Programmatic EIS (DOE, 1995,  
24 Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.9.4). The  
25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National  
26 Wetlands Inventory has identified more than 130 areas inside the boundaries of INEEL that  
27 might possess some wetlands characteristics. However, recent survey results reported in the  
28 DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.9) indicate that no  
29 wetland areas occur within the INTEC boundary.

#### Wetlands

Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

## 30 3.7 Meteorology, Climatology, and Air Quality

### 31 3.7.1 Meteorology and Climatology

32 The INEEL is located on a mile-high area of the Eastern Snake River Plain in southeast Idaho.  
33 Figure 3-10 provides a simplified topographic map of the area (Clawson, et al., 1989).  
34 Topographic cross sections are presented in FWENC (2001b, Figures 2.3-5 through 2.3-12).  
35 The climate is semiarid and exhibits low relative humidity, large daily temperature swings near  
36 the ground, and large variations in annual precipitation. Average seasonal temperatures  
37 measured on-site range from -7.3 °C [18.8 °F] in winter to 18.2 °C [64.8 °F] in summer, with an  
38 annual average temperature of 5.6 °C [42 °F] (DOE, 1995). Temperature extremes range from  
39 a summertime maximum of 39.4 °C [103 °F] to a wintertime minimum of -45 °C [-49 °F] (DOE,  
40 2002a, p. 4-25). The Centennial and Bitterroot Mountain Ranges restrict most of the cold winter  
41 air masses from entering the Eastern Snake River Plain. More detailed information on  
42 temperature extremes and ranges is available (FWENC, 2001b, Tables 2.3-1 and 2.3-2). A  
43 freeze-thaw cycle {when maximum air temperature exceeds 0 °C [32 °F] and minimum air  
44 temperature is 0 °C [32 °F] or colder} occurs, on average, in 42 percent of the days in the year.

Description of the Affected Environment

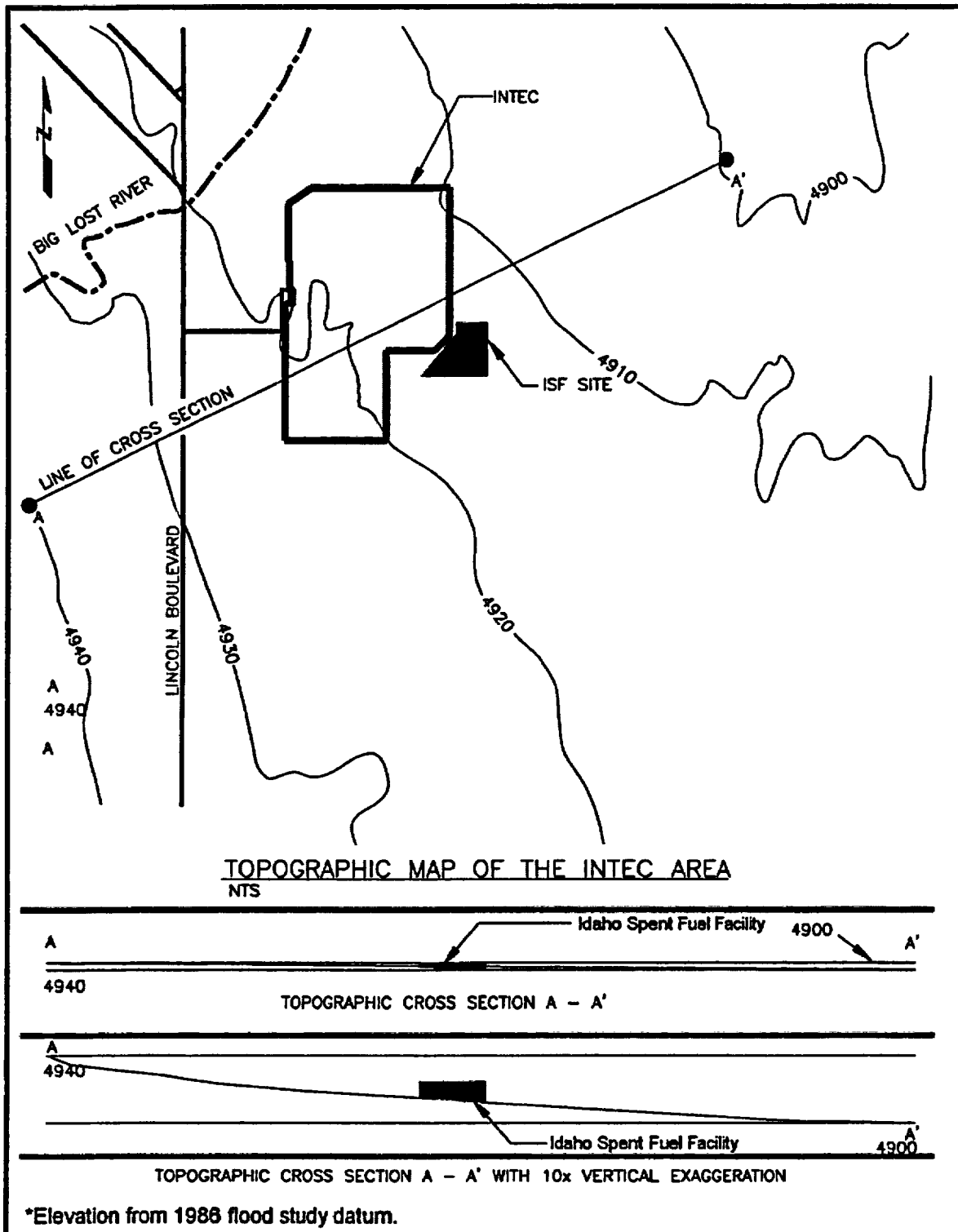


Figure 3-10. General Surface Topography In the Vicinity of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Modified from FWENC, 2001b). To Convert Feet to Meters, Multiply by 0.3048.

1

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 The average midday relative humidity ranges from about 18 percent in summer to about  
2 55 percent in winter. In January (the coldest month), the air temperature averages -8.6 °C  
3 [16.5 °F] and the dewpoint averages -13.6 °C [7.4 °F]. In July (the warmest month), the air  
4 temperature averages 20.6 °C [69.0 °F] and the dewpoint averages 0.8 °C [33.5 °F].

5  
6 Annual precipitation is light, averaging 22.1 cm [8.7 in] and ranging from 10 to 35.6 cm [4 to  
7 14 in]. Monthly precipitation extremes are 0 to 12.7 cm [0 to 5 in]. The greatest short-term  
8 precipitation rates are primarily attributable to thunderstorms, which occur approximately 2 or  
9 3 days per month during the summer. Maximum storm precipitation amounts for 1-hour and  
10 24-hour time periods have also been presented (FWENC, 2001b, Table 2.3-16). The maximum  
11 1-hour and 24-hour precipitation is 1.37 and 4.2 cm [0.54 and 1.6 in], respectively.  
12 Determinations have been made on the average number of days with specified amounts of  
13 precipitation and snow (FWENC, 2001b, Tables 2.3-17 and 2.3-18).

14  
15 Average annual snowfall at the INEEL is 70.1 cm [27.6 in], with extremes of 17.3 to 151.6 cm  
16 [6.8 to 59.7 in]. The greatest 24-hour snowfall was 23 cm [9 in]. The maximum snow depth is  
17 56.6 cm [22.3 in], and the average snow depth varies from 0 to 16.3 cm [0 to 6.4 in] (FWENC,  
18 2001b, Table 2.3-19). Considerable blowing and drifting up to several feet high occur when  
19 several inches of loose snow are present during moderate to strong winds. Damage from hail  
20 has not been experienced to date at the INEEL. Because crops and property have been  
21 damaged from hail in nearby areas, hail damage is possible at the INEEL.

22  
23 Most on-site locations experience the predominant southwest–northeast wind flow of the  
24 Eastern Snake River Plain, although terrain features near some locations cause variations from  
25 this flow regime. The wind rose diagrams in Figure 3-11 show annual wind flow. These  
26 diagrams show the frequency of direction from which the wind blows and the wind speed at  
27 three of the meteorological monitoring sites on the INEEL for the period 1988 to 1992.  
28 Additional wind rose data are also available (FWENC, 2001b, Figures 2.3-13 through 2.3-16).  
29 The orientation of the Eastern Snake River Plain and surrounding mountain ranges results in  
30 the predominance of southwesterly winds from storms and daily solar heating. The next most  
31 frequent winds blow from the northeast. Winds from this direction are frequently unstable or  
32 neutral, promote effective dispersion, and extend to a considerable depth through the  
33 atmosphere. At night, cool, stable air frequently drains down the valley in a shallow layer from  
34 the northeast toward the southwest. Under these conditions, dispersion is limited until solar  
35 heating mixes the plume the following day. Winds above such stable layers exhibit less  
36 variability and provide the transport environment for materials released from INEEL sources.  
37 More detailed information on the influences of the wind field is available (FWENC, 2001b,  
38 Section 2.3.1.2.1).

39  
40 Monthly-average and highest hourly average wind speeds have been recorded at heights of 6  
41 and 76 m [20 and 250 ft] (FWENC, 2001b, Table 2.3-10). The monthly average wind speeds at  
42 6 m [20 ft] range from 8.2 km/hr [5.1 mi/hr] in December to 14.9 km/hr [9.3 mi/hr] in April and  
43 May and blow from the southwest or west-southwest. The highest hourly average near-ground  
44 wind speed measured onsite was 82 km/hr [51 mi/hr] from the west-southwest, with a maximum  
45 instantaneous gust of 125 km/hr [78 mi/hr] (FWENC, 2001b, Table 2.3-14; Clawson, et al.,  
46 1989). Strong gusts may result from pressure gradients from large-scale systems or  
47 thunderstorms and can be expected from any direction.

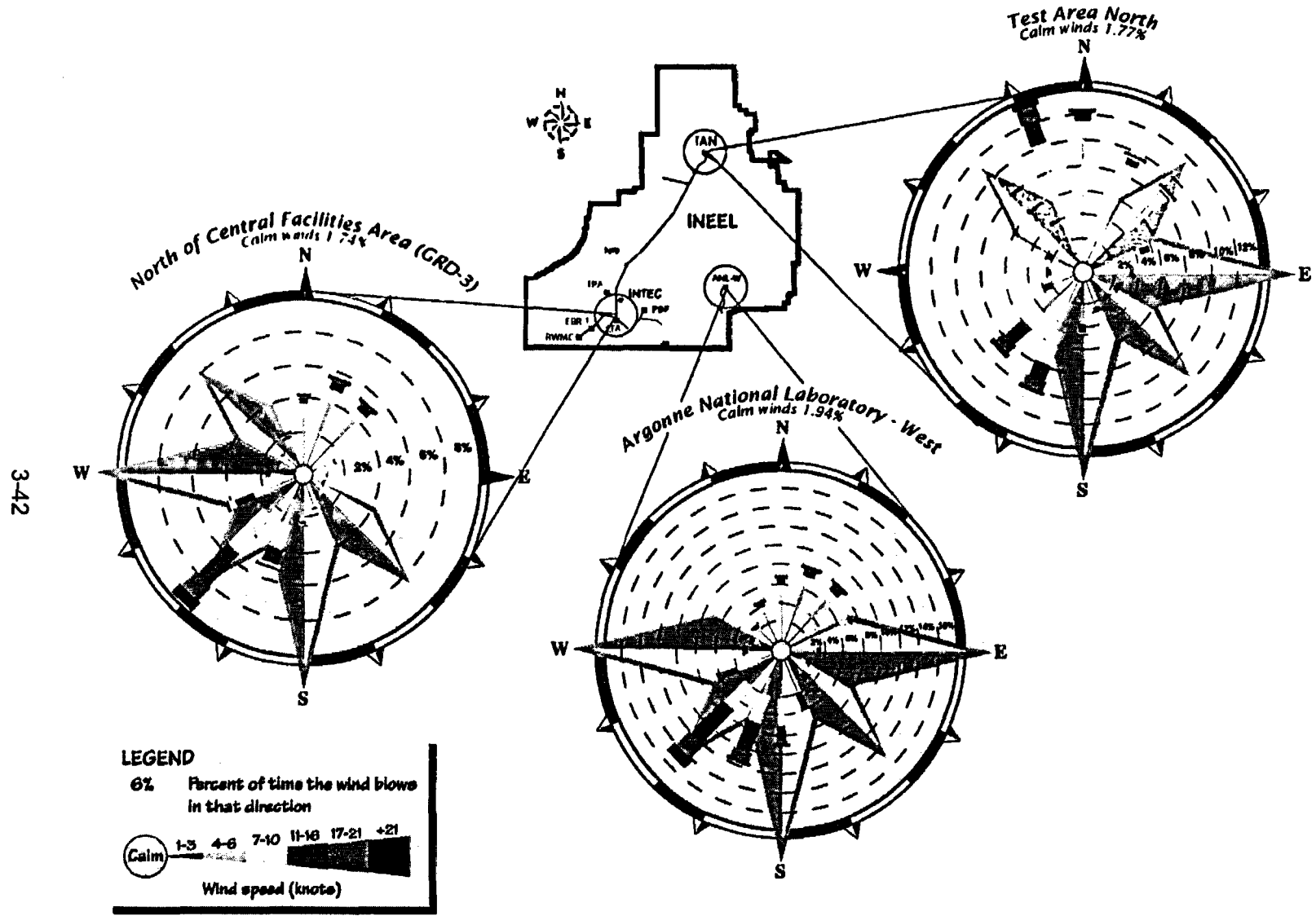


Figure 3-11. Annual Average Wind Direction and Wind Speed at Meteorological Stations on INEEL (Modified from DOE, 2002a)

1 Other than thunderstorms, severe weather is uncommon. Five funnel clouds (vortex does not  
2 reach the ground) and no tornados (vortex reaches the ground) were reported onsite between  
3 1950 and 1994 (FWENC, 2001b, Section 2.3.1.3.3). Additional information on the  
4 probabilities of tornado occurring in the region have been evaluated (Ramsdell and Andrews,  
5 1986). A design-basis tornado has been specified to bound any tornado expected on the  
6 INEEL site (FWENC, 2001b, Table 2.3-15). The data reported in Ramsdell and Andrews (1986)  
7 indicate that the INEEL site area is a low tornado-hazard area. The average annual probability  
8 of any tornado occurring within this geographic region is  $6.0 \times 10^{-7}$  per year. The annual  
9 probability that a tornado of Category F-2 or higher wind speeds in excess of 181 km/hr  
10 [113 mph] will occur is estimated to be  $1.69 \times 10^{-7}$  per year, and the maximum wind speed that  
11 will occur with a probability of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  per year [the lowest probability that needs to be  
12 considered (Ramsdell and Andrews, 1986)] is estimated to be 274 km/hr [171 mph]  
13 (Category F-2).

14  
15 Dust devils are small atmospheric vortices generated over hot land surfaces and are common  
16 during the summer months. The resulting dust clouds can cover up to several hundred yards in  
17 diameter and extend several hundred feet in the air (Clawson, et al., 1989). Neither hurricanes  
18 nor tropical storms occur at INEEL due to the moderating influence of the Pacific Ocean and  
19 isolation provided by the surrounding mountains (FWENC, 2001b, Section 2.3.1.3.5).

20  
21 Visibility in the region is good because of the low moisture content of the air and minimal  
22 sources of visibility-reducing pollutants. DOE (2002a) provides additional information on  
23 visibility. An average air density of  $1.06 \times 10^{-3}$  g/cm<sup>3</sup> [ $3.83 \times 10^{-5}$  lb/in<sup>3</sup>] was computed for an  
24 average temperature of 5.8 °C [42.4 °F] and average atmospheric pressure of 64 cm [25 in] of  
25 mercury (Clawson, et al., 1989).

26  
27 The average daily atmospheric pressure over the entire year averages a high of 63.86 cm  
28 [25.14 in] of mercury and low of 63.47 cm [24.99 in] of mercury (FWENC, 2001b, Table 2.3-11).  
29 The average daily high atmospheric pressures range from 63.68 to 64.08 cm [25.07 to 25.23 in]  
30 of mercury. The average daily low atmospheric pressures range from 63.25 to 63.60 cm [24.90  
31 to 25.04 in] of mercury. The annual daily pressure range averages to 0.38 cm [0.15 in] of  
32 mercury and varies from 0.25 cm [0.10 in] of mercury in the summer to 0.51 cm [0.20 in] of  
33 mercury in the winter. Although the maximum pressure changes in 1 hour and 24 hours have  
34 not been recorded at INEEL, maximum changes are thought to be bounded by 0.25 cm [0.1 in]  
35 of mercury per hour and 2.5 cm [1 in] of mercury per day based on synoptic and climatological  
36 records (FWENC, 2001b, Section 2.3.1.2.10).

### 37 38 **3.7.2 Air Quality and Emissions**

#### 39 40 **3.7.2.1 Introduction to Air Quality**

41  
42 The description of the air quality at INEEL is based on the characterization performed to support  
43 the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.7) and the Idaho  
44 HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.7), which provided an update on  
45 changes in air resource conditions since the initial characterization. Air quality regulations have  
46 been established to protect the public from potential harmful effects of air pollution. These  
47 regulations (i) designate acceptable levels of pollution in ambient air, (ii) establish limits on  
48 radiation doses to members of the public, (iii) establish limits on air pollution emissions and  
49 resulting deterioration of air quality due to vehicular and other sources of human origin,

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 (iv) require air permits to regulate (control) emissions from stationary (nonvehicular) sources of  
2 air pollution, and (v) designate prohibitory rules, such as rules that prohibit open burning.

3  
4 The Clean Air Act and amendments provide the regulatory framework to protect the nation's air  
5 resources and public health and welfare. In Idaho, EPA and the State of Idaho Department of  
6 Environmental Quality are jointly responsible for establishing and implementing programs that  
7 meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. INEEL activities are subject to air quality  
8 regulations and standards established under the Clean Air Act, the State of Idaho, and the  
9 internal policies and requirements of DOE. Table 3-7 contains an overview of the federal, state,  
10 and DOE programs for air quality management. Additional background information for air  
11 resources is presented in the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a,  
12 Appendix C.2).

### 14 3.7.2.2 Nonradiological Conditions

15  
16 Persons in the Eastern Snake River Plain are exposed to a variety of nonradiological air  
17 pollutants. This section summarizes the sources and levels of these pollutants. Types of  
18 pollutants assessed include (i) the criteria pollutants regulated under the National and State  
19 Ambient Air Quality Standards and (ii) other types of pollutants with potentially toxic properties  
20 called toxic or hazardous air pollutants. Criteria pollutants are nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide,  
21 carbon monoxide, lead, ozone, and respirable particulate matter (PM) less than or equal to  
22 10 micrometers  $\{1.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m } [3.9 \times 10^{-7} \text{ in}]\}$  in size (PM<sub>10</sub>). PM of that size are small enough to  
23 pass easily into the lower respiratory tract. Normally, ozone is not directly emitted into the  
24 atmosphere. Instead, ozone is formed by the reactions of nitrogen oxides and oxygen in the  
25 presence of sunlight. Volatile organic compounds, sometimes called precursor organics,  
26 contribute to the formation of ozone. It is the release of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic  
27 compounds into the atmosphere that results in the formation of ozone. Therefore, volatile  
28 organic compounds and nitrogen oxides are assessed as precursors leading to the  
29 development of ozone. Toxic air pollutants can be divided into two classifications: carcinogens,  
30 or cancer-causing agents, and noncarcinogens.

#### 32 3.7.2.2.1 Sources of Nonradiological Air Emissions

33  
34 The population of the Eastern Snake River Plain is exposed to air pollutants that come from a  
35 variety of sources including agricultural and industrial activities, residential wood burning,  
36 wind-blown dust, and automobile exhaust. Many of the activities at INEEL also emit air  
37 pollutants. Sources such as thermal treatment processes, boilers, and emergency generators  
38 emit both criteria and toxic air pollutants. Nonthermal chemical-processing operations, waste  
39 management activities other than combustion, and research laboratories are potential sources  
40 of toxic air pollutants. Waste management, construction, and related activities such as  
41 excavation also generate fugitive dust.

42  
43 Background emission rates for existing facilities have been characterized for two separate  
44 cases. The actual emissions case represented the collective emission rates of nonradiological  
45 pollutants experienced by INEEL facilities and the maximum emissions case represented a  
46 scenario in which all permitted sources at INEEL are assumed to operate in such a manner that  
47 they emit specific pollutants to the maximum extent allowed by operating permits or applicable  
48 regulations. This scenario is appropriate because many facilities operate at levels well below  
49 those allowed by operating permits, which set conditions such as maximum hours of operation  
50 or emission rates.

Table 3-7. Overview of Federal, State, and DOE Programs for Air Quality Management\*

Clean Air Act		
Federal Program	State of Idaho Administration Program	DOE Compliance Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Ambient Air Quality Standards</b> Set limits on ambient air concentrations of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, respirable particulate matter, carbon monoxide, lead, and ozone (criteria pollutants).  Primary standards for protection of public health; secondary standards for protection of public welfare.</li> <li>• <b>Prevention of Significant Deterioration</b> Limits deterioration of air quality and visibility in areas that currently meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.  Requires Best Available Control Technology on major sources in attainment areas.</li> <li>• <b>New Source Performance Standards</b> Regulate emissions from specific types of industrial facilities (e.g., fossil fuel-fired steam generators and incinerators).</li> <li>• <b>National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants</b> Control airborne emissions of specific substances harmful to human health. Specific provisions regulate hazardous air pollutants and limit radionuclide dose to a member of the public to 0.1 mSv [10 mrem] per year. Control emission of hazardous air pollutants from combustion of hazardous waste, as well as other categories of activities that may result in hazardous air pollutant emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho</b> Current Regulations of the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality include                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Idaho Ambient Air Quality Standards</b>—Similar to National Ambient Air Quality Standards but also include standards for total fluorides.</li> <li>— <b>New Source Program</b>—Permit to Construct is required for essentially any construction or modification of a facility that emits an air pollutant; major facilities require PSD analysis and Permit to Construct.</li> <li>— <b>Carcinogenic and Noncarcinogenic Toxic Air Pollutant Increments</b>—Defines acceptable ambient concentrations for many specific toxic air pollutants associated with sources constructed or modified after May 1, 1994; require demonstration of preconstruction compliance with toxic air pollutant increments.</li> <li>— <b>Operating Permits</b>—Required for nonexempt sources of air pollutants; define operating conditions and emissions limitations as well as monitoring and reporting requirements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Policy to comply with applicable regulations and maintain emissions at levels as low as reasonably achievable. Policy implemented through DOE orders:</p> <p>DOE (Headquarters) orders apply to all DOE and DOE-contractor operations.</p> <p>DOE-Idaho Operations Office supplemental directives provide direction and guidance specific to INEEL.</p> <p>The most relevant DOE orders and their DOE-Idaho Operations Office supplemental directives are</p> <p>DOE Order 5400.1 establishes general environmental protection program requirements and assigns responsibilities for ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and DOE policies.</p> <p>DOE Order 5400.5 provides guidelines and requirements for radiation protection of the public.</p> <p>DOE Order 5480.1B establishes the Environment, Safety, and Health Program for DOE operations (implemented via DOE-Idaho Operations Office Supplemental Directive 5480.1).</p>

Description of the Affected Environment

1 **Table 3-7. Overview of Federal, State, and DOE Programs for Air Quality**  
 2 **Management\* (continued)**

3 **Clean Air Act**

Federal Program	State of Idaho Administration Program	DOE Compliance Program
<p>4</p> <p>5 • <b>Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990</b></p> <p>6 Sweeping changes to the Clean Air Act, primarily to address acid rain, nonattainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, operating permits hazardous air pollutants, potential catastrophic releases of acutely hazardous materials, and stratospheric ozone depletion.</p> <p>7 Specific rules and policies not yet fully developed and implemented in all areas (e.g., hazardous air pollutants).</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p>	<p>5 • <b>Rules and Standards for Hazardous Waste</b></p> <p>6 Include standards for hazardous waste treatment facilities, including limits on emissions. Consistent with federal standards.</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p>	<p>5 DOE Order 5480.4 prescribes the application of mandatory Environment, Safety, and Health standards that shall be used by all DOE and DOE-contractor operations (implemented via DOE-Idaho Operations Office Supplemental Directive 5480.4).</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>DOE Order 5480.19 provides guidelines and requirements for plans and procedures in conducting operations at DOE facilities (implemented via DOE-Idaho Operations Office Supplemental Directive 5480.19).</p>

21 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 22 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 23 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
 24 PSD = prevention of significant deterioration  
 25  
 26 \* DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
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28

29 A total of 26 toxic air pollutants have been identified that are emitted from existing INEEL  
 30 facilities in quantities exceeding the screening levels established by the State of Idaho. The  
 31 health hazard associated with toxic air pollutants emitted in lesser quantities is considered low  
 32 enough by the State of Idaho not to require detailed assessment. For a few toxic air pollutants,  
 33 actual 1996 emissions were greater than the levels assessed in the DOE Programmatic SNF  
 34 EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 4.7). These increases were primarily attributable to  
 35 decontamination and decommissioning activities (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.7).

36

37 **3.7.2.2.2 Existing Nonradiological Conditions**

38

39 The assessment of nonradiological air quality described in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS  
 40 (DOE, 1995, volume 2, Part A, Section 4.7) was based on the assumption that the available  
 41 monitoring data are not sufficient to allow a meaningful characterization of existing air quality  
 42 and that such a characterization must rely on an extensive program of air-dispersion modeling.  
 43 The modeling program applied for this purpose utilized computer codes, methods, and  
 44 assumptions considered acceptable by EPA and the State of Idaho for regulatory compliance



1 purposes. The methodology applied in the assessments performed is described in the DOE  
2 Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Appendix F-3).

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4 3.7.2.2.3 On-Site Conditions

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6 The DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995) contains an assessment of existing conditions  
7 for each facility area as a result of cumulative toxic air-pollutant emissions from sources located  
8 within all areas of INEEL. Except for public roads, criteria levels are not assessed for on-site  
9 locations because standards for these pollutants apply only to ambient air locations  
10 (i.e., locations to which the general public has access.) Toxic air pollutants, however, are  
11 assessed because of potential exposure of workers to these hazardous substances. Typically,  
12 the dominant contributors to pollutant levels at each of these areas are sources within that area.  
13 On-site levels of specific toxics are compared to occupational exposure limits established to  
14 protect workers.

15  
16 Table 3-8 contains results from the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995) for the highest  
17 predicted concentrations of toxic air pollutants at on-site locations for the maximum baseline  
18 case at INEEL. None of these concentration levels at the INTEC area of the INEEL site  
19 exceeded the occupational exposure limits.

20  
21 3.7.2.2.4 Off-Site Conditions

22  
23 Estimated maximum off-site pollutant concentrations were calculated in the DOE Programmatic  
24 SNF EIS (DOE, 1995) for locations along the INEEL site boundary, public roads within the site  
25 boundary, and at Craters of the Moon  
26 Wilderness Area and Preserve. Table 3-9  
27 contains the results for criteria pollutant  
28 levels associated with facilities that existed  
29 or were projected to operate before mid-  
30 1995. These results indicate that all  
31 concentrations of criteria pollutants in all  
32 areas are well within the ambient air quality  
33 standards. Table 3-10 contains the results  
34 for carcinogenic toxic air-pollutant levels at  
35 INEEL site boundary locations including  
36 anticipated increases to the baseline. All  
37 carcinogenic air-pollutant levels are below  
38 the ambient air quality standards.  
39 Table 3-11 contains the results for  
40 noncarcinogenic air-pollutant levels at  
41 INEEL site boundary locations and public  
42 road locations including anticipated  
43 increases to the baseline. All  
44 noncarcinogenic air-pollutant levels are  
45 below the ambient air quality standards.  
46 Levels at some public road locations, which  
47 are closer to emission sources, are higher  
48 than site boundary locations but still below  
49 the ambient air quality standards.

**Air Quality Terms**

**PM** is dust, smoke, other solid particles and liquid droplets in the air. Particle size is important and is measured in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). A micrometer is 1 millionth of a meter ( $3.9 \times 10^{-5}$  in).

**Criteria Pollutants** are pollutants for which the EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The criteria pollutants are sulfur oxides, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide,  $\text{PM}_{10}$  and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  ( $\text{PM}_{10}$  and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  are PM with a diameter less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  and 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively), lead, and ozone.

**Background** is an air concentration value, based on measured pollutant data, that accounts for the impact of emissions from existing facilities.

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards** are set for the criteria pollutants. The primary standards set maximum limits on outdoor air concentrations of these pollutants to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. Secondary standards specify maximum concentrations that would protect the public. If both a primary and a secondary standard exist, the more restrictive standard is normally used for assessment purposes.

Description of the Affected Environment

Table 3-8. Highest Predicted Concentrations of Toxic Air Pollutants at On-Site Locations for the Maximum Baseline Case at INEEL, including Anticipated Increases to the Baseline <sup>a</sup>				
Toxic Air Pollutant	Location of Maximum Concentration <sup>b</sup>	Maximum 8-Hour Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Occupational Exposure Limit ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of Standard
<b>Carcinogens</b>				
Acetaldehyde	ANL-W	$1.1 \times 10^2$	$1.8 \times 10^5$	<1
Arsenic	CFA	$2.8 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.0 \times 10^1$	3
Benzene	CFA	$3.1 \times 10^3$	$3.0 \times 10^3$	103
Butadiene	TRA	$3.8 \times 10^3$	$2.2 \times 10^4$	17
Carbon Tetrachloride	RWMC	$2.5 \times 10^2$	$1.3 \times 10^4$	2
Chloroform	RWMC	$1.7 \times 10^1$	$9.8 \times 10^3$	<1
Formaldehyde	ANL-W	$5.7 \times 10^1$	$9.0 \times 10^2$	6
Hexavalent Chromium	INTEC/TAN	$2.4 \times 10^0$	$5.0 \times 10^1$	5
Hydrazine	TRA	$1.8 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^2$	<1
Methylene Chloride	CFA/INTEC	$3.2 \times 10^0$	$1.7 \times 10^5$	<1
Nickel	CFA	$4.1 \times 10^1$	$1.0 \times 10^2$	41
Perchloroethylene	CFA	$4.3 \times 10^2$	$1.7 \times 10^5$	<1
Trichloroethylene	RWMC	$4.0 \times 10^1$	$2.7 \times 10^5$	<1
<b>Noncarcinogens</b>				
Ammonia	INTEC	$9.7 \times 10^2$	$1.7 \times 10^4$	6
Cyclopentane	CFA	$1.1 \times 10^3$	$1.7 \times 10^8$	<1
Hydrochloric Acid	CFA	$1.1 \times 10^2$	$7.0 \times 10^3$	2
Mercury	INTEC	$3.0 \times 10^0$	$5.0 \times 10^1$	6
Naphthalene	CFA	$2.3 \times 10^3$	$5.0 \times 10^4$	5
Nitric Acid	INTEC	$7.7 \times 10^2$	$5.0 \times 10^3$	15
Phosphorus	TAN	$5.5 \times 10^1$	$1.0 \times 10^2$	55
Potassium Hydroxide	ANL-W	$1.4 \times 10^1$	$2.0 \times 10^3$	<1
Styrene	PBF	$3.5 \times 10^2$	$2.1 \times 10^5$	<1
Toluene	CFA	$2.5 \times 10^4$	$1.9 \times 10^5$	13

**Table 3-8. Highest Predicted Concentrations of Toxic Air Pollutants at On-Site Locations for the Maximum Baseline Case at INEEL, Including Anticipated Increases to the Baseline<sup>a</sup> (continued)**

Toxic Air Pollutant	Location of Maximum Concentration <sup>b</sup>	Maximum 8-Hour Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Occupational Exposure Limit ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of Standard
Trimethylbenzene	CFA	$1.3 \times 10^4$	$1.2 \times 10^5$	11
Trivalent Chromium	TAN	$6.3 \times 10^0$	$5.0 \times 10^2$	1

ANL-W = Argonne National Laboratory--West  
 CFA = Central Facilities Area  
 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 INEEL = Idaho National Technology and Engineering Center  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Engineering and Technology Center  
 PBF = Power Burst Facility  
 RWMC = Radioactive Waste Management Complex  
 TAN = Test Area North  
 TRA = Test Reactor Area

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Vol. 2, Part A, Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

<sup>b</sup> Occupational exposure limits are 8-hour, time-weighted averages established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists or Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the lower (most restrictive) of the two limits is used.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

Concentrations of certain criteria pollutants from existing INEEL sources were also compared to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations, which have been established to ensure that air quality remains good in those areas where ambient air quality standards are not exceeded. The Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Appendix C.2, Section C.2.2.2) contains a detailed description of PSD regulations. The PSD regulations use criteria called increments. These increments are allowable increases over baseline conditions from sources that have become operational after certain baseline dates. Increments have been established for sulfur dioxide, respirable particulates, and nitrogen dioxide. Separate PSD increments are established for pristine areas, such as national park or wilderness areas (termed Class I areas) and for the nation as a whole (termed Class II areas). Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area is the Class I area nearest to the INEEL site, while the site boundary and public roads are the applicable Class II areas. Federal land managers (e.g., BLM or National Park Service) are responsible for the protection of air quality values, including visibility, in land areas under their jurisdiction. The Clean Air Act requires the prevention of any future impairment and the remedying of any existing impairment in Class I federal areas. Section 3.10 of this EIS contains information concerning Visual/Scenic descriptions.

The amount of increment consumed by existing sources subject to PSD regulation described in this EIS is based on estimates presented in the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a). The DOE used two air-dispersion models to generate the estimates in the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Appendix C.2, Section C.2.3.3). Selection of the air-dispersion model was based on the distance from the emission source to the monitoring site. The National Park Service recommends using an air-dispersion model called CALPUFF to assess conditions at receptor locations greater than 50 km [31 mi] from the emission source. The other air-dispersion model, ISCST3, was used to assess conditions at receptor locations

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**Table 3-9. Ambient Air Concentrations of Criteria Pollutants from the Combined Effects of Maximum Baseline Emissions and Projected Increases\***

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Maximum Projected Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) <sup>b</sup>			Applicable Standard <sup>c</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of Standard		
		Site Boundary	Public Roads	Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area		Site Boundary	Public Roads	Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area
Carbon Monoxide	1 hour	530	1,300	140	40,000	1	3	0.3
	8 hours	170	310	30	10,000	2	3	0.3
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	7.3	11	0.6	100	7	11	1
Sulfur Dioxide	3 hours	220	600	62	1,300	17	46	5
	24 hours	53	140	11	370	15	38	3
	Annual	2.5	6.2	0.3	80	3	8	0.4
Respirable Particulates <sup>d</sup>	24 hours	20	35	3.2	150	13	24	2
	Annual	0.77	3.5	0.12	50	2	7	0.2
Lead	Quarterly	$2.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$10 \times 10^{-4}$	1.5	0.2	0.3	0.01

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy

\* DOE. "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Includes contribution from existing sources and projected increases.

<sup>c</sup> All standards are primary air quality standards (designed to protect public health), except for 3-hour sulfur dioxide, which is a secondary standard (designed to protect public welfare).

<sup>d</sup> Assumes all particulate matter emissions are of respirable size (i.e., less than 10 microns). Particulate matter concentrations do not include fugitive dust from activities such as construction. Additional standards for smaller sized particles (2.5 microns and less) have been promulgated. Current air quality levels are well within the proposed standards.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

**Table 3-10. Highest Predicted Concentrations of Carcinogenic Air Pollutants at Site Boundary Locations for the Maximum Baseline Case at INEEL, Including Anticipated Increases to the Baseline<sup>a</sup>**

Toxic Air Pollutant	Annual Average Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Standard <sup>b</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of Standard
Acetaldehyde	$1.1 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.5 \times 10^{-1}$	2
Arsenic	$9.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-4}$	39
Benzene	$2.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-1}$	24
Butadiene	$1.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.6 \times 10^{-3}$	28
Carbon Tetrachloride	$6.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$6.7 \times 10^{-2}$	9
Chloroform	$4.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.3 \times 10^{-2}$	<1
Formaldehyde	$1.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$7.7 \times 10^{-2}$	16
Hexavalent Chromium	$6.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$8.3 \times 10^{-5}$	72
Hydrazine	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-4}$	<1
Methylene Chloride	$6.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.4 \times 10^{-1}$	3
Nickel	$2.7 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.2 \times 10^{-3}$	65
Perchloroethylene	$1.1 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-0}$	5
Trichloroethylene	$9.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.7 \times 10^{-2}$	1

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F. "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Vol. 2, Part A, Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

<sup>b</sup> Acceptable ambient concentrations for carcinogens listed in Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho. Acceptable ambient concentrations for carcinogens are increments that apply only to new (not existing) sources and are used here only as reference levels.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

less than 50 km [31 mi] from the emission source. Table 3-12 contains the CALPUFF model-estimated maximum increment consumption at the Class I area locations for western portions of Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area and Preserve, Yellowstone National Park, and Grand Teton National Park. Tables 3-13 and 3-14 contain the ISCST3 model estimated maximum increment consumption for the eastern portion of the Craters of the Moon Class I area and the Class II area on and around INEEL. The Craters of the Moon area appears in the estimate for both CALPUFF and ISCST3 models because portions of the area were closer than

Description of the Affected Environment

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**Table 3-11. Highest Predicted Concentrations of Noncarcinogenic Air Pollutants at Site Boundary and Public Road Locations for the Maximum Baseline Case at INEEL, Including Anticipated Increases to the Baseline<sup>a</sup>**

Toxic Air Pollutant	Location	Annual Average Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Standard ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of Standard <sup>b</sup>
Ammonia	Public Road Site Boundary	$6.0 \times 10^0$ $4.1 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.8 \times 10^2$	3 <1
Cyclopentane	Public Road Site Boundary	$2.7 \times 10^0$ $3.9 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.7 \times 10^4$	<1 <1
Hydrochloric Acid	Public Road Site Boundary	$9.8 \times 10^{-1}$ $9.7 \times 10^{-2}$	$7.5 \times 10^0$	13 1
Mercury	Public Road Site Boundary	$4.2 \times 10^{-2}$ $1.3 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.0 \times 10^0$	4 1
Naphthalene	Public Road Site Boundary	$1.8 \times 10^1$ $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.0 \times 10^2$	4 <1
Nitric Acid	Public Road Site Boundary	$6.4 \times 10^{-1}$ $2.6 \times 10^{-1}$	$5.0 \times 10^1$	1 <1
Phosphorus	Public Road Site Boundary	$3.0 \times 10^{-1}$ $8.9 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.0 \times 10^0$	30 <1
Potassium Hydroxide	Public Road Site Boundary	$2.0 \times 10^{-1}$ $2.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.0 \times 10^1$	1 1
Propionaldehyde	Public Road Site Boundary	$3.0 \times 10^{-1}$ $6.4 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.3 \times 10^0$	7 <1
Styrene	Public Road Site Boundary	$1.3 \times 10^0$ $2.4 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.0 \times 10^3$	<1 <1
Toluene	Public Road Site Boundary	$3.7 \times 10^2$ $6.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.8 \times 10^3$	10 <1
Trimethylbenzene	Public Road Site Boundary	$1.0 \times 10^2$ $1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.2 \times 10^3$	8 <1
Trivalent Chromium	Public Road Site Boundary	$3.6 \times 10^{-2}$ $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.0 \times 10^0$	<1 <1

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Vol. 2, Part A, Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

<sup>b</sup> Acceptable ambient concentrations listed in Rules of the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho. Acceptable ambient concentrations are increments that apply only to new (not existing) sources and are used here only as reference levels.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

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**Table 3-12. PSD Increment Consumption at Distant Class I Areas by Sources Subject to PSD Regulation<sup>a,b</sup>**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Allowable PSD Increment ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Craters of the Moon National Monument <sup>c</sup>		Yellowstone National Park <sup>d</sup>		Grand Teton National Park <sup>e</sup>	
			Maximum Predicted Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of PSD Increment Consumed	Maximum Predicted Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of PSD Increment Consumed	Maximum Predicted Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of PSD Increment Consumed
Sulfur Dioxide <sup>f</sup>	3 hours	25	11	44	2.7	11	4	16
	24 hours	5	3.4	68	0.66	13	0.99	20
	Annual	2	0.23	12	0.026	1.3	0.045	2.3
Respirable Particulates	24 hours	8	0.61	7.6	0.22	2.8	0.25	3.1
	Annual	4	0.032	0.8	$4.7 \times 10^{-3}$	0.12	$7.4 \times 10^{-3}$	0.19
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	2.5	0.27	11	$6.6 \times 10^{-3}$	0.26	0.022	0.88

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center  
 PSD = prevention of significant deterioration

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Modeled assuming maximum emission rates and full utilization (8,760 hr/yr) for each source.

<sup>c</sup> The results for Craters of the Moon National Monument represent the impacts predicted 65 km [39 mi] from INTEC, which correspond to the western portion of Craters of the Moon irrespective of direction.

<sup>d</sup> The results for Yellowstone National Park represent the impacts predicted 160 km [100 mi] from INTEC, which correspond to the closest (southwestern) boundary of Yellowstone, irrespective of direction.

<sup>e</sup> The results for Grand Teton National Park represent the impacts predicted 160 km [100 mi] from INTEC, which correspond to the closest (westernmost) boundary of Grand Teton, irrespective of direction.

<sup>f</sup> Based on fuel sulfur content of 0.3 percent.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

Description of the Affected Environment

Description of the Affected Environment

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**Table 3-13. PSD Increment Consumption at the Craters of the Moon Class I Areas by Sources Subject to PSD Regulation<sup>a,b</sup>**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Allowable PSD Increment <sup>c</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Maximum Predicted Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of PSD Increment Consumed
Sulfur Dioxide <sup>d</sup>	3 hours	25	8.1	32
	24 hours	5	1.9	37
	Annual	2	0.12	6
Respirable Particulates	24 hours	8	0.57	7.2
	Annual	4	0.025	0.6
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	2.5	0.40	16

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 IDAPA = Idaho Administrative Procedures Act  
 PSD = prevention of significant deterioration

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F. "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
<sup>b</sup> Assumes maximum emission rates and full utilization (8,760 hr/yr) for each source.  
<sup>c</sup> Increments specified are State of Idaho standards (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. "IDAPA 58, Title 1, Chapter 1, Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho." Sections 549-581. Boise, Idaho: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. 2001. <<http://www.state.id.hs/adm/adminrules/rules/IDAPA58/0101.pdf>> (April 15, 2003)  
<sup>d</sup> Sulfur dioxide results have been modified from the original results by a factor of 0.6 to reflect a change in fuel sulfur content from 0.5 to 0.3 percent.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

50 km [31 mi] from the INTEC emission source and portions of the area were farther than 50 km [31 mi] from the emission source. The amount of increment consumed at all Class I and Class II areas remains well within allowable levels.

**3.7.2.2.5 Summary of Nonradiological Air Quality**

The air quality on and around INEEL is good and within applicable guidelines. The area around the INEEL is either in attainment or unclassified for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Portions of Bannock and Power Counties in Idaho, near the region of influence, are in a nonattainment area for PM. For toxic emissions, all INEEL boundary and public road levels have been found to be well below reference levels appropriate for comparison. Current emission rates for some toxic pollutants are higher than the baseline levels assessed in the DOE Programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995), but resulting ambient concentrations are expected to remain below reference levels. Similarly, all toxic pollutant levels at on-site locations are expected to remain below the lower of two occupational limits established by either the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists for protection of workers.



**Table 3-14. PSD Increment Consumption at Class II Areas at INEEL by Sources Subject to PSD Regulation<sup>a</sup>**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Maximum Predicted Concentration <sup>b</sup>				
		Allowable PSD Increment <sup>c</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	INEEL Boundary ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Public Road ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Amount of Increment Consumed ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Percent of PSD Increment Consumed <sup>d</sup>
Sulfur Dioxide <sup>e</sup>	3 hour	512	80	120	120	23
	24 hour	91	16	27	27	29
	Annual	20	1.1	3.6	3.6	18
Respirable Particulates	24 hour	30	4.9	10	10	34
	Annual	17	0.19	0.53	0.53	3.1
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	25	3.3	8.8	8.8	35

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 IDAPA = Idaho Administrative Procedures Act  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
 PSD = prevention of significant deterioration

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7 Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Modeled assuming maximum emission rates and full utilization (8,760 hours per year).

<sup>c</sup> Increments specified are State of Idaho standards (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. "IDAPA 58, Title 1, Chapter 1, Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho." Section 579-581. Boise, Idaho: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. 2001. <<http://www.state.id.hs/adm/adminrules/rules/IDAPA58/0101.pdf>> (April 15, 2003)

<sup>d</sup> The amount of increment consumed is equal to the highest value of either the site boundary or public road locations.

<sup>e</sup> Sulfur dioxide results have been modified from the original results by a factor of 0.6 to reflect a change in fuel sulfur content from 0.5 to 0.3 percent.

NOTE: To convert to  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

### 3.7.2.3 Radiological Air Quality

This section provides information concerning the levels of airborne radiological exposure to the population of the Eastern Snake River Plain.

#### 3.7.2.3.1 Sources of Radiation

The population of the Eastern Snake River Plain is exposed to radiation that comes from natural background sources and artificial sources. Both of these radiation sources are described in detail in Section 3.13.

#### 3.7.2.3.2 Existing Radiological Conditions

Monitoring and assessment activities are conducted to characterize existing radiological conditions at INEEL and the surrounding environment. Table 3-15 provides a summary of the principal types of airborne radioactivity emitted from INEEL facilities during 1999 and 2000.

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Table 3-15. Summary of Airborne Radionuclide Emissions (in Curies) for 1999 and 2000 from Facility Areas at INEEL <sup>a</sup>										
Area	Tritium/Carbon-14		Iodines		Noble Gases		Mixed Fission and Activation Products <sup>b</sup>		U/Th/Transuranic <sup>c</sup>	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
<b>Monitored Sources</b>										
Argonne National Laboratory-West	11	2.5	— <sup>d</sup>	—	1.9 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	400	—	—	—	—
Central Facilities Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
INEEL	8.9	13	2.6 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	6.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	—	—	6.9 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	7.2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Naval Reactors Facility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Power Burst Facility	55	2.6 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.2 × 10 <sup>-12</sup>	6.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	—	—	—	—	2.8 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	—
Radioactive Waste Management Complex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Test Area North	—	93	—	7.9 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	—	920	2.7 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	3.4 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	—	—
Test Reactor Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
INEEL Total	75	110	2.6 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.014	1.9 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.3 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	7.0 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	7.2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
<b>Other Release Points</b>										
Argonne National Laboratory-West	0.014	0.010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Facilities Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.7 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	6.6 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	3.1 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.0 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>
INEEL	1.1 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	150	1.6 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	6.1 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	—	1.2 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	4.4 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.9 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	8.2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>
Naval Reactors Facility	0.67	0.69	5.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	9.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.047	0.68	1.5 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.1 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	—	6.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Power Burst Facility	7.1 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.018	3.3 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.6 × 10 <sup>-16</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-13</sup>	7.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	9.8 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	5.6 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	4.4 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>
Radioactive Waste Management Complex	0.021	0.011	—	—	—	—	4.6 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	3.1 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	7.2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Test Area North	5.3 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	—	—	—	—	2.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	4.4 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	5.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.1 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Test Reactor Area	170	200	0.13	0.38	1.2 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	0.45	2.3	7.4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.3 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>
INEEL Total	170	350	0.13	0.38	1.2 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	2.7 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	0.45	2.3	4.3 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	8.5 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>

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Table 3-15. Summary of Airborne Radionuclide Emissions (In Curies) for 1999 and 2000 from Facility Areas at INEEL <sup>a</sup> (continued)										
Area	Tritium/Carbon-14		Iodines		Noble Gases		Mixed Fission and Activation Products <sup>b</sup>		U/Th/Transuranic <sup>c</sup>	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
<b>Fugitive Sources</b>										
Argonne National Laboratory--West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Central Facilities Area	3.5	3.7	—	—	—	2.9 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.9 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.6 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.4 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>
INEEL	8.9 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	0.092	3.8 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	8.0 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	—	7.1	9.2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.22	5.9 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	1.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>
Naval Reactors Facility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.9 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	—	4.9 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
Power Burst Facility	0.018	—	—	—	—	—	5.6 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	5.6 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>
Radioactive Waste Management Complex	55	130	—	—	—	—	3.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	3.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	9.5 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	9.5 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>
Test Area North	0.060	0.15	—	—	—	—	1.1 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	8.8 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	9.4 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	9.8 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
Test Reactor Area	87	100	1.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	9.3 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	5.0 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.0 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.0 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.6 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	7.4 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	9.9 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>
INEEL Total	150	230	1.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.017	5.0 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	7.1	1.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.22	5.1 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>
<b>Total INEEL Releases</b>										
Argonne National Laboratory--West	11	2.5	—	—	1.9 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	400	—	—	—	—
Central Facilities Area	3.5	3.7	—	—	—	2.9 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.9 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.6 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.1 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>
INEEL	8.9	160	2.6 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.014	—	1.2 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	2.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.23	5.5 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2.0 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>
Naval Reactors Facility	0.67	0.69	5.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	9.0 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	0.047	0.68	1.5 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	—	6.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Power Burst Facility	55	0.018	3.3 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.6 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-13</sup>	1.3 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	2.8 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	7.2 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>
Radioactive Waste Management Complex	55	130	—	—	—	—	4.2 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	6.8 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	7.2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Test Area North	0.061	93	—	7.9 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	—	920	1.1 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.3 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	6.6 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>
Test Reactor Area	260	300	0.13	0.39	1.2 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	1.5 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	0.45	2.3	7.5 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	2.3 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>
INEEL Total	400	690	0.13	0.41	3.1 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	4.0 × 10 <sup>3</sup>	0.45	2.5	4.6 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	2.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>
DOE = U.S. Department of Energy EIS = environmental impact statement INEEL = Idaho National Technology and Engineering Center  <sup>a</sup> DOE DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002. <sup>b</sup> Mixed fission and activation products that are primarily particulate in nature (e.g., cobalt-60, strontium-90, and cesium-137) <sup>c</sup> U/Th/Transuranic = Radioisotopes of heavy elements such as uranium, thorium, plutonium, americium, and neptunium <sup>d</sup> Dash indicates amount is negligibly small or zero										

Description of the Affected Environment

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## Description of the Affected Environment

1 An indication of on-site radiological conditions  
2 is also obtained by comparing measured  
3 levels on and near INEEL with measured  
4 levels from locations near the site, but at a  
5 distance sufficient no to be affected by the  
6 site. Figure 3-12 shows the off-site dosimeter  
7 locations, as well as locations where various  
8 food products are collected for radioactivity  
9 analysis. Results from locations on and near  
10 INEEL include contributions from natural  
11 background conditions and INEEL site  
12 emissions. Results from distant locations  
13 represent only natural background conditions  
14 because distant locations are not influenced  
15 by INEEL emissions. These data show that  
16 over the 5-year period from 1995 to 1999,  
17 average radiation exposure levels for the  
18 boundary locations were no different from  
19 those at distant stations. The average annual  
20 external dose from natural background  
21 sources measured by the Environmental  
22 Surveillance, Education and Research  
23 Program during 1999 was 1.22 mSv  
24 [122 mrem] for distant locations and 1.24 mSv  
25 [124 mrem] for boundary community locations  
26 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.7). These differences  
27 are well within the range of normal variation.  
28 On INEEL, dosimeters around some facilities may show slightly elevated levels, because many  
29 are intentionally placed to monitor the dose rate in areas adjacent to the radioactive material  
30 storage areas or areas of known soil contamination (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.7).

### 31 32 3.7.2.3.3 Summary of Radiological Conditions

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34 Radioactivity and radiation levels resulting  
35 from INEEL site emissions are low, well  
36 within applicable standards, and negligible  
37 when compared with doses received from  
38 natural background sources.

## 40 3.8 Noise

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42 As discussed in this section of the EIS, noise  
43 is used to indicate unwanted sound that can  
44 be a byproduct of activities at INEEL. The  
45 common range of sound intensity varies by a  
46 factor of up to 1 million. A common sound  
47 measurement used to indicate sound  
48 intensity is the A-weighted sound level  
49 (decibel-A or dBA). Sounds reported in these

### Radiation and Radioactivity

Radioactivity or Radioactive Decay is the process by which unstable atoms emit radiation to reach a more stable state.

Radiation is the movement of energetic particles or waves through matter and space. Radiation comes from radioactive material or from equipment such as x-ray machines. Radiation may either be ionizing or nonionizing radiation.

Ionizing Radiation is radiation that has enough energy to cause atoms to lose electrons and become ions.

Radiation Dose is the quantity of radiation that is deposited in a material. The radiation dose to humans, commonly referred to as a dose equivalent, is measured in units of sieverts (Sv). One Sv is equivalent to 100 rem.

Collective Dose is the sum of the individual doses received in a given period of time by a specified population. The unit of collective dose is person-sieverts or person-rem. For example, 1,000 people who each receive a 0.01 Sv [1 rem] dose, receive a collective dose of 10 person-Sv [1,000 person-rem].

### What Is a Sievert?

The effects of radiation exposure on humans depend on the kind of radiation received, the total amount of radiation energy absorbed, and the sensitivity and mass of tissues involved. A sievert (Sv) is a unit of radiation dose calculated by a formula that takes these three factors into account. Another common unit of radiation dose is the rem [1 Sv = 100 rem]. The average annual radiation dose to an individual in the United States from natural background and artificial sources is about 0.0036 Sv [0.36 rem] or 3.6 millisievert (mSv) [360 millirem (mrem)]. This average quantity represents the summation of external and internal doses.



## Description of the Affected Environment

1 units are intended to take into account the sensitivity of the human ear for sounds of  
2 different pitches.

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4 At INEEL, noises that affect the public are dominated primarily by vehicle traffic, including  
5 buses, private vehicles, delivery trucks, construction trucks, aircraft, and freight trains. During a  
6 normal work week, a majority of the 4,000–5,000 employees at the INEEL site are transported  
7 to various work areas at INEEL by a fleet of buses covering 72 routes. Approximately  
8 1,200 private vehicles also travel to and from INEEL daily (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.10). There  
9 is no airport at INEEL, and noise from an occasional commercial aircraft crossing INEEL at high  
10 altitudes is indistinguishable from the natural background noise of the site. Rail transport noises  
11 originate from diesel engines, wheel and track contact, and whistle warnings at rail crossings.  
12 Normally no more than one train per day, and usually fewer than one train per week, service  
13 INEEL via the Scoville spur (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.10).

14

15 Noise measurements taken about 15 m [50 ft] from U.S. Highway 20 during a peak commuting  
16 period indicate that the sound levels from traffic at INEEL range from 69 to 88 dBA (Leonard,  
17 1993). Buses are the primary source of this highway noise with a sound level of 82 dBA at 15 m  
18 [50 ft] (Leonard, 1993). Industrial activities (i.e., shredding) at the Central Facilities Area  
19 produce the highest noise levels measured at 104 dBA. Noise generated at INEEL is not  
20 propagated at detectable levels offsite, since all primary facilities are at least 4.8 km [3 mi] from  
21 site boundaries. However, INEEL buses operate offsite, but are part of the normal levels of  
22 traffic noise in the community. In addition, previous studies on effects of noise on wildlife  
23 indicate that even high intermittent noise levels at INEEL (over 100 dBA) would not affect  
24 wildlife productivity (Leonard, 1993).

25

26 The noise level at INEEL ranges from 10 dBA (rustling grass) to 115 dBA, the upper limit for  
27 unprotected hearing exposure established by the Occupational Safety and Health  
28 Administration from the combined sources of industrial operations, construction activities, and  
29 vehicular traffic. The natural environment of INEEL has relatively low ambient noise levels  
30 ranging from 35 to 40 dBA (Leonard, 1993). In conducting its industrial operations and  
31 construction activities, INEEL complies with Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
32 regulations (29 CFR 1910.95). These regulations require that any INEEL personnel exposed to  
33 an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 dBA or greater must be issued hearing protection (DOE,  
34 2002a, Section 4.10). The regulations also require that any exposure to impulse or impact  
35 noise should be limited to 140-dBA peak sound pressure level.

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### 37 **3.9 Cultural, Historical, Archaeological, Ethnographical, and** 38 **Paleontological Resources**

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#### 40 **3.9.1 Cultural Resources**

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42 To date, more than 100 cultural resource surveys have been conducted at INEEL through the  
43 auspices of DOE. These surveys and investigations have identified many archaeological and  
44 historic sites within the INEEL boundaries. Prehistoric settlement and use of the area date back  
45 12,000 years, as evidenced in archeological investigations that have been conducted. Historic  
46 uses of the area include attempts at homesteading, cattle drives, as well as a route for settlers  
47 traveling west. The most recent use of the area has facilitated the nuclear technology age  
48 with research and development of nuclear power and the subsequent storage of SNF. The

1 information these surveys has yielded provided baseline data that have been used to develop a  
2 predictive model that aids in the identification of areas where densities of sites are highest and  
3 also where the potential impacts to significant archaeological resources would increase (Ringe,  
4 1993a,b). Although this model does not replace inventories required by the compliance  
5 requirements, this predictive model is crucial to the identification and early mitigation of areas  
6 highly likely to be archaeologically sensitive. Other cultural resources, such as those  
7 associated with settlement (remnants of homesteads), emigration (historic trails), cattle drives  
8 (remnants of camps), scenic vistas (landscapes and viewsheds significant to the  
9 Shoshone–Bannock Tribes), military, and nuclear technology (buildings and structures) have  
10 been, and are in the process of being, identified and evaluated for historical significance and  
11 eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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### 13 **3.9.2 Historical Resources**

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15 The southeastern portion of Idaho where INEEL is located is rich with cultural resources that  
16 reflect the settlement and development of the region by aboriginal people and the  
17 Shoshone–Bannock Tribes, as well as Euroamerican explorers and settlers. As the westward  
18 expansion entered the region, resources were left behind that provide a record of historic uses  
19 and development of the area. Many of these cultural resources exist within the INEEL  
20 boundaries. The region is etched with historic trails used by settlers who attempted to  
21 homestead the area. Many of these trails were also used for cattle drives and, in the late  
22 1800s, as stage and freight routes to support mining towns in central Idaho (Miller, 1995). As  
23 homesteaders attempted to settle and farm the area along the Big Lost River in the late  
24 1800s and early 1900s, irrigation efforts in the high desert climate failed. Homesteads  
25 were abandoned, and Euroamerican settlement and development of the region ceased.

26

27 At the start of World War II, terrain of the desert region proved to be useful to the federal  
28 government. The military used different areas, such as the Central Facilities Area, as test-firing  
29 and bombing ranges. The most significant development of the area occurred in 1949 when the  
30 National Reactor Testing Station, later to become INEEL, was established by the government.  
31 INEEL was instrumental in the development of nuclear power, with 52 first-of-a-kind reactors  
32 constructed since 1949 (Miller, 1995). Many historic sites within INEEL document early  
33 development of nuclear power, including the Experimental Breeder Reactor-1, which is listed on  
34 the National Register of Historic Places and is a national historic landmark. INTEC, originally  
35 named as the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant, was one of the first facilities constructed at  
36 INEEL in the 1950s. INTEC was instrumental in the early development of processes and  
37 facilities for managing nuclear fuels and waste products. Among the first-in-the-world  
38 accomplishments at INTEC are the reprocessing of highly enriched pure uranium on a  
39 production scale and solidification of liquid HLW on both plant and production scales (DOE,  
40 2002a, Section 4.4). INTEC comprises many structures and buildings that supported the  
41 nuclear waste processing and storage operations. Of the buildings and structures used in this  
42 period of nuclear technology, 38 are of historical significance and are potentially eligible for  
43 listing on the National Register of Historic Places (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.10) for their  
44 association with nuclear reactor testing or post-nuclear reactor test research. The location of  
45 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is just outside the INTEC complex on an open,  
46 previously disturbed 3.2-ha [8-acre] parcel of land immediately east of the INTEC perimeter  
47 fence, north of its coal-ash bury pit, and northeast of the coal-fired power plant. The new  
48 proposed facility and its associated construction laydown area would be located within a small  
49 group of office buildings, warehouses, and trailers built in the 1980s, which are not considered

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 historic structures. An associated construction laydown area would be located on a previously  
2 disturbed 4.1-ha [10-acre] lot a short distance northeast of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
3 Facility site.

### 4 5 **3.9.3 Archaeological Resources**

6  
7 Archaeological surveys and investigations conducted in southeastern Idaho have provided  
8 evidence of human use of the Eastern Snake River Plain for at least 12,000 years.  
9 Investigations at a cave approximately 3 km [2 mi] from the INEEL boundary provided evidence  
10 of the earliest human occupation, which was radiocarbon-dated at 12,500 years before present.  
11 Furthermore, scattered remains of Euroamerican settlement sites, as well as campsites  
12 associated with livestock drives, are located in areas throughout INEEL. Archaeological survey  
13 coverage in the vicinity of INTEC is expansive. In 1979, 45 ha [111 acres] of the area now  
14 enclosed by the INTEC perimeter fence were investigated with no identification of any cultural  
15 resources. In 1981, a cultural resource inventory of approximately 3.6 ha [9 acres] proposed for  
16 the coal-fired steam generation plant was conducted immediately south of the proposed Idaho  
17 Spent Fuel Facility construction area on the east side of the facility, as well as several additional  
18 project areas to the south and west. No cultural resources were identified in any of these areas.  
19 However, one historic homestead was identified in an undisturbed area some distance to the  
20 north. In 1985, survey coverage was significantly expanded with more than 405 ha  
21 [1,000 acres] surrounding INTEC being surveyed. Six cultural resources were identified during  
22 this survey phase, most of which were related to agricultural pursuits spurred by the Carey Land  
23 Act of 1894.

24  
25 Three archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
26 Facility project. Two of the sites contain isolates, are both unlikely to yield any additional  
27 information, and are evaluated as ineligible for nomination to the National Register. The other  
28 site is the archaeological remains of an historic homestead site that has been evaluated as  
29 eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. However, these archaeological  
30 resources are outside the areas of potential effect for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
31 project (Pace, 2001). Archaeological surveys previously conducted indicate that the area in the  
32 vicinity of INTEC contains only limited evidence of prehistoric use. The proposed construction  
33 and laydown areas of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility have been subject to intensive  
34 ground disturbance during the past five decades. Nonnative plant species are dominant, and  
35 no unique topographic features (buttes, river channels, sand dunes, for example) are present.  
36 These factors, along with the absence of any cultural resources, decrease the likelihood that  
37 these areas contain resources of special importance to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes  
38 (Pace, 2001).

### 39 40 **3.9.4 Ethnographical Resources**

41  
42 Ethnography, a component of cultural anthropology, is concerned with the people of an area,  
43 with their cultural systems or ways of life, and with the related technology, sites, structures,  
44 other material features, and natural resources. In addition to traditional regimes for resource  
45 use and family and community economic and social features, cultural systems include  
46 expressive elements that celebrate or record meaningful events and may carry considerable  
47 symbolic and emotional significance (National Park Service, 1998). Ethnographic resources are  
48 cultural and natural features including structures, objects, sites, landscapes, flora, and fauna  
49 that have traditional significance to contemporary people and communities.



1 Within the area of the proposed action, the ethnographic group that has been identified and  
2 recognized is the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes (DOE, 2002a). These people have a long and  
3 traditional association with this portion of Idaho, as detailed in the following sections. It is  
4 unknown whether other groups or individuals have ethnographic ties to INTEC and the  
5 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility areas. Because these areas are located in restricted and  
6 secure land ownership and management, it is unlikely that people using the proposed Idaho  
7 Spent Fuel Facility area for traditional or other purposes would remain undetected.

8  
9 **3.9.4.1 Early Native American Cultures**

10  
11 The prehistoric archaeological record does not make clear when the ancestors of the Shoshone  
12 and Bannock people arrived in southeast Idaho; however, the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes  
13 believe that native people were created on the North American continent and, therefore, regard  
14 all prehistoric resources at INEEL as ancestral and important to their culture. Prehistoric sites  
15 are located throughout INEEL, and all demonstrate the importance of the area for aboriginal  
16 subsistence and survival. The ethnographic studies completed by early anthropologists  
17 describe the seasonal migration of the Shoshone–Bannock people across the Eastern Snake  
18 River Plain (Miller, 1995). The area now occupied by INEEL served as a travel corridor for  
19 these groups, with the Big Lost River, Big Southern Butte, and Howe Point serving as temporary  
20 camp areas providing fresh water, food, and obsidian for tool making and trade. The  
21 Shoshone–Bannock people relied on the environment for all subsistence needs and depended  
22 on a variety of plants and animals for food, medicines, clothing, tools, and building materials.

23  
24 The importance of plants, animals, water, air, and land resources in the Eastern Snake River  
25 Plain to the Shoshone–Bannock people is reflected in the sacred reverence in which they hold  
26 the resources. Specific places in the Eastern Snake River Plain have sacred and traditional  
27 importance to the Shoshone–Bannock people, including buttes, caves, and other natural  
28 landforms on or near INEEL.

29  
30 **3.9.4.2 Native American and Euroamerican Interactions**

31  
32 The influence of Euroamerican culture and loss of aboriginal territory and reservation land  
33 severely impacted the aboriginal subsistence cultures of the Shoshone–Bannock people.  
34 Settlers began establishing homesteads in the valleys of southeastern Idaho in the 1860s,  
35 increasing the conflicts with aboriginal people and providing the impetus for treaty-making by  
36 the federal government (Murphy and Murphy, 1986). The Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 and  
37 associated Executive Orders designated the Fort Hall Reservation for mixed bands of  
38 Shoshone–Bannock people. A separate reservation established for the Lemhi Shoshone was  
39 closed in 1907, and the Native Americans were forced to migrate to Fort Hall Reservation  
40 across the area now occupied by INEEL.

41  
42 The original Fort Hall Reservation, consisting of 729,000 ha [1,800,000 acres], has been  
43 reduced to approximately 220,320 ha [544,000 acres] through a series of cessions to  
44 accommodate the Union Pacific Railroad and the growing city of Pocatello. Other  
45 developments, including the flooding of portions of the Snake River Bottoms by the construction  
46 of the American Falls Reservoir, have also reduced the Shoshone–Bannock land base (Murphy  
47 and Murphy, 1986).

Description of the Affected Environment

1 The creation of INEEL also had an impact on the Shoshone–Bannock subsistence culture.  
2 Land withdrawals initiated by the U.S. Navy during World War II and continued by the Atomic  
3 Energy Commission during the Cold War all but eliminated Tribal access to traditional and  
4 sacred areas until recent years. In addition, development of facilities at INEEL during the past  
5 50 years has impacted cultural resources of importance to the Tribes, including traditional and  
6 sacred areas and artifacts.

7  
8 **3.9.4.3 Contemporary Cultural Practices and Resource Management**

9  
10 The efforts of the Shoshone–Bannock  
11 Tribes to maintain and revitalize their  
12 traditional cultures are dependent on having  
13 continual access to aboriginal lands,  
14 including some areas on INEEL. DOE  
15 accommodates Tribal member access to  
16 areas on INEEL for subsistence and  
17 religious uses. Tribal members continue to  
18 hunt big game, gather plant materials, and  
19 practice religious ceremonies in traditional  
20 areas that are accessible on public lands  
21 adjacent to INEEL. In this respect, INEEL  
22 continues to serve as a travel corridor for  
23 aboriginal people, although traditional  
24 routes have changed due to INEEL access  
25 restrictions. DOE recognizes the unique  
26 interest the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes  
27 have in the management of INEEL  
28 resources and continues to consult with the  
29 Tribes.

30  
31 The maintenance of pristine environmental  
32 conditions, including native plant  
33 communities and habitats, natural  
34 topography, and undisturbed vistas, is  
35 critical to continued viability of the  
36 Shoshone–Bannock culture. Contamination  
37 from past and ongoing operations at INEEL  
38 has the potential to affect plants, animals,  
39 and other resources that tribal members  
40 continue to use and deem significant.  
41 Excavation and construction associated with  
42 environmental restoration and waste  
43 management activities have the potential to  
44 disturb archaeological resources as well as  
45 plant communities and habitats. However,  
46 the proposed location of the Idaho Spent  
47 Fuel Facility and its associated construction  
48 laydown area would occur on highly  
49 disturbed areas. Due to the degree of

**BLM Visual Resource Management Objectives**

Class I—Preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes and does not preclude limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

Class II—Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III—Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class IV—Provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. Every attempt should be made, however, to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

1 previous disturbance and the lack of archaeological resources, it is unlikely that any sensitive  
2 tribal resources are present at the proposed construction locations (Pace, 2001).

3  
4 **3.9.5 Paleontological Resources**

5  
6 Survey and evaluation for paleontological remains within the INEEL boundaries have identified  
7 several fossils that suggest that the region contains varied paleontological resources. Analyses  
8 of these materials and site locations suggest that these types of resources are found in areas of  
9 basalt flows, particularly in sedimentary interbeds or lava tubes within local lava flows, and in  
10 some wind and sand deposits. Other and more specific areas that these resources are likely to  
11 occur are in the deposits of the Big Lost River, Little Lost River, Birch Creek, and Lake Terreton  
12 and playas. Vertebrate and invertebrate animal, pollen, and plant fossils have been discovered  
13 in caves, in lake sediments, and in alluvial gravels along the Big Lost River. Twenty-four  
14 paleontological localities have been identified in published data (Miller, 1995). Vertebrate  
15 fossils have included mammoth and camel remains, while a horse fossil was identified in a  
16 gravel pit near the Central Facilities Area. None of the types of resources have been identified  
17 at the proposed construction location for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and its  
18 associated construction laydown area.

19  
20 **3.10 Visual/Scenic Resources**

21  
22 The baseline visual characteristics of the INEEL and the surrounding area, including  
23 designated scenic areas, are described in the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS  
24 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.5).

25  
26 INEEL is situated on the northwestern edge of the Eastern Snake River Plain. Volcanic cones,  
27 domes, and mountain ranges are visible from most areas on INEEL. Features of the natural  
28 landscape have a special importance to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes, and some prominent  
29 features of the INEEL landscape are within the visual range of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.  
30 The Bitterroot, Lemhi, and Lost River mountain ranges are visible to the north and west of  
31 INEEL. East Butte and Middle Butte can be seen near the southern boundary, while Circular  
32 and Antelope Buttes are visible to the northeast. Smaller volcanic buttes dot the natural  
33 landscape of INEEL, providing a striking contrast to the relatively flat ground surface. The  
34 viewscape in general consists of terrain dominated by sagebrush with an understory of grasses.  
35 Juniper is common near the buttes and foothills of the Lemhi range, while crested wheatgrass is  
36 scattered throughout INEEL.

37  
38 Nine primary facility areas, which resemble commercial or industrial complexes, are located on  
39 the INEEL (Figure 3-2). Structures generally range in height from 3 to 30 m [10 to 100 ft], with a  
40 few emission stacks and towers that reach 76 m [250 ft].

41  
42 Although many INEEL facilities are visible from public highways, most are located more than  
43 8 km [0.5 mi] from public roads. Approximately 145 km [90 mi] of public highways cross INEEL.  
44 U.S. Highway 20, which is traveled the most by the INEEL workforce, runs east to west across  
45 the southern portion of the site. U.S. Highway 26 runs southeast and northwest intersecting  
46 Highway 20, and State Highways 22, 28, and 33 cross the northeastern portion of INEEL  
47 (Figure 3-1).

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1 Lands within and adjacent to INEEL are subject to the BLM Visual Resource Management  
2 Guidelines (1986a). Adjacent lands are designated as a visual resource Class II area, which  
3 allows for moderate industrial growth, preserving and retaining the existing character of the  
4 landscape. Lands within the boundaries of INEEL are designated as Class III and Class IV  
5 areas, allowing for partial retention of existing character and major modifications, respectively  
6 (BLM, 1984).

7  
8 Craters of the Moon National Monument is located southwest of INTEC. A wilderness area is  
9 located within the boundary of the monument and its eastern boundary is approximately 43 km  
10 [27 mi] from the INTEC main stack. The wilderness area must maintain Class I visual resource  
11 management objectives. Emission sources proposed for location near Class I areas must  
12 exercise consideration that the proposed source would not adversely impact values such as  
13 visibility and scenic views. The BLM is considering the Black Canyon Wilderness Study Area,  
14 located adjacent to INEEL, for wilderness designation, which, if approved, would result in an  
15 upgrade of the BLM Visual Resource Management class for the area from Class II to  
16 Class I (1986b).

### 17 18 **3.11 Socioeconomics**

19  
20 Information in this section is drawn primarily from the DOE (2002a, Section 4.3). This overview  
21 of current socioeconomic conditions includes a seven-county region of influence: Bannock,  
22 Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Jefferson, and Madison. Also included are the Fort Hall  
23 Reservation and the Trust Lands, home of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Figure 3-1 shows  
24 towns and major transportation routes in the region of influence.

#### 25 26 **3.11.1 Population and Housing**

27  
28 Population growth in the region of influence paralleled statewide growth from 1960 to 1990, with  
29 approximate average annual rates of 1.3 and 1.4 percent, respectively (DOE, 2002a,  
30 Section 4.3). However, from 1990 to 2000, state population growth accelerated to 2.9 percent a  
31 year, compared with a region of influence growth of 1.4 percent (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3).  
32 Table 3-16 contains population estimates for the region of influence through 2000, as well as  
33 projections for 2005 through 2025. Such projections are not certain due to variability over time  
34 of birth, death, emigration and immigration rates, and other unanticipated factors in the region.  
35 But trends indicate that region of influence population would reach almost 269,000 by 2005 and  
36 339,700 by 2025 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3). For the longer time period of 2000 to 2025, the  
37 region is projected to grow by 26 percent, comparing closely with a projected growth of  
38 25 percent for the state as a whole.

39  
40 Bannock and Bonneville Counties alone accounted for 63 percent of the total region of influence  
41 population in 2000. Butte and Clark, in contrast, contain only 1.6 percent of the total. Pocatello  
42 (in Bannock County) and Idaho Falls (in Bonneville County), each with 2000 populations of  
43 approximately 51,000, comprise the largest cities. During 2000, INEEL employees and their  
44 families accounted for 17 percent of the Bonneville County population and comprised almost  
45 22 percent of the Idaho Falls population (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3). In Bannock and Madison  
46 Counties, INEEL employees and their families represent only 2 percent of the population.

47  
48 Of the 90,000 housing units in the region of influence during 2000, approximately 6.6 percent  
49 were vacant. Included in this number are dwellings used for seasonal, recreational, or other

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**Table 3-16. Population of the INEEL Region of Influence and Idaho: 1980-2025\***

County	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Bannock	65,421	66,026	72,043	75,565	81,303	84,474	90,894	96,802	102,710
Bingham	36,489	37,583	40,950	41,735	46,214	48,016	51,666	55,024	58,382
Bonneville	65,980	72,207	79,230	82,522	89,415	92,902	99,963	106,460	112,958
Butte	3,342	2,918	3,097	2,899	3,495	3,631	3,907	4,161	4,415
Clark	798	762	841	1,022	948	985	1,060	1,129	1,198
Jefferson	15,304	16,543	18,429	19,155	20,798	21,609	23,251	24,763	26,274
Madison	19,480	23,674	23,651	27,467	26,692	27,733	29,841	31,780	33,720
Region of Influence	206,814	219,713	238,241	250,365	268,865	279,350	300,582	320,119	339,657
Idaho	944,127	1,006,749	1,164,887	1,293,953	1,277,000	1,335,000	1,395,000	1,514,000	1,725,000

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

\* DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

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1 occasional purposes. In the region of influence, rental vacancy rates ranged from 5.9 percent in  
 2 Bonneville County to 14.7 percent in Butte County. Owned housing vacancy rates ranged from  
 3 1.6 percent in Madison and Bonneville Counties to 4.4 percent in Butte County  
 4 (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2000a). The average rental vacancy rate for the State of Idaho  
 5 was 7.6 percent, and the average owned housing vacancy rate was 2.2 percent  
 6 (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2000b). Twenty-six percent of the occupied housing units in  
 7 the region of influence were rental. This number compares with 25.9 percent for the state as a  
 8 whole. Bonneville and Bannock Counties, which include the cities of Idaho Falls and Pocatello,  
 9 had 66 percent of the housing units in the region (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2000a).  
 10 Housing characteristics for the region of influence are shown in Table 3-17.

11

12 **3.11.2 Employment and Income**

13

14 During the 1990s, the region of influence experienced an average annual growth rate in the  
 15 labor force of just under 2.4 percent (from 105,837 to 131,352), while the State of Idaho's labor  
 16 force grew at an annual rate of 3.4 percent (from 100,074 to 126,058). Employment in the  
 17 region of influence grew at an average annual rate of approximately 2.6 percent, while for the  
 18 state the figure was 3.5 percent (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2002). Tables 3-18, 3-19, and  
 19 3-20 depict historical trends in labor force, employment, and unemployment. The region of  
 20 influence experienced the lowest unemployment rate (4.0 percent) in a decade in 2000. This  
 21 rate was lower than the 4.9 percent for the state, though rates varied widely in the region of  
 22 influence from 2.5 percent in Madison County to 5.0 percent in Bannock County (U.S. Bureau of  
 23 Labor Statistics, 1997, 2002).

24

25

Table 3-17. Region of Influence Housing Characteristics (Year 2000) <sup>a</sup>					
County	Total Housing Units	Number of Owner-Occupied Units	Owned Housing Vacancy Rates (Percent)	Number of Rental Units	Rental Vacancy Rates (Percent)
Bannock	29,102	19,628	2.1	8,705	8.4
Bingham	14,303	10,746	1.7	3,038	9.4
Bonneville	30,484	21,817	1.6	7,739	5.9
Butte	1,290	878	4.4	293	14.7
Clark	521	239	3.3	127	14.2
Jefferson	6,287	5,107	1.9	960	7.0
Madison	7,630	4,286	1.6	3,133	7.0
Region of Influence	89,617	62,701	NA	23,995	NA

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 NA = Not applicable

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

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**Table 3-18. Historical Trends in Region of Influence Labor Force<sup>a</sup>**

County	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Bannock	30,488	33,684	31,342	36,310	39,502
Bingham	15,582	16,892	18,383	20,507	21,908
Bonneville	26,966	35,103	38,632	43,422	46,479
Butte	1,862	1,579	1,447	1,542	1,596
Clark	325	538	549	623	577
Jefferson	4,865	7,131	8,078	9,158	10,269
Madison	9,103	7,802	7,406	9,695	11,021
Region of Influence	89,191	102,729	105,837	121,257	131,352
Idaho	429,000	466,000	492,619	600,493	657,712

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
EIS = environmental impact statement

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

**Table 3-19. Historical Trends in Region of Influence Employment<sup>a</sup>**

County	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Bannock	28,207	31,064	29,051	34,183	37,533
Bingham	14,419	15,534	17,320	19,363	20,896
Bonneville	25,432	33,267	37,127	41,563	44,921
Butte	1,780	1,491	1,381	1,479	1,537
Clark	295	511	533	596	549
Jefferson	4,480	6,600	7,633	8,685	9,873
Madison	8,683	7,366	7,029	9,373	10,479
Region of Influence	83,296	95,833	100,074	115,242	126,058
Idaho	395,000	429,000	463,484	568,138	625,798

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
EIS = environmental impact statement

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

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1 **Table 3-20. Historical Trends in Region of Influence Unemployment Rates\***

2 <b>County</b>	<b>1980 (Percent)</b>	<b>1985 (Percent)</b>	<b>1990 (Percent)</b>	<b>1995 (Percent)</b>	<b>2000 (Percent)</b>
3 Bannock	7.5	7.8	7.3	5.9	5.0
4 Bingham	7.5	8.0	5.8	5.6	4.6
5 Bonneville	5.7	5.2	3.9	4.3	3.4
6 Butte	4.4	5.6	4.6	4.1	3.7
7 Clark	9.2	5.0	2.9	4.3	4.9
8 Jefferson	7.9	7.4	5.5	5.2	3.9
9 Madison	4.6	5.6	5.1	3.3	2.5
10 Region of Influence	6.6	6.7	5.4	5.0	4.0
11 Idaho	7.9	7.9	5.9	5.4	4.9

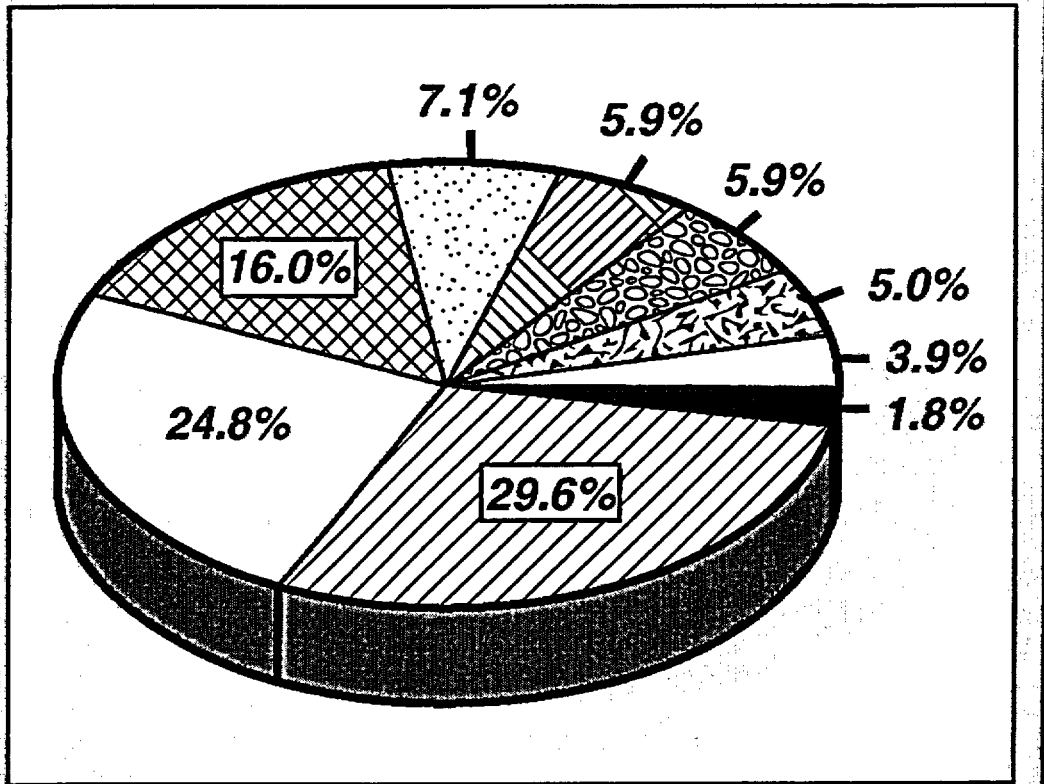
12 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 13 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 14  
 15 \* DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact  
 16 Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

17  
 18 Three sectors of the economy—service, government, and retail and wholesale trade—are the  
 19 largest sources of employment in the INEEL region of influence. These sectors accounted for  
 20 70 percent of the jobs in the region in 1995. This employment is against the backdrop of the  
 21 area's rural character and an economy that was historically based on natural resources and  
 22 agriculture. As has been the case in most regions of the country, nonagricultural sectors have  
 23 fueled economic growth during the past several decades. In 1995, farming and agricultural  
 24 services, though important to the region of influence economy, accounted for less than  
 25 8 percent of jobs. Manufacturing and construction are also important to the area economy,  
 26 accounting for approximately 13 percent of employment in 1995 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3).  
 27 The State of Idaho reflects similar trends, with the service, government, and retail and  
 28 wholesale trade sectors being the largest employers—62 percent of total employment. This  
 29 number is followed by 19 percent in manufacturing and construction. Figure 3-13 depicts  
 30 employment levels by major sectors for the region of influence.










31  
 32 The INEEL influence on the regional economy is apparent from the fact that in fiscal year 2001,  
 33 INEEL accounted for 8,100 jobs, or approximately 6 percent of the total in the region of  
 34 influence (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3). INEEL is among the top five employers in the State (the  
 35 state government is the largest) and is the largest in southeast Idaho. Consolidation of  
 36 contracts and reduction of defense-related activities have reduced the workforce from the  
 37 12,500 employee peak experienced in 1991. The job force was projected to stabilize to  
 38 approximately 8,000 after fiscal year 2000 (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3). Idaho State University,  
 39 American Microsystems, Inc., and local school districts are also major employers in the region.

40  
 41





**LEGEND**

-  **Services (37,465)**
-  **Wholesale and retail trade (31,340)**
-  **Government (20,233)** (including Federal, state, local, and military)
-  **Manufacturing (9,007)**
-  **Farm (7,410)**
-  **Construction (7,495)**
-  **Finance, insurance, and real estate (6,332)**
-  **Transportation and public utilities (4,981)**
-  **Agricultural service, forestry, and other (3,289)**  
(includes classified employees)

1 **Figure 3-13. 1995 Employment by Sector in the Seven-County Region of Influence**  
(Modified from DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3)

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 Per capita income in the region of influence rose 17 percent between 1990 and 1995, from  
2 \$14,136 to \$16,550. Income levels within the area varied from \$11,758 for Madison County to  
3 \$22,444 in Clark County. The per capita income for Idaho in 1995 was \$18,895 (DOE, 2002a,  
4 Section 4.3). Median household income also varied widely, ranging from \$23,000 in Madison  
5 County to \$30,462 in Bonneville County. Median household income for the state as a whole  
6 was \$25,257 and for the nation \$30,056.

7

### 8 **3.11.3 Community Services**

9

10 Key community services in the region of influence include education, law enforcement, fire  
11 protection, and medical services.

12

13 The 57,000 school-age children in the region are served by 17 public school districts and  
14 5 private schools. Idaho State University/University of Idaho Center of Higher Education, Ricks  
15 College, and the Eastern Idaho Technical College are institutions of higher education.

16

17 Fifteen county and municipal police departments employ 373 sworn officers and 149 civilians  
18 (1995 figures) to provide law enforcement. Departments range in size from those in Idaho Falls  
19 and Pocatello that employ 82 police officers to those in Clark County and the Firth Police  
20 Department with two officers each (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3).

21

22 Eighteen municipal fire districts with approximately 500 firefighters (of whom about 300 are  
23 volunteers) serve the region of influence (DOE, 1995). In addition, the INEEL fire department  
24 provides 24-hour coverage for the site. Its staff includes 50 firefighters, with no less than 16 on  
25 each shift. Gingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, and Jefferson Counties, which surround INEEL,  
26 have developed emergency plans to be implemented in event of a radiological or hazardous  
27 materials emergency. Each emergency plan identifies facilities, including those of the INEEL,  
28 that have extremely hazardous substances and defines routes for transportation of these  
29 substances. The emergency plans also include procedures for notification and response,  
30 listings of emergency equipment and facilities, evacuation routes, and training programs.

31

32 Seven hospitals with a 1,012-bed capacity, averaging 48-percent occupancy, are in the region  
33 of influence (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3). More than 65 percent of the hospital beds are in  
34 Bannock and Bonneville Counties. No hospitals are located in either Clark or Jefferson  
35 Counties. Although 283 physicians practice in the region, no primary-care physicians are  
36 located in Butte or Clark Counties (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.3).

37

### 38 **3.11.4 Public Finance**

39

40 INEEL employees' tax support to southeastern Idaho counties is presented in Table 3-21.  
41 These taxes help fund such local services as public schools, libraries, ambulance and other  
42 emergency services, road and bridge repairs, police, fire protection, recreational opportunities,  
43 and waste disposal. In 1998, INEEL contracts paid \$1.4 million to the State of Idaho in Idaho  
44 sales taxes and an additional \$0.9 million in Idaho franchise tax.

**Table 3-21. INEEL Tax Support to Southeastern Idaho Counties (in Millions of 1998 Dollars) Rates\***

County	Federal Tax	State Tax	Idaho Sales Tax	Property Tax	Total
Bannock	5.8	2.4	1.2	0.7	10.2
Bingham	10.2	4.2	2.1	1.0	17.6
Bonneville	51.0	21.0	10.7	5.9	88.6
Butte	1.7	0.7	0.4	0.1	2.9
Custer	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.04	1.2
Jefferson	5.4	2.2	1.1	0.5	9.1
Madison	1.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	2.3

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

\* DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.3. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

### 3.12 Environmental Justice

Information in this section is drawn primarily from the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.12). Executive Order 12898 (The White House, 1998) directs federal agencies to make the achievement of environmental justice part of their mission. This goal is accomplished by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of federal programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Where appropriate, federal agencies would also indicate the potential for disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income populations, minority populations, and Indian tribes. The following analysis is in accordance with the guidelines and procedures for compliance with the Executive Order promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997).

Demographic information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1992, 2000) was used to identify minority populations and low-income populations within an 80-km [50-mi] radius of INTEC.

The 80-km [50-mi] radius was selected because it was consistent with the region of influence for air emissions and because it includes portions of the seven counties that constitute the region for influence for socioeconomics. INTEC occupies the center of the circle, because the actions proposed in this EIS would be accomplished at INTEC.

#### 3.12.1 Community Characteristics

In accordance with Council of Environmental Quality guidelines, demographic maps were prepared using the latest available census data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Census tracts are designated areas that encompass from 2,500 to 8,000 people. Block Numbering

## Description of the Affected Environment

1 Areas follow the same basic criteria as census tracts in counties without formally defined tracts.  
2 Both are derived from the U.S. Bureau of the Census TIGER/Line files. Figures 3-14 and 3-15  
3 illustrate census tract distributions for minority populations and low-income populations.

4  
5 Council on Environmental Quality guidelines define minority as individual(s) who are members  
6 of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific  
7 Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997).  
8 The Council defines these groups as minority populations when either the minority population of  
9 the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or the percentage of minority population in the affected  
10 area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population  
11 or other appropriate unit of geographical analysis.

12  
13 In identifying low-income populations, a community may be considered either as a group of  
14 individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a set of individuals (such as migrant  
15 workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of  
16 environmental exposure or effect.

### 17 18 **3.12.2 Distribution of Minority and Low-Income Populations**

19  
20 According to year 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census data for census blocks wholly contained  
21 within the 80-km [50-mi] region of influence for INTEC and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
22 Facility, 129,670 people resided in the area (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000). Of this number,  
23 12 percent (15,546 people) were classified as minority individuals. If the major urban areas of  
24 Idaho Falls and Pocatello are excluded from the analysis, the respective figures are a  
25 population of 78,486, with minority individuals comprising 15 percent of the total. Thus, outside  
26 the primary urban areas, the population is sparse, and minority representation tends to be  
27 higher. Figure 3-14 depicts the percent of minority population by census block including those  
28 only partly contained within the 80-km [50-mi] radius of INTEC and the proposed Idaho Spent  
29 Fuel Facility. Minority composition was primarily Hispanic, Native American, and Asian peoples.  
30 The Fort Hall Reservation of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes lies largely within the region  
31 of influence.

32  
33 With regard to low-income population data, Figure 3-15, based on census tract-level  
34 information, reveals that only the Fort Hall area has a population of greater than 25 percent  
35 below the poverty level. Table 3-22 reveals data for all incorporated cities and  
36 census-designated places within the region of influence in comparison with the state as a  
37 whole. The data indicate wide differences in median household income levels—from a low of  
38 \$9,375 in Atomic City (population 25) to a high of \$49,135 in Lewisville (population 467). The  
39 median household income for the State of Idaho in 1999 was \$37,572. Approximately  
40 13.1 percent of the total population live below the 1999 poverty levels (\$8,501 for  
41 unrelated individuals).

### 42 43 **3.13 Public and Occupational Health and Safety**

#### 44 45 **3.13.1 Public Health**

46  
47 The final EIS for disposition of HLW at INEEL (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.11) describes  
48 background radiological and nonradiological conditions in the region of the INEEL facility. The  
49 population of the Eastern Snake River Plain is exposed to radiation that comes from natural

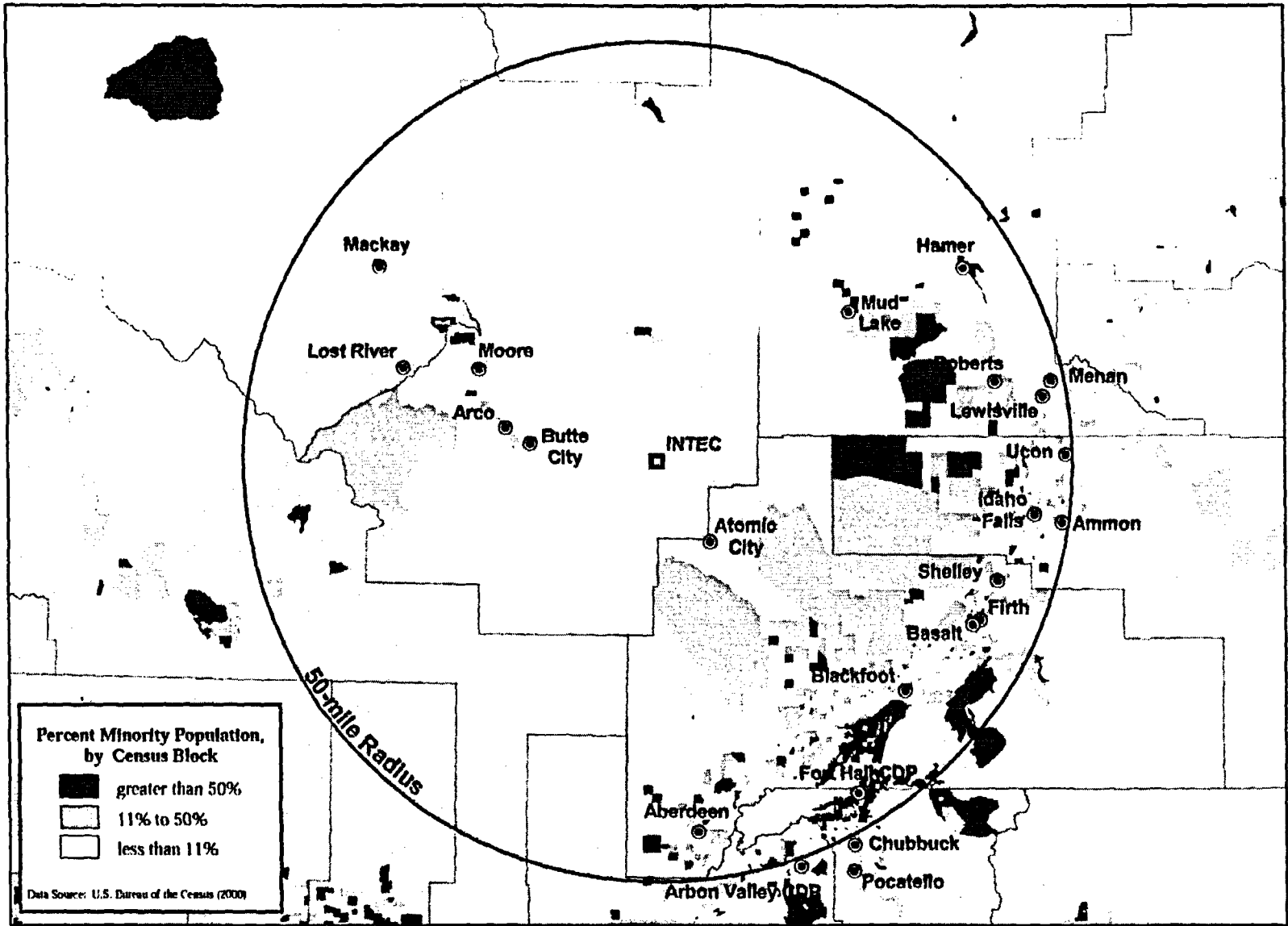


Figure 3-14. Minority Population Distribution within 80 km [50 mi] of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility

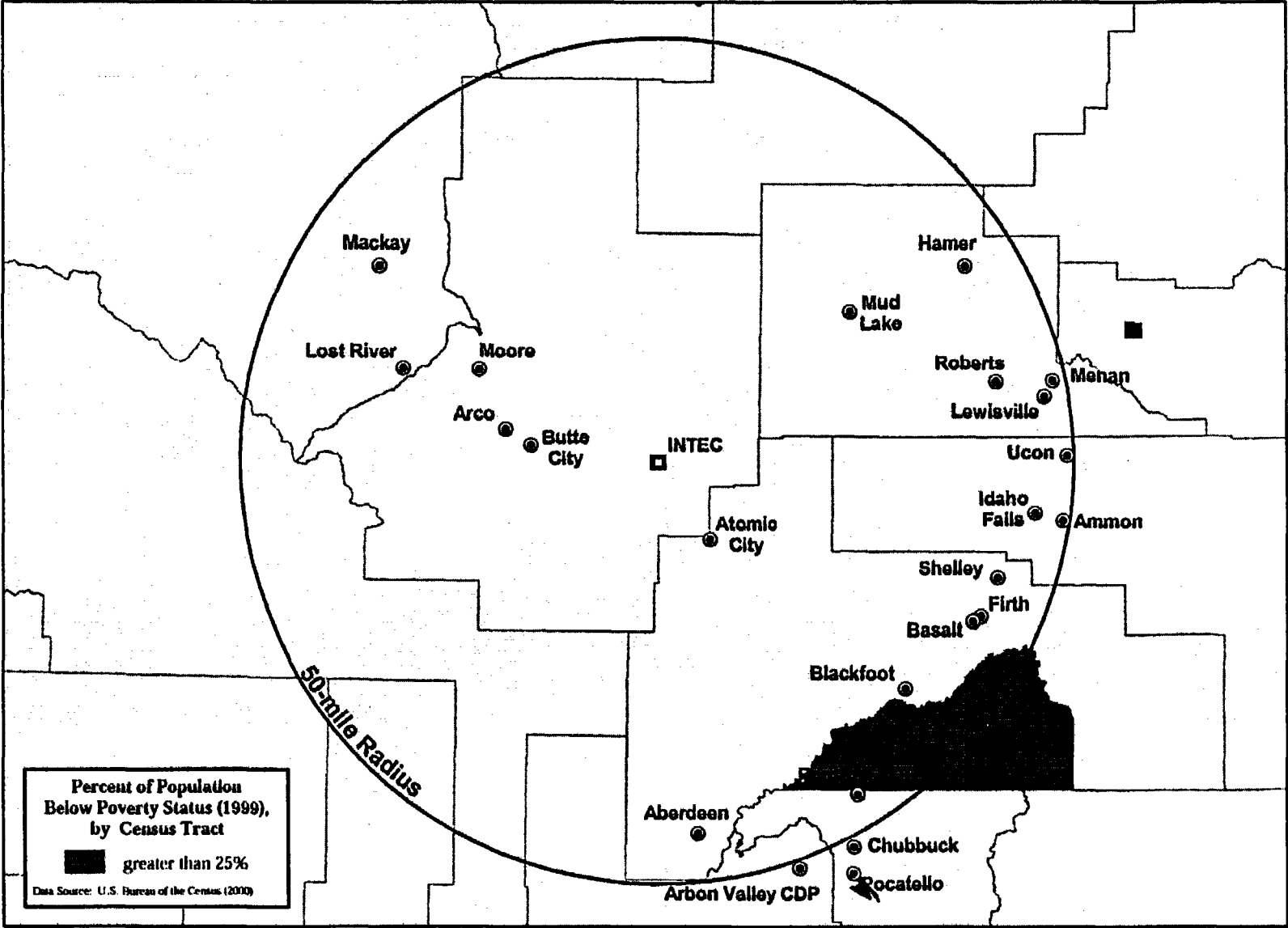


Figure 3-15. Low-Income Population Distribution within 80 km [50 mi] of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility

**Table 3-22. Population and Selected Socioeconomic Statistics for All Incorporated Cities and Census-Designated Places within 80 km [50 mi] of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility\***

Incorporated City or Census-Designated Places	Total Population		Nonminority Population		Minority Population		Median Household Income (1999)		Individuals Below Poverty Level (1999)		Families Below Poverty Level (1999)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Aberdeen	1,840	NA	1,220	66.3	620	33.7	\$28,625	NA	375	20.5	65	14.9
American Falls	4,111	NA	3,353	81.6	758	18.4	\$30,955	NA	702	17.3	134	12.7
Ammon	6,187	NA	5,930	95.8	257	4.2	\$47,820	NA	340	5.6	54	3.4
Arbon Valley Census-Designated Places	627	NA	548	87.4	79	12.9	\$36,818	NA	78	13.5	13	8.0
Arco	1,028	NA	976	98.1	50	4.9	\$27,993	NA	232	22.6	55	19.6
Atomic City	25	NA	24	96	1	4.0	\$9,375	NA	12	57.1	5	62.5
Basalt	419	NA	356	85.0	63	15.0	\$36,719	NA	53	10.9	9	7.1
Blackfoot	10,419	NA	9,040	86.8	1,379	13.2	\$33,004	NA	1,478	14.6	312	11.5
Butte City	76	NA	69	90.8	7	9.2	\$17,250	NA	23	30.7	4	25.0
Chubbuch	9,700	NA	8,905	91.8	795	8.2	\$41,688	NA	1,160	12.0	232	9.1
Firth	408	NA	287	70.3	121	29.7	\$23,239	NA	93	25.7	16	20.0
Fort Hall Census-Designated Places	3,193	NA	965	30.2	2,228	69.8	\$30,313	NA	847	27.2	172	22.6
Hamer	12	NA	5	41.7	7	58.3	\$24,167	NA	0	0.0	0	0.0
Idaho Falls	50,730	NA	46,717	92.1	4,013	7.9	\$40,512	NA	5,403	10.9	1,028	7.8
Lewisville	467	NA	406	86.9	61	13.1	\$49,135	NA	38	7.5	12	9.6
Lost River	26	NA	22	84.6	4	15.4	\$31,667	NA	2	6.9	0	0.0
Mackay	566	NA	558	98.6	8	1.4	\$23,807	NA	106	18.4	20	13.0
Menan	707	NA	616	87.1	91	12.9	\$34,406	NA	85	11.9	14	7.3
Moore	196	NA	192	98.0	4	2.0	\$28,984	NA	27	13.1	6	10.0
Mud Lake	270	NA	209	77.4	61	22.6	\$28,194	NA	62	27.8	13	21.7
Pocatello	51,466	NA	47,513	92.3	3,953	7.7	\$34,326	NA	7,688	15.4	1,398	10.7
Roberts	647	NA	322	49.8	325	50.2	\$31,071	NA	132	18.9	17	12.6
Shelly	3,813	NA	3,429	89.9	384	10.1	\$39,318	NA	369	9.6	79	7.9
Ucon	943	NA	899	95.3	44	4.7	\$39,375	NA	96	9.8	17	7.2
State of Idaho	1,293,953	100.0	1,177,304	91.0	116,649	9.0	\$37,572	NA	148,732	11.8	28,131	8.3

NA = not applicable

\* U.S. Bureau of the Census. "2000 Census of Population and Housing." Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 2000.

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## Description of the Affected Environment

1 background sources and industrial  
2 sources. The major source of radiation  
3 in this region is natural background  
4 radiation. Sources of radioactivity  
5 related to INEEL activities contribute a  
6 small amount of additional exposure.

7  
8 Natural or background sources of  
9 radiation include radiation from radon (a  
10 naturally occurring airborne  
11 radionuclide), cosmic rays, and  
12 radioactivity naturally present in soils,  
13 rocks, and the human body.

14 Radioactivity still remaining in the  
15 environment as a result of worldwide  
16 atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons  
17 also contributes to the background  
18 radiation level, although in very small  
19 amounts. The natural background  
20 radiation dose that Eastern Snake River Plain residents receive is estimated at 3.6 mSv/yr  
21 [360 mrem/yr]. More than half (about 2 mSv/yr [200 mrem/yr]) of this natural radiation dose  
22 (Table 3-23) is attributed to the inhalation of radioactive particles formed by radon decay  
23 (DOE, 2002a).

24  
25 Industrial sources of radiation include radiation released from activities occurring within the  
26 INEEL site. These activities can release radioactivity either directly, such as through stacks or  
27 venting, or indirectly, such as resuspension of radioactivity from disturbing contaminated soils.  
28 Previous environmental documentation on the site indicates airborne emissions represent the  
29 primary pathway of concern for potential public health impacts (DOE, 2002a, Section 4.11).  
30 While a potential exists for groundwater contamination, significant public health impacts are not  
31 expected because of the long distances between the site and public areas. Both  
32 nonradiological and radiological emissions are described in detail in Section 3.7.

33  
34 While ongoing health impact studies are being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control  
35 and Prevention (DOE, 2002a), prior environmental documentation (DOE, 2002a) has included  
36 estimates of radiological and nonradiological impacts from facility operations to the population in  
37 the vicinity of the site. Table 3-24 provides dose and latent cancer fatality probability results  
38 from annual exposure to routine airborne releases in 1995, 1996, and 1999 for the maximally  
39 exposed off-site individual. The estimated doses are well below the 0.1 mSv/yr [10 mrem/yr]  
40 limit provided in 40 CFR Part 61. The estimated dose to the surrounding population and  
41 number of latent cancer fatalities from annual exposures in 1995, 1996, and 1999 are provided  
42 in Table 3-25. The number of latent cancer fatalities estimated in the population for the next  
43 70 years from the annual estimated exposure levels is less than 1. Lifetime health effects to the  
44 off-site population from groundwater pathway exposures were also estimated in a prior EIS to  
45 be 1 in 170 million (DOE, 1995).

46  
47 Health risks to the public from routine nonradiological airborne emissions at INEEL have been  
48 previously estimated (DOE, 1995). These estimates considered exposures to a maximally  
49 exposed off-site individual and the population within 80 km [50 mi] of the site. With EPA dose

### Latent Cancer Fatality

Latent cancer fatalities are a measure of the calculated number of additional cancer deaths in a population as a result of exposure to radiation. Latent cancers can occur from one to many years after the exposure takes place.

The EPA has suggested a conversion factor that for every 100-person-Sv [10,000-person-rem] of collective dose, approximately 0.06 individuals would develop a cancer induced by radiation exposure. If the conversion factor is multiplied by the collective dose to a population, the result is the number of latent cancer fatalities in excess of what would be expected without the radiation exposure.

Because these results are statistical estimates, values for expected latent cancer fatalities can be, and often are, less than 1 for cases involving low doses or small populations.



**Table 3-23. Sources and Contributions to the U.S. Average Individual Radiation Dose<sup>a,b</sup>**

Source	Effective Dose Equivalent (mSv/yr)	Effective Dose Equivalent (mrem/yr)
<b>Natural Background Radiation</b>		
Cosmic radiation	0.27	27
Rocks and soil (external)	0.28	28
Internal to body	0.40	40
Radon (internal/inhalation)	2.0	200
Subtotal	≈2.95	≈295
<b>Humanmade Background Radiation</b>		
Weapons test fallout	<0.01	<1
Consumer products	0.10	10
Diagnostic X-rays	0.39	39
Nuclear medicine	0.14	14
Subtotal	0.64	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>≈3.6</b>	<b>≈360</b>

<sup>a</sup> Arnett and Mamatey. "Savannah River Site Environmental Report for 2000." WSRC--TR--2000--0329. Aiken, South Carolina: Westinghouse Savannah River Company. 2001.  
<sup>b</sup> National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. "Ionizing Radiation Exposure of the Population of the United States: Recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements." NCRP Report No. 93. Bethesda, Maryland: National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. 1987.

**Table 3-24. Annual Dose to Individuals from Exposure to Routine Airborne Releases at INEEL<sup>a</sup>**

Maximally Exposed Individual	Annual Dose (mrem)	Latent Cancer Fatality Probability
On-Site Worker (1998) <sup>b</sup>	0.27	$1.1 \times 10^{-7}$
Off-Site Public Individual (1995)	0.018	$9.0 \times 10^{-9}$
Off-Site Public Individual (1996)	0.031	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}$
Off-Site Public Individual (1999)	0.008	$4.0 \times 10^{-9}$

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Maximum dose at any on-site area from permanent facility emissions for noninvolved on-site worker.

NOTE: To convert millirems (mrem) to millisieverts (mSv), multiply by 0.01.

Description of the Affected Environment

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Table 3-25. Estimated Increased Health Effects Due to Routine Airborne Releases at INEEL <sup>a</sup>		
Year	Population Dose (person-Sv)	Estimated Number of Latent Cancer Fatalities
1995	$8 \times 10^{-4}$	$4.0 \times 10^{-5}$
1996	$2.4 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-4}$
1999	$3.7 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

NOTE: To convert person-Sv to person-rem, multiply by 100.

response values (EPA, 1993, 1994) being used in the calculations, no adverse health impacts for noncarcinogenic constituents in air emissions (including fluorides, ammonia, and hydrochloric and sulfuric acids) were projected. Off-site excess cancer risk from carcinogenic emissions (e.g., arsenic, benzene, carbon tetrachloride, and formaldehyde) ranged from 1 in 1.4 million to 1 in 625 million. Consideration of potential health impacts from drinking water from INTEC wells and distribution systems indicates EPA maximum contaminant levels and State of Idaho drinking water limits have not been exceeded for volatile organic compounds. Risks from chemical carcinogens were estimated at less than 1 occurrence in 1 million (DOE, 2002a) and 0 for noncarcinogenic chemical contaminants.

**3.13.2 Occupational Health and Safety**

Occupational health conditions at the INEEL facility have been previously described in DOE (2002a). Occupational radiological exposures are typically maintained at levels well below DOE occupational exposure limits through the implementation of radiation protection procedures that emphasize maintaining exposures as low as is reasonably achievable (DOE, 2002a). Effects of long-term occupational exposures are also the subject of ongoing investigations conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Routine exposure measurements of workers have been used to assess potential health effects. Radiation workers at INEEL can be exposed to radiation internally (from inhalation and ingestion) and externally (from direct exposure). In general, the largest fraction of occupational dose received by INEEL workers is external radiation from direct exposure (DOE, 2002a). The average occupational dose at INEEL between 1997 and 2000 was 0.84 mSv [84 mrem], a value well below the annual occupational dose limits of 50 mSv [5,000 mrem] in 10 CFR Part 20.

Nonradiological occupational exposures are controlled through the implementation of industrial hygiene and occupational safety programs. Recordable case rate for injury and illness incidences at INEEL varied from an annual average of 3.1 to 3.7 per 200,000 work hours from 1992 to 1996. During this time, lost workday cases ranged from 1.3 to 1.8 per 200,000 work

1 hours (DOE, 1997b). The recordable case rate for injury and illnesses for INEEL workers is less  
2 than that for DOE and its contractors at other facilities, which varied from 3.5 to 3.8 per  
3 200,000 work hours. Two fatalities occurred at INEEL between 1992 and July 1998, one  
4 occurred in a construction fall and the other resulted from carbon dioxide asphyxiation cause by  
5 a misactivation of fire-suppression systems during maintenance.

### 6 7 **3.14 Waste Management**

8  
9 Waste generated during the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
10 Facility will be handled under the existing waste management system at INEEL. Existing waste  
11 management activities at INEEL have been described in previous environmental documentation  
12 (DOE, 2002a). The following paragraphs describe sources, generation rates, and volumes for  
13 wastes, including solid waste, hazardous waste, mixed low-level radioactive waste, low-level  
14 radioactive waste, transuranic radioactive waste, and HLW.

15  
16 INEEL has programs and physical or engineered processes in place to reduce or eliminate  
17 waste generation and to reduce the hazard, toxicity, and quantity of waste generated. Waste is  
18 also recycled to the extent possible before, or in lieu of, its storage or disposal. In addition,  
19 INEEL has reduced the volume of radioactive wastes through more intensive surveying, waste  
20 segregation, and administrative and engineering controls. These programs and their results  
21 have been described in various documents including site-treatment plans (DOE, 1998) and  
22 annual progress reports (DOE, 1997c).

23  
24 A variety of wastes are generated at INEEL. Table 3-26 provides a summary of waste volumes  
25 for individual waste types at INEEL. Industrial and commercial solid waste is disposed of at the  
26 INEEL Landfill Complex in the Central Facilities Area. About 91 ha [225 acres] are available for  
27 solid-waste disposal at the landfill complex. The capacity is sufficient to dispose of INEEL  
28 waste for 30 to 50 years. Recyclable materials are segregated from the solid-waste stream at  
29 each INEEL facility. The average annual volume of waste disposed of at the landfill complex  
30 from 1988 through 1992 was 52,000 m<sup>3</sup> [68,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] (EG&G, Idaho, Inc., 1993). For 1996 and  
31 1997, the volume of waste was approximately 45,000 and 54,000 m<sup>3</sup> [58,850 and 70,625 yd<sup>3</sup>],  
32 respectively. The average annual volume of waste disposed of from 1998 through 2001 was  
33 approximately 43,000 m<sup>3</sup> [56,240 yd<sup>3</sup>] (DOE, 2002a).

34  
35 The INEEL hazardous waste management strategy is to minimize generation and storage and  
36 use private sector treatment and disposal. Approximately 120 m<sup>3</sup> [157 yd<sup>3</sup>] of hazardous waste  
37 are generated at the site each year. Hazardous waste is treated and disposed of at off-site  
38 facilities and is transported by the commercial treatment contractor. The waste is packaged for  
39 shipment according to waste acceptance criteria at the receiving facility. The waste generator  
40 normally holds waste in a temporary accumulation area until it is shipped directly to the off-site  
41 commercial treatment facility.

42  
43 About 2,100 m<sup>3</sup> [2,750 yd<sup>3</sup>] of mixed low-level waste are presently at the INEEL site (DOE,  
44 2002b). In addition to the current volume of mixed low-level waste in inventory at the site,  
45 approximately 160 m<sup>3</sup> [209 yd<sup>3</sup>] of mixed low-level waste is generated annually (DOE, 2002b).  
46 Several mixed waste treatment facilities exist at the INEEL.

47  
48 About 170,000 m<sup>3</sup> [222,340 yd<sup>3</sup>] of low-level waste have been disposed of at the Radioactive  
49 Waste Management Complex (DOE, 1995, 1997d). Currently, approximately 980 m<sup>3</sup> [1,280 yd<sup>3</sup>]

Description of the Affected Environment

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<b>Table 3-26. Summary of Waste Volumes Awaiting Treatment and Disposal at INEEL<sup>a,b</sup></b>		
<b>Waste Type</b>	<b>Current Inventory</b>	<b>Annual Generation (m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Industrial Solid	— <sup>c</sup>	43,000
Hazardous Waste	None <sup>d</sup>	120
Mixed Low-Level Waste	2,100 m <sup>3</sup>	160
Low-Level Waste	980 m <sup>3</sup>	2,900
Transuranic Waste <sup>e</sup>	65,000 m <sup>3</sup>	—
High-Level Waste (calcine)	4,400 m <sup>3</sup>	—
Mixed Transuranic Waste/Sodium-Bearing Waste	3,785,000 L	—

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = environmental impact statement  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Section 4.7. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
<sup>b</sup> Does not include waste already disposed of at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex or other locations.  
<sup>c</sup> Dash indicates no information available.  
<sup>d</sup> Waste is shipped offsite before any significant inventory buildup.  
<sup>e</sup> A portion of the 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> of transuranic waste retrievably stored at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex may be reclassified as alpha mixed low-level waste. It has been estimated that approximately 40 percent of the 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> is alpha mixed low-level waste, and 60 percent is actually transuranic waste.

NOTE: To convert meters cubed (m<sup>3</sup>) to yards cubed (yd<sup>3</sup>), multiply by 1.3079; to convert liters (L) to gallons (gal), multiply by 0.264.

of low-level waste are in inventory at INEEL (DOE, 2002a). All on-site-generated low-level waste is stored temporarily at generator facilities until it can be shipped directly to the Radioactive Waste Management Complex for disposal. DOE expects to stop accepting contact-handled and remote-handled low-level wastes at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex in 2020 (DOE, 2002a).

Approximately 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> [85,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] of transuranic and alpha-contaminated mixed low-level wastes are retrievably stored, and 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> [78,500 yd<sup>3</sup>] of transuranic waste have been buried at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (DOE, 1995). The Radioactive Waste Management Complex is composed of seven Type II storage modules, each of which can hold up to 4,465 m<sup>3</sup> [5,840 yd<sup>3</sup>] of waste in drums or boxes. The total storage capacity is 31,255 m<sup>3</sup> [40,878 yd<sup>3</sup>]. The processing capacity of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility is 6,500 m<sup>3</sup>/yr [8,500 yd<sup>3</sup>/yr], and the expected duration of facility operation is 30 years (DOE, 1999). All 65,000 m<sup>3</sup> [85,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] of the retrievably stored wastes were considered to be transuranic waste when first stored at INEEL. In 1982, DOE Order 5820.2 changed the definition of transuranic waste. The new definition excluded alpha-emitting waste less than 100 × 10<sup>-9</sup> curies/g [3.5 × 10<sup>-9</sup> curies/oz] at the time of assay. Because all the waste was initially considered to be transuranic waste, the alpha-emitting wastes were co-mingled in the same containers as the transuranic waste.

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1 DOE has not determined the final disposition of the buried transuranic waste (DOE, 1995).  
2 However, DOE currently plans to treat and repackage the retrievably-stored transuranic and  
3 alpha-contaminated low-level waste so that all the resulting waste qualifies as transuranic  
4 waste. This waste would then be certified and shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New  
5 Mexico for final disposition. The Record of Decision from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
6 Disposal Phase Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was issued in January  
7 1998 (DOE, 1998), and the first shipments of transuranic waste from the INEEL to the Waste  
8 Isolation Pilot Plant occurred in April and August 1999. Since the October 1988 ban by the  
9 State of Idaho on shipments of transuranic waste to INEEL, DOE has shipped only small  
10 amounts of transuranic waste generated on the site to the Radioactive Waste Management  
11 Complex for interim storage.

12  
13 From 1952 to 1991, DOE processed SNF and irradiated targets at the INTEC. The resulting  
14 liquid mixed HLW was stored in the Tank Farm. Mixed transuranic waste/sodium-bearing waste  
15 generated from the cleanup of solvent used to recover uranium and from decontamination  
16 processes at the INTEC is also stored in the Tank Farm. Although not directly produced from  
17 SNF processing, mixed transuranic waste/solid sodium-bearing waste at INEEL has been  
18 historically managed as HLW because of some of its physical properties. For purposes of  
19 analysis, INEEL has assumed that solid sodium-bearing waste is mixed transuranic waste in  
20 prior EISs (DOE, 2002a).

21  
22 At present, approximately 4,400 m<sup>3</sup> [5,750 yd<sup>3</sup>] of HLW calcine are stored at INTEC. INEEL no  
23 longer generates liquid mixed HLW because SNF processing has been terminated (DOE,  
24 1995). All liquid mixed HLW produced from past processing has been blended and  
25 reprocessed, through calcination, to produce granular calcine. Mixed transuranic waste/solid  
26 sodium-bearing waste is generated from incidental activities associated with operations at  
27 INTEC (DOE, 1996b). Currently, approximately 3,800,000 L [1,000,000 gal] of mixed  
28 transuranic waste/solid sodium-bearing waste are in storage at INTEC, and this amount is  
29 expected to be reduced to about 3,028,000 L [800,000 gal] by the time waste processing begins  
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## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section presents the potential impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. For the proposed action, the environmental impact statement (EIS) would consider impacts from construction activities, normal operational events, reasonably foreseeable accidents, and cumulative impacts. Cumulative impacts are discussed separately in Section 4.14. Impacts from the no-action alternative are presented in Section 4.15. The safety aspects of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will be evaluated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in more detail in the safety evaluation report to be prepared by NRC.

In constructing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) would prepare the site adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). This preparation would include clearing and grading, extension and realignment of existing facilities, and addition of any necessary roads. After site preparation, there would be excavation for the foundations and below-grade facilities, erection of the buildings, connection of the INTEC utilities to the facility, and any final landscaping. Potential operational impacts would include emissions from routine operations, transfer from current storage locations, and credible accidents and external events. Because the current storage location for the spent nuclear fuel (SNF) is at the INTEC facility, the transfer distances would be short and conducted according to existing U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) procedures.

### 4.1 Land Use Impacts

If the FWENC construction authorization is approved, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be constructed on a previously disturbed site currently in use as a construction laydown area adjacent to the southeast corner of INTEC. This property is classified as least productive (FWENC, 2001a). Construction equipment would be used to grade the site and excavate the foundation for the facility. Explosives would not be used to establish below-grade areas. During construction, equipment delivering cement and other construction materials would access the site. In addition to the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site for the facility, a 4.1-ha [10-acre] plot northeast of the site would be used as a construction laydown area. Because it is not part of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the only construction activities here would be some grading and leveling, as for a parking lot. The construction laydown area would have similar restrictions and effects on land use as the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site itself.

#### NRC Environmental and Safety Reviews

The focus of an EIS is a presentation of the environmental impacts of the proposed action. In addition to meeting its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NRC prepares a safety evaluation report to analyze the safety of the proposed action and assess its compliance with applicable NRC regulations.

The safety and environmental reviews are conducted in parallel. Although there is some overlap between the content of a safety evaluation report and the EIS, the intent of the documents is different. To aid in the decision process, the EIS provides a summary of the more detailed analyses included in the safety evaluation report. The EIS does not address accident scenarios, rather it addresses the environmental impacts which would result from the accident. Much of the information describing the affected environment in the EIS is also applicable to the safety evaluation report (e.g., demographics, geology, and meteorology).

## Environmental Impacts

1 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility does not have an independent electrical transmission  
2 corridor for power distribution. Electrical power for operations would be supplied from the  
3 INTEC distribution system. The INTEC distribution system would be connected to the proposed  
4 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site boundary through a small substation. The final leg of the  
5 connection would route underground supply cables approximately 61 m [200 ft] to the proposed  
6 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Because the connection to the distribution system and routing path is  
7 on the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site, the impact of the transmission corridor on land  
8 use is negligible.

9  
10 Once the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is completed, access to the site would be  
11 restricted, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 73, to activities in support of facility operations. By  
12 terms of this restricted access, the property would be unavailable for other uses such as  
13 exploration of mineral resources. No mineral resources have been found at the proposed site  
14 (Section 3.4.3). As described in Section 3.2, livestock grazing is already prohibited within  
15 3.2 km [2 mi] of INTEC, so the impact on grazing and hunting would be negligible. Also, the  
16 nearest boundary of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)  
17 Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Reserve is located more than 17.6 km [11 mi] to the north of  
18 INTEC and would not be affected by the proposed facility.

19  
20 Construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would physically change the 3.2-ha  
21 [8-acre] tract. Because the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site (i) is only a small portion of  
22 the 2,580-km<sup>2</sup> [890-mi<sup>2</sup>] INEEL and (ii) has been previously disturbed, the physical changes are  
23 minor. As outlined previously, these changes would restrict land use and would have a small  
24 impact during construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

25

## 26 4.2 Transportation Impacts

27

28 Potential transportation-related impacts can be caused by construction activities, SNF transfer  
29 from interim storage to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, and the eventual transfer of SNF  
30 to a geologic repository for final disposal. The peak workforce for construction of the proposed  
31 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is estimated at 250 workers (FWENC, 2003). These additional  
32 workers would not increase the total INEEL workforce from previous levels when the facility had  
33 greater numbers of employees (FWENC, 2003). Given available road capacity (discussed in  
34 Section 3.3) and the relatively small number of additional construction workers, the impacts to  
35 local transportation infrastructure from construction are expected to be minor. Potential impacts  
36 from SNF transfer and geologic disposal are discussed in the following sections.

37

### 38 4.2.1 SNF Transfer from Interim Storage to the Proposed Idaho Spent 39 Fuel Facility

40

41 Most SNF for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is presently being stored at the adjacent  
42 INTEC, which is inside the boundary of the INEEL facility. The SNF for the proposed Idaho  
43 Spent Fuel Facility that remains to be shipped to INTEC consists of approximately 500 training,  
44 research, and isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA) elements. The environmental  
45 impacts of transporting these remaining TRIGA elements from their foreign sites of origin to  
46 United States ports of entry were previously assessed by DOE (1996a) and summarized in a  
47 record of decision (DOE, 1996b). The environmental impacts of shipping the same fuel from the  
48 United States ports of entry to INEEL were also previously assessed by DOE in a separate EIS  
49 (DOE, 1995). Both assessments found low environmental impacts from planned transportation



1 of TRIGA fuel. Because transportation impacts have been previously evaluated, no new  
2 assessment of impacts associated with SNF shipments is necessary for this EIS.

3  
4 Details of proposed systems and operations for fuel transfer to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
5 Facility from INTEC are provided in the applicant's Safety Analysis Report (FWENC, 2001b).  
6 Fuel transfer is expected to occur using the DOE-supplied casks (Peach Bottom PB-1 and  
7 PB-2 casks) loaded onto trailers (flatbed and lowboy depending on cask type) for a distance of  
8 about 460 m [1,500 ft] between the two facilities (FWENC, 2001b, Appendix A). The casks are  
9 expected to provide the necessary geometric control and configuration, confinement, and  
10 shielding of the SNF to ensure the radiation protection and criticality safety requirements are  
11 met at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Detailed descriptions of cask design, testing,  
12 and prior certification information are also provided in the applicant's Safety Analysis Report  
13 (FWENC, 2001b, Appendix A). A conservative shielding analysis using a Peach Bottom cask  
14 loaded with TRIGA fuel (highest photon flux of all fuel types included in the proposed action)  
15 estimated the dose rate at contact surface of the package to be less than 0.1 mSv/hr  
16 [10 mrem/hr] and 0.034 mSv/hr [3.4 mrem/hr] at 0.3 m [1 ft] (FWENC, 2001b, Appendix A).  
17 Dose estimates that include transfer operations are provided in the occupational health impacts  
18 section (4.12.1.2.2). That section indicates worker dose estimates are well below the annual  
19 occupational dose limit in 10 CFR Part 20 {50 mSv/yr [5,000 mrem/yr]}. Although dose  
20 estimates provide insight about potential radiation exposures during operations, all occupational  
21 radiation exposures will be maintained below the limits of 10 CFR Part 20 by implementing a  
22 compliant radiation protection program (FWENC, 2001b, Section 3.3)

23  
24 The transporter is a tractor with administratively controlled petroleum fuel content and speed of  
25 travel to reduce the chance of fire or transport accidents (FWENC, 2001b, Appendix A).  
26 Scenarios and estimated consequences for potential off-normal events and accidents including  
27 those that could impact transfer operations are discussed in Sections 4.12.2 and 4.12.3.  
28 Because the transfer of fuel from INTEC to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility occurs  
29 completely within the boundaries of the site (i.e., INEEL), there are no significant off-site dose or  
30 transportation impacts from proposed normal transfer operations.

31  
32 Factors such as the restricted access on-site location, limited speed and distance traveled, low  
33 dose rate from the shielded packages, and administrative controls (including a radiation  
34 protection program that addresses 10 CFR Part 20 requirements) provide confidence that  
35 transfer operations can be conducted safely with minimal adverse environmental impacts.

#### 36 37 **4.2.2 Shipment of SNF to a Proposed Geologic Repository**

38  
39 In accordance with the 1995 Settlement Agreement among DOE, the State of Idaho, and the  
40 U.S. Navy, it is anticipated that SNF would be transferred from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
41 Facility to a geologic repository by 2035. The specific timing of the removal would depend on  
42 DOE having a repository constructed and ready to receive SNF and on the schedules  
43 developed by DOE to ship SNF from current storage locations around the United States to  
44 a repository.

45  
46 General aspects of the removal would require transfer of the SNF from its interim storage at the  
47 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and loading the SNF either onto trucks or specially designed railroad  
48 cars for transport to the geologic repository. As part of the DOE contract with FWENC, the  
49 storage containers for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are to be designed for direct

## Environmental Impacts

1 shipment to a repository, and no intermediate fuel repackaging is anticipated. Generic  
2 environmental impacts of transporting SNF to a geologic repository are analyzed in a series of  
3 DOE EISs (DOE, 1999a, 2001a, 2002b) prepared for a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain,  
4 Nevada. As necessary, the EIS is to be updated by DOE to support a license application to  
5 NRC. As described by requirements in 10 CFR 51.109, NRC is required to adopt the DOE EIS  
6 to the extent practicable. At the time of publication of this EIS, there is no license application  
7 before NRC for a geologic repository.

### 9 **4.3 Geological and Soils Impacts**

10  
11 Most of the waste processing activities for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would take  
12 place inside the perimeter fence at INTEC, an area dedicated to industrial use at INEEL for  
13 more than 40 years. No mineral deposits or unique geologic resources have been found in or  
14 adjacent to the INTEC area. Thus, no impacts are expected to these resources during  
15 construction or normal facility operations. Most impacts to soils are expected to be associated  
16 with routine construction activities such as excavating, earthmoving, and grading. Waste  
17 management facilities would be designed with safeguards to minimize impacts (e.g., spills of  
18 toxic substances) to soils during normal facility operations. Because the facilities would be  
19 enclosed, no operational impacts to geologic resources are anticipated.

### 21 **4.4 Water Resources Impacts**

#### 23 **4.4.1 Water Quality Impacts**

24  
25 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be constructed on the edge of the Big Lost River  
26 flood plain southeast of the main channel. The nearest boundary of the proposed Idaho Spent  
27 Fuel Facility is about 1,200 m [4,000 ft] from the Big Lost River. Other nearby surface water  
28 bodies include sewage treatment lagoons in the INTEC area and two percolation ponds south of  
29 INTEC. Because the treatment lagoons and percolation ponds are artificial and not intended to  
30 support aquatic life, the impact on water quality is not examined for purposes of this section.  
31 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site is 140 to 146 m [460 to 480 ft] above the Snake  
32 River Plain Aquifer.

33  
34 Construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would involve preparing the land,  
35 erecting buildings, and grading. These phases of construction would have minimal impact on  
36 the surface and subsurface hydrology. Site preparations include scraping and excavating to  
37 establish grade and foundations. Each of these phases creates different impacts (direct and  
38 indirect) for the surface and subsurface hydrology. Removal of surface material would typically  
39 establish conditions for erosion. However, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site is in a  
40 high, cool desert environment with aeolian, alluvial, and lacustrine sediments overlying basaltic  
41 lava flows. Therefore, rainwater is unlikely to erode subsurface soil. The surface soils removed  
42 would be staged onsite for use in establishing the final grade. This soil stockpile could erode  
43 and be carried to the Big Lost River or into the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Migration of soils into  
44 the aquifer is not likely because the loose soil would fill in the natural pathway through the  
45 alluvium and underlying rock.

46  
47 Migration of loose soils to the Big Lost River could add to existing sediments and affect the  
48 natural flow of the river. This is unlikely, however, because the river is approximately 1,200 m

1 [4,000 ft] from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility boundary, and the soil would settle on the  
2 surface before reaching the river. During construction, water would be distributed to control  
3 fugitive dust. This water, like other small amounts of water on the site, would evaporate or seep  
4 into the ground, probably not reaching the Big Lost River, and would have minimal effect on  
5 the aquifer.

6  
7 During construction, there would be occasions in which the physical changes of the land could  
8 affect the nearby water bodies and the subsurface aquifer. These effects, however, would be  
9 mitigated for construction activities through the implementation of a generic storm water  
10 pollution prevention plan (DOE, 1998), and a site-specific plan, written in accordance with  
11 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administered Permit Programs, The National  
12 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (40 CFR Part 122), and site-specific requirements. The  
13 generic storm water pollution prevention plan (DOE, 1998) includes an assessment of drainage  
14 and runoff, an evaluation of the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation  
15 Act impacts, identification of erosion and sediment controls during construction, assessment of  
16 permanent storm water management controls, and identification and control of other potential  
17 sources of pollution. Once construction is complete, unpaved areas of the property would be  
18 covered with gravel or similar material to minimize erosion and the need for excess pesticides  
19 and fertilizers to maintain adequate erosion control and minimize combustible vegetation  
20 buildup. The industrial operations at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are exempt from  
21 storm water permit requirements because the proposed facility is not included in sectors or  
22 subsectors identified by EPA as requiring a permit (FWENC, 2001a).

23  
24 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility does not require construction of any new groundwater  
25 wells or percolation ponds. During operation, the facility would use water from existing INEEL  
26 wells. There are no planned process discharges, and storm water discharge from industrial  
27 operations would be regulated by the existing INEEL storm water pollution prevention plan  
28 (DOE, 2001b). Accordingly, there would be no discharge of radionuclides into the planned  
29 process discharge. It is anticipated that impacts on surface and groundwater resources would  
30 be negligible.

#### 31 32 **4.4.2 Water Use impacts**

33  
34 Construction activities at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site would require a supply of  
35 water for making concrete, controlling fugitive dust, and potable water for consumption and  
36 sanitary facilities. For dust suppression, one water truck is estimated to use an average of one  
37 full tank every 2 days to maintain the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and 4.1-ha [10-acre] construction  
38 laydown area grounds sufficiently wet to minimize fugitive emissions. Average water truck  
39 capacity is 15,000 L [4,000 gal]. Assuming that water would be needed for approximately  
40 200 work days per year, construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is estimated to  
41 require 1.5 million L [396,300 gal] of water during the first year. It is also estimated that during  
42 the second year of construction, this water usage will be reduced by half because the building  
43 foundation and principal structures will have been erected, and need for the entire construction  
44 laydown area will diminish.

45  
46 The estimated concrete needed for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is approximately  
47 9,260 m<sup>3</sup> [12,115 yd<sup>3</sup>]. Adding 5 percent for discarded concrete results in an estimated concrete  
48 quantity of 9,725 m<sup>3</sup> [12,720 yd<sup>3</sup>]. Based on a typical concrete mix design, 136 L [36 gal] of  
49 water is required for 0.8 m<sup>3</sup> [1 yd<sup>3</sup>] of concrete. Given these assumptions, the estimated water

## Environmental Impacts

1 needed for concrete is about 1.74 million L [460,000 gal]. Adding 10 percent for cleaning  
2 equipment, waste, and such, results in an estimated water quantity of 1.91 million L  
3 [502,000 gal]. The average INEEL annual site water consumption from 1987 to 1991 was  
4 7.4 billion L/yr [1.95 billion gal/yr] (DOE, 1995, Volume 1, Appendix B, Section 4.13.1). A Water  
5 Rights Agreement between DOE and the State of Idaho allows up to 43 billion L/yr [11.4 billion  
6 gal/yr] (FWENC, 2003). This means that the estimated water usage for constructing the  
7 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is less than 0.05 percent of the average annual INEEL water  
8 consumption and approximately 0.008 percent of the allowed water use limits.

9  
10 During operations, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would consume approximately  
11 142,028 L [37,520 gal] of potable water each month (FWENC, 2001a). Because this water  
12 consumption is limited to drinking water, hygiene, and sewage disposal, the quantity would  
13 remain relatively constant during the year. This quantity represents a small amount  
14 (0.1 percent) of the water consumption relative to the more than 6 billion L [1.6 billion gal] used  
15 each year at the INEEL facility, and the water use impacts are expected to be small.

## 17 4.5 Ecological Impacts

18  
19 Construction and operation of the proposed facility are not expected to have a significant  
20 adverse impact on the immediate and surrounding ecological resources. There are no known  
21 wetlands, endangered species, or critical habitats at the proposed facility location, so, no  
22 important or unique species habitats, both terrestrial and aquatic, would be lost or impacted by  
23 construction or operation of the proposed facility (FWENC, 2001a, Appendix B). Secondary  
24 impacts on wildlife would be minimal, including those from noise, heat release, radionuclide  
25 release, construction traffic, human activity, and the presence of new buildings. A discussion of  
26 the potential environmental impacts is included as part of the license application in  
27 FWENC (2001a).

28  
29 The proposed activities are not expected to disturb any benthic communities or habitats.  
30 Potential increases in surface runoff would be mitigated through good construction practices.  
31 The proposed action does not involve dewatering any wetlands or using dredge spoils as fill  
32 material, so, guidelines for appropriate actions associated with such activities are not  
33 applicable. No wetlands and streams or associated vegetation would be disturbed by  
34 construction or operation of the proposed facility.

35  
36 It is anticipated that normal construction practices to minimize soil erosion would be followed.  
37 The proposed facility would potentially impact 7.3 total ha [18 acres]; 3.2 ha [8 acres] at the  
38 proposed site and 4.1 ha [10 acres] at the nearby construction laydown area. Both the  
39 proposed facility site and construction laydown area would use previously disturbed lands that  
40 do not presently support native vegetation (FWENC, 2001a).

## 42 4.6 Air Quality Impacts

43  
44 The description of impacts to air quality from the construction and operation of the facility is  
45 found in several documents. One source for this information is the applicant's Environmental  
46 Report (FWENC, 2001a). Other sources include the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995)  
47 and Belanger, et al. (1995). Frequently, the impact of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
48 was not examined individually, but as part of Alternative B of the DOE SNF management  
49 activities at INEEL (DOE, 1995). The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is one of eight  
50 projects that compose Alternative B. The equivalent name for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel

1 Facility in the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part B, Appendix C) is the  
2 Dry Fuel Storage Facility, Fuel Receiving, Canning/Characterization, and Shipping Facility.

3  
4 Any impacts to air quality from the construction and operation of the proposed facility are  
5 expected to be below regulatory limits. This proposed facility is exempt from the need for a  
6 National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants application because the State of  
7 Idaho regulations do not classify the proposed facility as a major facility for nonradioactive  
8 pollutants, and expected radionuclide emissions represent less than 1 percent of the site  
9 boundary dose limit and would not exceed regulatory constraints (FWENC, 2001a,  
10 Section 12.2). FWENC would submit a Permit to Construct Categorical Exemption request for  
11 Idaho Division of Environmental Quality approval before beginning construction (FWENC,  
12 2001a, Section 12.2).

#### 13 14 **4.6.1 Construction**

##### 15 16 **4.6.1.1 Nonradiological Impacts**

17  
18 Potential impacts to nonradiological air quality from construction activities would include fugitive  
19 dust and exhaust emissions from support equipment. Modeling assessments from the DOE  
20 programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A) showed that the construction-related air  
21 quality impact should be temporary and highly localized.

22  
23 Estimates from FWENC (2001a, Section 4.1) are that 13.6 metric tons [15 tons] of dust and  
24 particulates would be generated during the construction phase. Watering, routinely and  
25 effectively used in construction projects to reduce fugitive dust generation, would mitigate  
26 construction dust. Watering is expected to reduce the estimated 13.6 metric tons [15 tons] of  
27 fugitive dust and particulates to approximately 8.2 metric tons [9 tons] (FWENC, 2001a,  
28 Section 4.1).

29  
30 Fugitive dust estimates for Alternative B of the projects described in the DOE programmatic  
31 SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A) can be used to demonstrate that fugitive dust  
32 emissions from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be less than the appropriate  
33 standards. Table 4-1 contains the estimated particulate concentration emission levels for all  
34 eight projects that constitute Alternative B. The annual average concentrations of both PM<sub>10</sub>  
35 and total particulates are below the applicable standard at the INEEL site boundary and public  
36 road locations. Similarly, the 24-hour average concentrations of both PM<sub>10</sub> and total particulates  
37 are below the applicable standard at the INEEL site boundary and public road locations  
38 (Belanger, et al., 1995, Section 7-2).

39  
40 Construction vehicle emissions estimates for Alternative B can be used to demonstrate that  
41 construction vehicle emissions from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be less than  
42 the appropriate standards. Table 4-2 contains the estimated construction vehicle emissions for  
43 all eight projects that compose Alternative B. All the average concentrations for carbon dioxide,  
44 nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide are below the applicable standards at the INEEL site  
45 boundary and public road locations (Belanger, et al., 1995, Section 7-2).

46  
47 Mobile source impacts, including the INEEL fleet light- and heavy-duty vehicles, privately owned  
48 vehicles, heavy-duty commercial vehicles, and the INEEL bus fleet operations were also  
49 evaluated by DOE. It was concluded that increased vehicular traffic due to any of the

Environmental Impacts

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36  
37  
38  
39

**Table 4-1. Impacts at Public Access Locations from Projected Construction Fugitive Dust Emissions for Alternative B Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, Including the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility<sup>a</sup>**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Construction Fugitive Dust Emissions ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )		Applicable Standard ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
		Site Boundary	Public Roads	
PM <sub>10</sub>	24 hours	3.5	49	150
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	0.007	0.09	50
Total Particulates	24 hours	5.4	77	150
Total Particulates	Annual	0.1	0.1	50

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy

<sup>a</sup> Belanger, R., J. Raudsep, and D.A. Ryan. DOE/ID-10497, "Technical Support Document for Air Resources Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs." Section 7-2. Idaho Falls, Idaho: Science Applications International Corporation. 1995.

NOTE: To convert  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

**Table 4-2. Impacts at Public Access Locations from Projected Construction Vehicle Emissions for Alternative B Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, Including the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility<sup>a</sup>**

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Construction Fugitive Dust Emissions ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )		Applicable Standard <sup>b</sup> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
		Site Boundary	Public Roads	
Carbon Monoxide	1 hour	10	125	40,000
Carbon Monoxide	8 hours	7.3	88	10,000
Nitrogen Dioxide	Annual	0.003	0.03	100
Sulfur Dioxide	24 hours	4.1	50	365
Sulfur Dioxide	3 hours	9.3	113	1,300
Sulfur Dioxide	Annual	0.0002	0.003	80

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy

<sup>a</sup> Belanger, R., J. Raudsep, and D.A. Ryan. DOE/ID-10497, "Technical Support Document for Air Resources Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs." Section 7-2. Idaho Falls, Idaho: Science Applications International Corporation. 1995.

<sup>b</sup> Applicable Standards based on National Air Quality Standards, except 3-hour sulfur dioxide standard, which is a secondary standard.

NOTE: To convert  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to  $\text{oz}/\text{ft}^3$ , multiply by  $1 \times 10^{-9}$ .

1 alternatives for SNF management at INEEL would be negligible compared to existing traffic.  
2 The peak cumulative impacts from any alternative, which includes existing conditions plus  
3 alternative impacts, were predicted to occur at the INEEL gate. These maximum impacts were  
4 estimated to be about 5–30 percent of the applicable standards and are due almost entirely to  
5 existing traffic conditions (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 5.7).

6  
7 **4.6.1.2 Radiological Impacts**

8  
9 No impacts to radiological air quality from construction activities are expected. The soil at the  
10 site is not considered radiologically contaminated (see Section 3.4). Therefore, no  
11 resuspension of radioactivity would occur from construction activities that would disturb the soil.  
12 Sources of radiation exposure during construction are limited to background radiation and  
13 potential accidents or abnormal operations exposure from other facilities at INEEL (FWENC,  
14 2001a, Section 4.5).

15  
16 **4.6.2 Operations**

17  
18 **4.6.2.1 Nonradiological Impacts**

19  
20 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have only trace chemical air discharges, with no  
21 discernible environmental effects (FWENC, 2001b, Section 5.3). Sources for incidental  
22 nonradiological airborne emissions include testing or operation of the emergency diesel  
23 generator, emissions from vehicles, and use of herbicides and pesticides.

24  
25 The only stationary nonradiological emission source at the facility would be a standby diesel  
26 generator for use during loss of normal electrical power (FWENC, 2001b, Section 3.1). This  
27 generator would be located outside the facility, so combustion products produced during  
28 generator operation would be discharged directly to the atmosphere. This generator is classified  
29 as an exempt source (FWENC, 2001a, Section 12.2) and would not require a permit.

30  
31 During transport operations, vehicular traffic would increase between the INTEC and the  
32 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. This activity would add to the cumulative amount of  
33 exhaust at the INEEL. The vehicular exhaust is within regulatory limitations (FWENC, 2001a,  
34 Section 5.6). Mobile source impacts, including the INEEL fleet light- and heavy-duty vehicles,  
35 privately owned vehicles, heavy-duty commercial vehicles, and the INEEL bus fleet operations  
36 were evaluated. It was concluded that increased vehicular traffic due to any of the alternatives  
37 would be negligible compared to existing traffic. The peak cumulative impacts from any  
38 alternative, which include existing conditions plus alternative impacts, were predicted to occur at  
39 the INEEL gate. These maximum impacts were estimated to be approximately 5–30 percent of  
40 the applicable standards and are due almost entirely to existing traffic conditions (DOE, 1995,  
41 Volume 2, Part A, Section 5.7).

42  
43 **4.6.2.2 Radiological Impacts**

44  
45 Facility operations are not expected to result in significant amounts of gaseous radioactive  
46 effluents. Because of the nature and condition of the SNF to be packaged at this proposed  
47 facility, most radioactive gases from the SNF are expected to have been released already and  
48 concentrations reduced through radioactive decay (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6.2). Therefore,  
49 the volume of releasable fission gases remaining is not expected to be significant. It is possible,

## Environmental Impacts

1 however, that initial SNF handling and repackaging operations could result in the release of  
2 small amounts of radioactive gases. Initial SNF receipt and repackaging operations are  
3 scheduled to occur during the first 3 years of proposed facility operation. After the SNF is  
4 repackaged and placed into storage, it would be contained within redundant confinement  
5 boundaries. Subsequent to the initial receipt and repackaging of SNF, there would be minimal  
6 generation of gaseous radioactive waste (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6.1).

7  
8 The proposed facility would be a fully enclosed building complex. Airborne contamination  
9 control zones throughout the facility would ensure that contamination is minimized and  
10 controlled. The proposed facility would be divided into four airborne contamination control  
11 zones based on varying degrees of potential contamination. The ventilation systems are  
12 designed to ensure that room pressures would establish airflow from areas of least expected  
13 contamination to most expected contamination. The ventilation system would serve to prevent  
14 accidental release of radioactive material to the environment and to help keep personnel  
15 exposure to radiological hazards as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA). Gases released  
16 within the facility would be passed through high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters before  
17 being discharged through the facility ventilation exhaust stack to remove airborne particulates  
18 and provide monitoring of gaseous effluents. The HEPA filters, housed in metal enclosures,  
19 would be type B nuclear grade and meet the requirements of American National Standards  
20 Institute (ANSI) N509 and ANSI N510 (FWENC, 2001b, Section 3.3). The applicant's Safety  
21 Analysis Report (FWENC, 2001b, Section 4) provides a detailed description of the ventilation  
22 system and its components.

### 23 24 **4.7 Noise Impacts**

25  
26 Because the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is to be located more than 13 km [8 mi] from  
27 the nearest INEEL boundary and more than 16 km [10 mi] from the nearest community, noise  
28 generated during its construction is not likely to travel off the site at levels that would affect the  
29 general population. Noise impacts would be limited to those resulting from the transportation of  
30 personnel and materials to and from the site that would affect nearby communities and from  
31 on-site sources that could affect wildlife near those sources. The vehicles that transport  
32 employees, personnel, and materials on roads and rails would represent only a small portion of  
33 the current noise levels of traffic (FWENC, 2001a; DOE, 2002a). In addition, noise generated  
34 during construction of the facility would be temporary.

35  
36 Most potential impacts on noise would occur during construction of the facility. Because the  
37 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is enclosed, the potential impacts of noise from operations  
38 would be substantially the same as or less than those for construction of the facility.

39  
40 As described in Section 3.8, INEEL complies with Occupational Safety and Health  
41 Administration regulations (29 CFR 1910.95) in conducting industrial operations and  
42 construction activities. Any INEEL personnel exposed to an 8-hour time-weighted average of  
43 85 dBA or greater must be issued hearing protection (DOE, 2002a). The regulations also  
44 require that any exposure to impulse or impact noise should be limited to 140 dBA peak sound  
45 pressure level. Studies of the effects of noise on wildlife indicate that intermittent noise levels  
46 over 100 dBA do not affect wildlife productivity [Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 1986;  
47 Lehto, 1993]. Therefore, the impacts of noise on both humans and wildlife would be minor.

48



## **4.8 Cultural, Historical, Archaeological, Ethnographical, and Paleontological Resources**

The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be located within INEEL boundaries, adjacent to the INTEC. Types of resources analyzed in the area include archaeological and historic resources, as well as paleontological sites. Ethnographic concerns focused on resources significant to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes, who have long inhabited the area. Cultural resources in the area related to the Tribes are mainly archaeological. The Shoshone–Bannock Tribes place cultural and religious significance on all components of the natural setting, and this philosophy must be respected in the analysis of impacts. Nontraditional uses of the area have an impact on the natural and cultural settings traditionally used by the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes for cultural and religious purposes. Because these settings continue to be important to the Tribes, nontraditional uses of the land/area affect the purity of the natural and sacred environment.

Impacts to the cultural resources within the project area were assessed by identifying known and potential cultural resources in the areas that would be affected by the actions of the alternative. Furthermore, construction-related activities that could directly or indirectly affect cultural resources were evaluated to determine if these activities would have an adverse impact. There are no known cultural resources identified within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site and its associated construction laydown area. However, the adjacent INTEC facility contains 38 buildings and structures that are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The construction activities at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site may have some impacts, and the subsequent relocation of the SNF from locations within INTEC could also have impacts to some cultural resources.

### **4.8.1 Impacts to Historical Resources**

There are no historic resources within the boundaries of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and its associated construction laydown area that would be affected by the construction of the support buildings and the associated road system. Thus, because there are no historic resources, there would be no direct or indirect impacts within the area of construction for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

The adjacent INTEC site contains 38 buildings and structures that have been evaluated as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The construction activities of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the subsequent transfer of SNF from the current INTEC storage location will not affect these potentially historic structures, with the exception of one, which currently stores some of the SNF that will be transferred to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The Fuel Receiving and Storage building (CPP–603) was constructed in 1951 to receive and store SNF and waste fission products. Construction of the proposed facility will provide updated and safer storage for the SNF, so the existing Fuel Receiving and Storage building will be in a more ready state for decontamination and removal once transfer of the SNF has been completed. A Memorandum of Agreement between the Idaho Field Office of DOE, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (signed in 1998), pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, stipulated the procedures required to meet compliance requirements in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC §47 OF) for removal of the Fuel Receiving and Storage building.

## Environmental Impacts

### 1 4.8.2 Impacts to Archaeological Resources

2  
3 Extensive archaeological surveys and investigations have been conducted in the area for the  
4 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Three sites in the vicinity have been identified and  
5 recorded, one of which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. All three  
6 sites, however, are located outside areas that would be affected by construction activities for the  
7 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Ground disturbance associated with the proposed Idaho  
8 Spent Fuel Facility and other temporary support facilities would be extensive but localized. The  
9 proposed construction sites have had a high degree of previous ground disturbance and no  
10 known archaeological sites have been identified in the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
11 location or its associated construction laydown area. Thus, there would not be any impacts to  
12 archaeological resources at the proposed construction site and associated laydown area  
13 because of construction activities. Furthermore, because the area has been subject to intensive  
14 archaeological survey with negative results, it is highly unlikely that archaeological resources  
15 would be discovered during construction activities. Within the boundaries of INTEC, the ground  
16 has been subject to intensive disturbance during the past 50 years. It is unlikely that any  
17 archaeological sites exist in the heavily disturbed areas that would be used during the transfer  
18 of SNF to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, so there would not be any impacts to  
19 archaeological resources caused by activities related to the proposed facility.

20  
21 All ground disturbing activities would be monitored. If archaeological resources were  
22 discovered, work would cease until the site could be evaluated and mitigation measures  
23 applied, which would include notification of and consultation with the State Historic Preservation  
24 Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (if necessary), and the  
25 Shoshone–Bannock Tribes. In the unlikely event that human remains were found, provisions  
26 would apply as outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act  
27 (Pace, 2001).

### 28 29 4.8.3 Impacts to Ethnographical Resources

30  
31 The Shoshone–Bannock Tribes believe the resources of the natural world have a spiritual and  
32 sacred significance in the traditional and contemporary ways that land is used and respected.  
33 The Tribes view all elements of the environment such as earth, water, air, plants, and animals,  
34 to be one entity as they relate to the protection of Native American cultural resources and land.  
35 Nontraditional uses of the area are considered to be infractions of the natural and cultural  
36 settings when these uses can be seen or heard from sacred or traditional-use areas. The open  
37 topographic nature of the Eastern Snake River Plain permits uninterrupted viewsheds, providing  
38 the potential for visual impacts to many sacred and traditional use areas. The location of the  
39 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and its associated construction laydown area is adjacent to  
40 INTEC, a highly developed area constructed 50 years ago. Hence, placement of the proposed  
41 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not introduce a built environment into a pristine natural setting.  
42 The tallest structures {24 m [80 ft]} would be similar to existing structures at INTEC, so the  
43 effects on the viewshed will be minimal.

44  
45 The area has been subject to intensive ground disturbance throughout the past 50 years. The  
46 lack of archaeological resources and the highly disturbed nature of the areas indicate that no  
47 sensitive tribal resources are present. Vegetation is sparse and nonnative plant species are  
48 dominant. Also, no unique topographic features are present. These factors indicate the  
49 improbability that these areas contain resources significant to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes.

1 Therefore, there would be no impacts to archaeological resources significant to the  
2 Shoshone–Bannock Tribes.

3  
4 Access to this area by Tribal members would continue to be restricted. Construction of the  
5 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not change the status of restricted access, so there  
6 would not be any new impacts that would occur from the proposed action. The construction of  
7 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and the subsequent transfer of SNF would occur on  
8 restricted and secure property that currently facilitates the same type of land use. For this  
9 reason, and because the activities would be performed by trained and certified staff, it is  
10 improbable that any ethnographic resource other than the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes would  
11 continue to be affected by restricted access.

#### 12 13 **4.8.4 Impacts to Paleontological Resources**

14  
15 The area closest to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site where paleontological remains  
16 were discovered was in the alluvial gravels of the Big Lost River. This site, however, is some  
17 distance from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility construction areas. The likelihood of the  
18 existence of paleontological resources at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility location is  
19 extremely low, because this area has had a high level of ground disturbance. Furthermore, no  
20 paleontological resources have been discovered within the areas of INTEC that are associated  
21 with the proposed action. There has been a high level of ground disturbance within the INTEC  
22 boundaries during the past 50 years, and it is unlikely any paleontological resources are  
23 present. However, in the unlikely event that resources are discovered during the construction  
24 phase of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility or in the course of loading and transporting  
25 SNF at these areas, work would cease until consultations with the appropriate entities and  
26 proper mitigation measures are complete. Because there are no known paleontological  
27 resources at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site and its associated construction  
28 laydown area, or within the areas of INTEC relevant to this project, there would not be any  
29 impacts to paleontological resources.

#### 30 31 **4.9 Visual/Scenic Impacts**

32  
33 Most of the proposed action would take place inside a perimeter security fence adjacent to  
34 INTEC, an area that has been highly altered by development and dedicated to industrial use for  
35 almost 50 years. Two potential impacts to aesthetic and scenic resources include the addition  
36 of buildings and construction and process emissions that could alter the view.

37  
38 The industrialized area of INTEC has a BLM Visual Resource Management rating of Class IV  
39 (DOE, 2002a, Section 5.2.4). The tallest structure planned for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
40 Facility would be the exhaust emissions stack at about 24 m [80 ft] (FWENC, 2001b). The  
41 height of this stack is of the same order or less than existing stacks at INTEC (FWENC, 2001a).

42  
43 Construction activities at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would produce fugitive dust  
44 and exhaust emissions from construction equipment that could affect visibility temporarily in  
45 localized areas; however, these emissions would not be visible from lands adjacent to INEEL or  
46 beyond and would not exceed the Class III objectives. Construction activities would be limited  
47 in duration, and FWENC would use water to minimize both erosion and dust. After construction,  
48 roads would be graded and disturbed land would be landscaped to further reduce dust  
49 (FWENC, 2001a). Fuel-handling and storage operations would be contained in an enclosed

## Environmental Impacts

1 building and are not anticipated to produce dust particulate emissions. For this reason,  
2 operations are likely to have less of a visual impact than are construction activities. In addition,  
3 the proposed facility would be constructed next to INTEC, an existing industrial complex. DOE  
4 previously evaluated visual and aesthetic impacts for planned waste management activities at  
5 INTEC and determined they would not be significant (DOE, 2002a, Section 5.2). The proposed  
6 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is approximately 13.7 km [8.5 mi] from the nearest INEEL boundary.  
7 The proposed facility is also much smaller than INTEC, so it is unlikely there would be  
8 significant visual impacts.

9

### 10 **4.10 Socioeconomical Impacts**

11

12 No permanent residents or communities are within 16 km [10 mi] of the proposed Idaho Spent  
13 Fuel Facility site, but several INEEL facilities are within this distance (Figure 4-1). Institutional  
14 control would continue to restrict access to INEEL lands, thus, the population within 16 km  
15 [10 mi] of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site is unlikely to change throughout the life of  
16 the facility.

17

18 The DOE programmatic SNF EIS (1995) presented the environmental impacts of implementing  
19 the SNF management approach, including a generic analysis of the activities associated with a  
20 facility similar to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. This environmental analysis indicates  
21 the impacts of a dry fuel storage facility, fuel receiving, canning/characterization, and shipping  
22 facility would be minimal or negligible in most areas, including impacts to land use,  
23 socioeconomics, water and air resources, ecology, cultural and historical resources, and  
24 cumulative impacts.

25

26 The 2-year construction phase would employ a maximum of 250 workers. These employees  
27 constitute approximately 3 percent of the current INEEL workforce of about 8,100. Thus,  
28 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility construction would not have significant economic or social  
29 impacts, because most workers would likely come from the existing INEEL workforce.

30

31 Operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would require nearly 60 employees for the  
32 first 4 years—when fuel receipt and packaging occur. Once this phase of operations is  
33 completed, storage operations would likely require fewer staff. Most operations personnel  
34 would come from the local workforce.

35

36 Impacts on small and isolated communities will vary in socioeconomic and demographic  
37 characteristics and future connection to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. In the case of  
38 employment opportunities, the facility would be but one of many employers, implying a lack of  
39 dependence on any one facility within the region of influence.

40

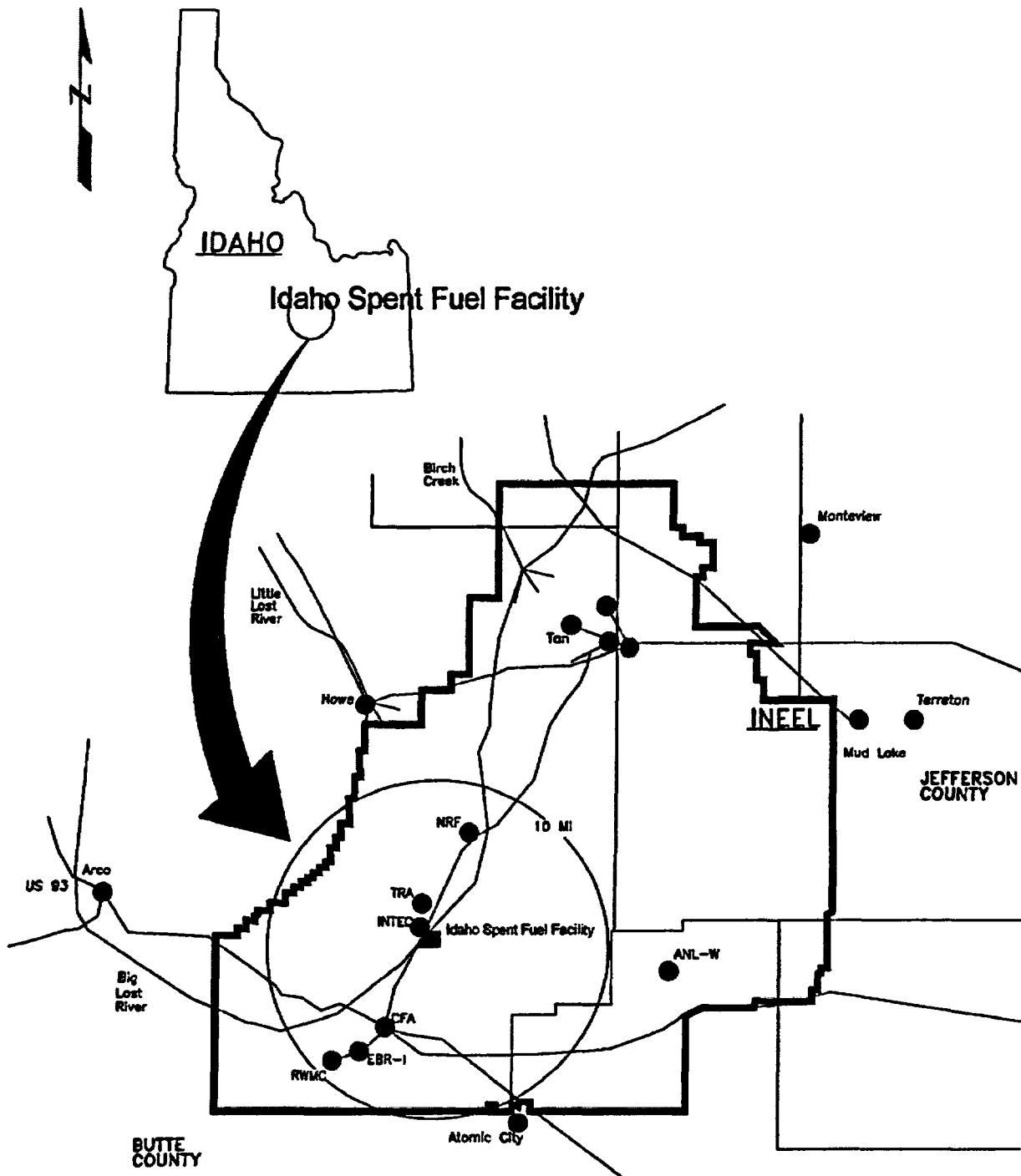
### 41 **4.11 Environmental Justice Impacts**

42

43 As addressed in Section 3.12 of this EIS, Executive Order 12898 (The White House, 1998)  
44 directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their mission and to  
45 identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects  
46 of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

47

48 The minority population near INEEL is predominately Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian. On  
49 the basis of 2000 census data for blocks wholly contained within the region of influence, these



1 Figure 4-1. INEEL Facilities and Surrounding Communities (Modified from FWENC, 2001a, Section 8)

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1 groups constitute 12 percent of the population. The low-income population composes  
2 11 percent of the total population within the 80-km [50-mi] radius, based on analysis at the tract  
3 level (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000).

4  
5 The earlier 1995 DOE programmatic SNF EIS regarding the agency SNF management and  
6 environmental restoration and waste management programs assessed the environmental  
7 justice issue for the area surrounding INEEL (DOE, 1995). The DOE EIS Project Office  
8 reviewed concerns expressed by the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes on the Fort Hall Reservation  
9 and engaged in consultations with Tribal officials and INEEL officials "... to fully understand,  
10 evaluate, and consider these comments" (DOE, 1995, volume 2, Part B, Section 5.20). The  
11 concerns included

- 12
- 13 • Tribal values as they relate to nature, ties to the land, and religious beliefs; and
- 14
- 15 • Potential impacts not only to such resources on INEEL (once inhabited by the  
16 Shoshone–Bannock Tribes) as Native American archaeological sites important to  
17 religious and cultural heritages, but also features of the natural landscape, air, water, or  
18 animal resources that remain of special significance.
- 19

20 Impacts could occur from disturbing the land or changing the environmental setting of sacred or  
21 traditional-use areas, pollution, noise, and contamination. Potential mitigation measures  
22 discussed in the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995) included

- 23
- 24 • Involving Tribal representatives in project planning to avoid sensitive areas;
- 25
- 26 • Locating new facilities in areas with similar visual settings;
- 27
- 28 • Avoiding Native American archaeological sites and traditional-use and sacred areas;
- 29
- 30 • Monitoring gathering areas and game animals for operational effects; and
- 31
- 32 • Restoring native vegetation to areas of ground disturbance.
- 33

34 In the event that avoidance was "... not feasible, data recovery at archaeological sites (for  
35 example, archiving artifacts) and restoration of alternative hunting or gathering areas may be  
36 substituted after consultation with the Tribes" (DOE, 1995, Section 5.20).

37  
38 Another initiative included DOE and the U.S. Navy working with the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes  
39 to impart clearer understanding of potential impacts of various alternatives, including postulated  
40 facility and transportation accidents and those from normal operations. A management  
41 agreement among the DOE Idaho Operations Office, the Federal Advisory Council on Historic  
42 Preservation, the State of Idaho, and the Tribes with respect to cultural resources at INEEL was  
43 an outgrowth of the consultations.

44  
45 The conclusion of the DOE programmatic SNF EIS was "... the potential impacts calculated for  
46 each discipline under each of the proposed INEEL environmental restoration and waste  
47 management alternatives, including spent nuclear management, are small and do not constitute  
48 a disproportionately high and adverse impact on any particular segment of the population,  
49 minorities or low-income communities included; thus, they do not present an environmental

1 justice concern" (DOE, 1995, Section 5.20). Noted elsewhere in the report are environmental  
2 justice implications of low-probability accident scenarios. "Whether or not such [accident]  
3 impacts would have disproportionately high and adverse effects with respect to any particular  
4 segment of the population, minority and low-income populations included, would be subject to  
5 natural motive forces including random meteorological factors" (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A,  
6 Section 5.20). In the case of the Fort Hall Reservation, both weather and geologic features  
7 favor low probability of receipt of adverse effects, though higher probability when compared with  
8 more distant locations.

9  
10 The summary of DOE (2002a) cites recognition of concerns of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes  
11 and consequently reports early and frequent involvement of the Tribes with DOE during  
12 preparation of the EIS. This involvement included ensuring that Tribal issues and concerns  
13 were considered in hearings before and during the scoping period, briefings and open  
14 discussions at Tribal facilities, and a public hearing on the Fort Hall Reservation. DOE entered  
15 into an Agreement in Principle with the Tribes that provided a consultation process under NEPA  
16 auspices. The agreement also included a commitment for the Tribes to obtain resources and  
17 expertise to enable effective review or involvement in DOE activities.

18  
19 Construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have some local  
20 and regional economic benefits, such as using regional workers for construction of the proposed  
21 facility and increasing sales of materials for regional suppliers throughout construction.  
22 Minorities and low-income populations would benefit to the extent they are linked to this  
23 economy. Because the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
24 would be consistent with current and anticipated activities at the INEEL, the social and  
25 economic impacts associated with the proposed facility are not significant.

26  
27 DOE determined that facility operations and foreseeable accidents associated with a dry fuel  
28 storage facility (proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility) present no significant risk or impact to any  
29 surrounding population, including minority and low-income populations (DOE, 1995, Volume 1,  
30 Appendix L). In a larger context, the proposed facility would be a step in the process of  
31 preparing the SNF for removal from Idaho. If the SNF is placed in dry storage, it would be in a  
32 more stable environment independent of support systems needed to maintain storage. This  
33 would benefit all people in the region of influence by ensuring that the SNF would not harm the  
34 environment and people in the area. For these reasons, it is unlikely there will be any  
35 disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income or  
36 minority populations.

37

#### 38 **4.12 Public and Occupational Health and Safety Impacts**

39

40 Potential impacts to radiological air quality were examined for normal, off-normal, and accident  
41 conditions. For off-normal operations and accidents, the various structures, systems, and  
42 components (SSCs) of the facility were evaluated for postulated internal accidents or natural  
43 phenomena associated with the facility for both the repackaging and storage phases. Table 4-3  
44 summarizes the criteria for radiological protection design for normal, off-normal, and accident  
45 conditions applicable for the restricted area (area enclosed by the facility peripheral fence), the  
46 controlled area (INEEL site), and outside the controlled area (outside INEEL) (FWENC, 2001b,  
47 Section 3.3). A summary of the results of the public and occupational health and safety impacts  
48 of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is provided in this EIS. The impacts are described in  
49 more detail and evaluated against the NRC regulatory limits in the safety evaluation report being  
50 prepared by NRC as part of its evaluation of the FWENC license application.

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1 **Table 4-3. Radiological Protection Design Criteria<sup>a</sup>**

2 <b>Location</b>	<b>Normal and Off-Normal Conditions</b>	<b>Accident Conditions</b>
3 <b>Restricted Area</b>	ALARA in accordance with 10 CFR 72.126(d)  50 mSv/yr [5,000 mrem/yr] TEDE in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1201  10 mSv/yr [1,000 mrem/yr] TEDE in accordance with proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility administrative control limits	ALARA in accordance with 10 CFR 72.126(d)
4 <b>Controlled Area</b>	1 mSv/yr [100 mrem/yr] TEDE in accordance with 10 CFR 20.1301	50 mSv [5,000 mrem] TEDE for any design basis accident in accordance with 10 CFR 72.106(b)
5 <b>Outside of Controlled Area</b>	0.25 mSv/yr [25 mrem/yr] TEDE in accordance with 10 CFR 72.104(a)	50 mSv [5,000 mrem] TEDE for any design basis accident in accordance with 10 CFR 72.106(b)
6 ALARA = as low as is reasonably achievable 7 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation 8 TEDE = total effective dose equivalent 9 10 <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." Section 3.3. NRC Docket No. 72-25. 11 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.		

12  
13 There are potential hazards that may affect safe operation of the proposed facility because of  
14 the transport, handling, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials. These hazards are  
15 classified into off-normal events and accidents based on frequency of occurrence (NRC,  
16 2000a). Off-normal events are expected to occur with moderate frequency or once per calendar  
17 year [Design Event II, according to ANSI/American Nuclear Society (ANS) 57.9 (ANSI/ANS,  
18 1984)]. Accidents occur more infrequently, if ever, during the lifetime of the facility. Effects of  
19 natural events, such as, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and such. are considered to  
20 be accidents.

21  
22 Off-normal operations and accidents potentially could expose members of the general public to  
23 additional levels of radiation or radiological effluents beyond those associated with routine  
24 operations. The analyses presented in this EIS are not intended to substitute for the detailed  
25 evaluation of safety issues that will be presented in the NRC safety evaluation report. The NRC  
26 staff, as documented in the safety evaluation report, is currently evaluating the effects of natural  
27 phenomena and human-induced hazards on the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Natural  
28 phenomena being considered include earthquake, flood, volcanic hazards, wildfire, high wind,  
29 tornado, and tornado-generated missiles of the maximum severity expected at the proposed site



1 during the lifetime of the proposed facility. These events bound the natural phenomena  
2 expected to occur at the proposed facility. Similarly, human-induced events include a potential  
3 aircraft crash and explosion at the proposed site and are considered bounding for the proposed  
4 facility during its lifetime.

5  
6 The probability that the natural phenomena would be more severe than those events evaluated  
7 in the safety evaluation report and in this EIS is extremely low. Such events at the proposed  
8 facility are not credible during its lifetime. Because these events are not credible, they are not  
9 considered in this EIS or the safety evaluation report. Information evaluated in this section is  
10 based on data provided by the applicant. The analyses summarized in this EIS are intended  
11 only to identify and bound the types of environmental impacts that could result from off-normal  
12 events or credible accidents.

#### 13 14 **4.12.1 Normal Operations**

##### 15 16 **4.12.1.1 Nonradiological Impacts**

17  
18 Worker safety for nonradiological exposures would be maintained at the proposed Idaho Spent  
19 Fuel Facility through implementation of a health and safety program in accordance with  
20 applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration Standards in 29 CFR Part 1910 and  
21 29 CFR Part 1926. The health and safety program includes an integrated safety management  
22 system (conforming to 48 CFR 970.5204-2) that provides a graded approach to environmental  
23 safety and worker health and safety. The program would include review, approval, and control  
24 measures for all chemicals introduced into the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

25  
26 Chemical usage at the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is shown in Table 4-4. Herbicides and  
27 pesticides will be present in small volumes and applied in accordance with manufacturer's  
28 recommendations (FWENC, 2001a, Section 5.3). The chemicals listed can be used safely by  
29 applying standard chemical safety practices, and, therefore, no significant environmental  
30 impacts are expected. For normal operating conditions, no chemical discharges are planned  
31 from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (FWENC, 2001a). Therefore, no public chemical  
32 exposures are expected from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, and no additional  
33 chemical monitoring programs are necessary to ensure safety and protect the environment.  
34 Chemical wastes associated with the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are discussed in  
35 Section 4.13 on waste management impacts.

##### 36 37 **4.12.1.2 Normal Operations—Radiological Impacts**

38  
39 In general, radiation can deliver a dose through external or internal pathways. Direct radiation  
40 from a radioactive source, irradiation from radioactive fallout on the ground surface, and  
41 immersion in a passing airborne radioactive material are external radiation pathways. Inhalation  
42 of airborne radioactive material and ingestion of contaminated food and water are internal  
43 radiation pathways. The radiological dose assessments consider these external and  
44 internal pathways.

45  
46 Mitigation measures for radiological impacts would be in place during facility operations. Areas  
47 where loose radioactive contamination can be generated would be maintained at a negative  
48 pressure relative to other areas of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. In these areas, air  
49 would flow from clean areas into areas of potential contamination in order to confine any

Environmental Impacts

1 **Table 4-4. Proposed Chemical Uses and Quantities for the Proposed Idaho Spent**  
 2 **Fuel Facility<sup>a</sup>**

3 <b>Chemical</b>	4 <b>Use at Idaho Spent Fuel Facility</b>	5 <b>Annual Quantity</b>
6 Propylene glycol	7 Chilled water anti-freeze	8 568 L
9 Refrigerant (R-22)	10 HVAC systems	11 147 kg
12 Sodium nitrite	13 Chilled water corrosion inhibitor	14 95 L
15 Herbicides and pesticides	16 Weed and pest control	17 Indeterminate
18 Liquid nitrogen	19 Laboratory	20 95 L

21 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation  
 22 HVAC = heating, ventilation, and air conditioning  
 23 <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.  
 24 NOTE: To convert liters (L) to gallons (gal), multiply by 0.244; to convert kilograms (kg) to pounds (lb), multiply by 2.205.

25 radioactive contamination. In addition, ventilation airflow would be channeled through HEPA  
 26 filters to remove radioactive particulates from the air stream before it is exhausted into the  
 27 atmosphere through the stack. An atmospheric release of radioactivity diffuses as it moves  
 28 with the wind. This natural process of diffusion reduces the radioactive concentration in air as it  
 29 travels downwind. The applicant's Safety Analysis Report (FWENC, 2001b, Section 2.3.4)  
 30 provides a more detailed discussion of the local and regional diffusion estimates.

31 Radiological impacts are addressed separately for the public and workers in the next  
 32 two subsections.

33 **4.12.1.2.1 Public Health and Safety Impacts**

34 The primary pathway for off-site exposure to radiation is from air emissions during operations of  
 35 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The INEEL site boundary serves as the controlled area  
 36 boundary per 10 CFR Part 20 and 10 CFR Part 72. Using the EPA CAP-88 model for  
 37 atmospheric dispersion, the highest off-site dose was calculated to be  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  mSv/yr  
 38 [ $3 \times 10^{-5}$  mrem/yr] at the southern boundary of the INEEL site (FWENC, 2001a, Section 5.2.2).

39 Tables 4-5 and 4-6 present the estimated doses to the maximally exposed individual (MEI),  
 40 based on the applicant's safety analysis report (FWENC, 2001b, Section 7.4.2). The estimated  
 41 dose to the hypothetical MEI is an insignificant fraction (less than 0.00063 percent) of the  
 42 0.1-mSv/yr [10-mrem/yr] regulatory dose limits and natural background of about 3.6 mSv/yr  
 43 [360 mrem/yr].

44 After transfer operations are complete, direct radiation from the storage vault is the primary  
 45 source of radiation dose to the public. By neglecting the attenuation of the external radiation,

**Table 4-5. Comparison of the Estimated Annual Dose to the Public with the Relevant Regulatory Limits and Natural Background**

Quantity	Dose <sup>a</sup> (mSv)	Dose <sup>a</sup> (mrem)
Estimated annual dose to maximally exposed individual from Idaho Spent Fuel Facility operations <sup>b</sup>	Less than 0.0000063	Less than 0.000063
Total estimated annual dose to maximally exposed individuals from all nearby facility operations (including Idaho Spent Fuel Facility)	Less than 0.0032	Less than 0.32
EPA individual radiation protection limit (40 CFR 61.92)	0.10	10
NRC annual limit for air emissions to individual members of the public (10 CFR 20.1101)	0.10	10
NRC annual limit to a real member of the public (10 CFR 72.104)	0.25	25
NRC annual limit for individual members of the public (10 CFR 20.1301)	1.0	100
Regional annual natural background to an individual resident <sup>c</sup>	3.6	360

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
NRC = U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

<sup>a</sup> The doses presented represent the total effective dose equivalents, which correspond to the dose equivalent to the whole body. In general, organ dose limits also apply. Organ dose limits can only be exceeded when the whole-body dose limit is exceeded or, in limited circumstances, when doses are close to but just less than the whole-body dose limit.

<sup>b</sup> Including ingestion of contaminated animal products.

<sup>c</sup> DOE. DOE/ID-12082(96). "Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 1996." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1997.

the annual dose during the storage period is conservatively estimated to be  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  mSv [ $6 \times 10^{-5}$  mrem] at the INEEL site boundary.

#### 4.12.1.2.2 Occupational Health and Safety Impacts

The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility fence serves as the restricted area boundary, within which external and internal occupational doses to personnel are monitored per 10 CFR Part 20. Based on the applicant's safety analysis report (FWENC, 2001b, Section 7.6.1.4), Table 4-7 shows that anticipated annual occupational dose during construction is less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem]. Construction activities would occur before receipt of SNF and involve only potential preexisting contaminants. Therefore, the anticipated annual occupational doses would be far less than the occupational limit and the regional natural background. The total collective

Environmental Impacts

1 **Table 4-6. Radionuclides That Contribute to Calculated Dose at Frenchman's Cabin<sup>a,b</sup>**

2 Radionuclide	mSv/yr [mrem/yr]	Percent of Total
3 Tritium	$1.43 \times 10^{-3}$ [ $1.43 \times 10^{-5}$ ]	51.6
4 Iodine-129	$7.74 \times 10^{-4}$ [ $7.74 \times 10^{-6}$ ]	27.9
5 Barium-137m	$2.32 \times 10^{-4}$ [ $2.32 \times 10^{-6}$ ]	8.4
6 Plutonium-238	$1.61 \times 10^{-4}$ [ $1.61 \times 10^{-6}$ ]	5.8
7 Krypton-85	$1.53 \times 10^{-4}$ [ $1.53 \times 10^{-6}$ ]	5.5
8 Americium-241	$7.91 \times 10^{-6}$ [ $7.91 \times 10^{-8}$ ]	0.3
9 Others	$1.2 \times 10^{-5}$ [ $1.2 \times 10^{-7}$ ]	0.5

10 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

11

12 <sup>a</sup> Frenchman's Cabin is located outside the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory boundary approximately 19.6 km [12.3 mi] southwest of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

13 <sup>b</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." Section 5.2. NRC Docket No. 72-25.

14 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

15

16

17

18 **Table 4-7. Comparison of the Anticipated Annual Occupational Dose during**

19 **Construction with the Relevant Regulatory Limits and Natural Background**

20 Quantity	Dose <sup>a</sup> (mSv)	Dose <sup>a</sup> (mrem)
21 Anticipated annual occupational dose during construction	less than 0.0032	less than 0.32
22 NRC annual occupational limit (10 CFR 20.1201)	50	5000
23 Regional annual natural background to an individual resident <sup>b</sup>	3.6	360

25 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy

26 NRC = U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

27

28 <sup>a</sup> The doses presented represent the total effective dose equivalents, which correspond to the dose equivalent to the whole body. In general, organ dose limits also apply. Organ dose limits can only be exceeded when the whole-body dose limit is exceeded or, in limited circumstances, when doses are close to but just less than the whole-body dose limit.

29

30

31 <sup>b</sup> DOE. DOE/ID-12082(96), "Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Site Environmental Report for Calendar Year 1996." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1997.

32

33

34

35

1 dose during the entire construction period is conservatively estimated at 1.6 person-mSv  
2 [160 person-mrem].

3  
4 The occupational dose estimates for workers involved with the proposed fuel-handling  
5 operations are presented in FWENC (2001b, Table 7.4-2). When necessary, temporary  
6 shielding is used to keep the occupational doses ALARA. The maximum total annual dose to  
7 the whole body of an individual worker would be 9.1 mSv [910 mrem], which is less than the  
8 50 mSv [5,000 mrem] occupational limit stipulated in 10 CFR Part 20. For the same conditions,  
9 the maximum organ dose received by an individual worker would not exceed the occupational  
10 organ dose limit stipulated in 10 CFR Part 20. When the fuel-handling operations are complete,  
11 the occupational doses from long-term monitoring activities would be reduced considerably  
12 during the storage period. The total occupational dose from all inspections that require workers  
13 to enter Radiological Control Areas sums to less than 9.1 mSv [910 mrem] annually during the  
14 storage period.

15  
16 For noninvolved workers present at the INEEL site during proposed fuel-handling operations,  
17 the annual dose from stack emissions would be  $6.6 \times 10^{-8}$  mSv [ $6.6 \times 10^{-4}$  mrem] at the  
18 boundary of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility boundary. By neglecting the attenuation of  
19 external radiation, the annual dose due to direct radiation is conservatively estimated as  
20 0.012 mSv [1.2 mrem] at the site boundary for an entire year. These doses are a small  
21 percentage of the 1.0-mSv [100-mrem] annual limits to a member of the public. The annual  
22 collective dose to noninvolved workers within a radius of 8 km [5 mi] was calculated as  
23  $6.68 \times 10^{-5}$  person-mSv [ $6.68 \times 10^{-3}$  person-mrem] from stack effluent (FWENC, 2001b,  
24 Table 7.6-2). Collective dose represents the summation of the dose for an entire population,  
25 whereas the dose to an individual is typically a small fraction of the collective dose. Even if all  
26 the collective doses were to be received by a single noninvolved worker located at the INEEL  
27 site, the dose would still be much less than the limits for individual workers or members of the  
28 public (see Tables 4-5 and 4-3, respectively).

#### 30 **4.12.2 Off-Normal Operations**

31  
32 Off-normal and accident design events identified by the ANSI/ANS 57.9, as applicable to facility  
33 operations at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, were considered in the applicant's safety  
34 analysis report (FWENC, 2001b). NRC Regulatory Guide 3.48 (NRC, 1989) specifies that the  
35 four event types in ANSI/ANS 57.9 be addressed. Of these design events, Design Events II  
36 consist of off-normal events expected to occur routinely or to occur approximately once  
37 per year.

38  
39 Five categories of Design Events II (off-normal events) are evaluated in FWENC (2001b,  
40 Section 8.1):

- 41
- 42 • Transfer cask events (Section 8.1.1, );
- 43 • Fuel packaging events (Section 8.1.2);
- 44 • Fuel storage events (Section 8.1.3);
- 45 • Waste handling events (Section 8.1.4); and
- 46 • Other events (Section 8.1.5).

47  
48 The off-normal events identified were selected as the bounding cases for the larger population  
49 of credible events identified during design of the facility. The analyses include the cause of the

## Environmental Impacts

1 postulated event, the method of detection of the event, an analysis of the impacts of the event,  
2 and the corrective actions to be taken to recover from the event. The results of the safety  
3 analysis for these off-normal events are summarized in Table 4-8. The table shows evaluation  
4 of 18 postulated events under the five categories of off-normal events previously listed. Related  
5 sections in FWENC (2001b) where the events have been addressed are also listed in the table.  
6 Of these potential events, only misventing the transfer cask was found to result in a dose to the  
7 workers. No significant radiological consequences to the public at the confinement area  
8 boundary resulted from the postulated off-normal events. In the event of misventing of the  
9 transfer cask, a worker near the cask could receive a dose by inhaling contaminated  
10 atmosphere (FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.1.1). The dose was evaluated to be less than 0.1 mSv  
11 [10 mrem]. This value is well below the 10 CFR Part 20 occupational dose limit of 50 mSv/yr  
12 [5,000 mrem/yr]. Workers might also receive a dose from the exterior surface of a storage  
13 container contaminated in the Fuel Processing Area or during transfer of SNF to the Canister  
14 Closure Area (FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.1.3), breach of a waste package in the solid waste  
15 area (FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.1.4), transfer of a high dose rate object into the solid waste  
16 area (FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.1.4), and failure of the ventilation system (FWENC, 2001b,  
17 Section 8.1.5). Worker exposures to these events are estimated to be negligible. Any  
18 decontamination efforts required would result in low air concentration (0.1 derived air  
19 concentration) for the workers.

20  
21 In the safety evaluation report being prepared for this license application, NRC is developing a  
22 more detailed evaluation of the impacts to the public and occupational health and safety  
23 because of off-normal operations. The safety evaluation report will provide an evaluation of the  
24 ability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to meet the NRC standards for protection  
25 against radiation (10 CFR Part 20) and licensing requirements for an independent spent fuel  
26 storage installation (ISFSI) (10 CFR Part 72).

### 27 28 **4.12.3 Accident Analysis**

29  
30 FWENC (2001b) provides an evaluation of the radiological impacts of Design Events III and IV  
31 (NRC, 1989) that could potentially result from the proposed facility operations. Design Events III  
32 are infrequent events that could be expected to occur during the lifetime of the facility. Design  
33 Events IV are the events postulated to establish a conservative design basis for SSCs important  
34 to safety. Accidents evaluated in FWENC (2001b) are the same general categories as those  
35 assessed for off-normal operations:

- 36  
37 • Transfer cask events (Section 8.2.1);  
38 • Fuel packaging events (Section 8.2.2);  
39 • Fuel storage accidents (Section 8.2.3); and  
40 • Other Events (Section 8.2.4).

41  
42 In the safety evaluation report that is being prepared for this license application, NRC is  
43 developing a more detailed evaluation of the impacts to the public and occupational health and  
44 safety because of operational accidents. The safety evaluation report will provide an evaluation  
45 of the ability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to meet the NRC standards for protection  
46 against radiation (10 CFR Part 20) and licensing requirements for ISFSI (10 CFR Part 72).

47  
48 The applicant's evaluation of Design Events III and IV under the four accident categories  
49 previously listed is summarized in Table 4-9. The table provides a description of the accidents,

Table 4-8. Off-Normal Event Evaluated*				
Safety Analysis Report Section Number	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
8.1.1.1	Misventing of Transfer Cask	Increased dose inside Transfer Tunnel	Less than 0.1 mSv [10 mrem] to operator; negligible at controlled area boundary	Decontaminate area, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.1.2	Cask Drop Less Than Design Allowable Height	NA	No radiological consequences	NA
8.1.2.1	Attempt to Lower Fuel Container into Occupied Fuel Station	No adverse consequences	No radiological consequences	Determine cause and implement corrective action
8.1.2.2	Attempt to Load Fuel Element into Full Idaho Spent Fuel Basket	No adverse consequences	No radiological consequences	Determine cause and implement corrective action
8.1.2.3	Failure of Fuel Element During Handling	Delay in operations while fuel recovery is performed	No radiological consequences outside FPA area	Cease operations, recovery actions, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.2.4	Drop of Fuel Element During Handling	Delay in operations while fuel recovery is performed	No radiological consequences outside FPA area	Cease operations, recovery actions, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.2.5	Fuel Container Binding of Impact During Handling	Delay in operations to replace Idaho spent fuel storage container	No radiological consequences	Cease operations, recovery actions, determine cause, and implement corrective actions
8.1.2.6	Malfunction of Idaho Spent Fuel Canister Heating System	Increase in fuel temperature, no adverse consequences	No radiological consequence	Repair heater
8.1.2.7	Malfunction of Idaho Spent Fuel Canister Vacuum Drying/ Helium Fill System	Delay in operations, possible increase in fuel temperatures, no adverse consequences	No radiological consequences	Repair equipment, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.2.8	Loss of Confinement Barrier	Increased radiation dose to on-site personnel due to decontamination efforts	Potential spread of particulate into adjacent areas of FPA; nonmechanistic dose at the controlled area boundary is 0.0002 mSv [0.02 mrem]	Repair equipment, determine cause, and implement corrective action

**Table 4-8. Off-Normal Event Evaluated\* (continued)**

Safety Analysis Report Section Number	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
8.1.3.1	Binding or Impact of Idaho Spent Fuel Canister During Hoisting/Lowering Operations	No adverse consequences	No radiological consequences	Determine cause and implement corrective action
8.1.3.3	Extended Operation with Idaho Spent Fuel Canister in CHM	Increase in fuel temperature	No radiological consequences	Repair equipment, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.3.4	Malfunction of Storage Area Vacuum Drying/Helium Fill System	Increase in fuel temperature	No radiological consequences	Repair equipment, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.3.5	Partial Air Inlet/Outlet Vent Blockage	Increase in fuel temperature	No radiological consequences	Clear obstructions from inlet/outlet
8.1.4.1	Breach of Waste Package in the Solid Waste Area	Increased radiation dose to on-site personnel due to decontamination efforts	Minimal dose consequences from decontamination efforts: 0.1 DAC	Repair equipment, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.4.2	High Dose Rate to Solid Waste Area	Increased radiation level in unoccupied waste enclosure, negligible worker exposure	Negligible worker exposure, no off-site consequences	Return material to FPA, determine cause, and implement corrective action
8.1.5.1	Ventilation System Failures	Increased fuel temperatures, no significant release, negligible worker exposure, no off-site exposure	No significant release or exposure, no off-site radiological consequences	Repair equipment or determine cause, implement corrective action
8.1.5.2	Loss of External Power Supply for a Limited Duration	Increased fuel temperatures	No radiological consequences	Restore power source; manual and backup power available but not required

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Table 4-8. Off-Normal Event Evaluated <sup>a</sup> (continued)				
Safety Analysis Report Section Number	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
8.1.5.3	Off-Normal Ambient Temperatures	No adverse consequences	No radiological consequences	None required; HVAC designed for extremes
CHM = Canister Handling Machine DAC = derived air concentration-hour HVAC = heating, ventilation, and air conditioning FPA = Fuel Processing Area FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation NA = not applicable  <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.  NOTE: To convert millirems (mrem) to millisieverts (mSv), multiply by 0.01.				

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Table 4-9. Accident Analysis for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility <sup>a</sup>				
Safety Analysis Report Section No.	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
<b>8.2.1 Transfer Cask Events</b>				
8.2.1.1	Vehicular Collision with Transporter	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Event is bounded by transportation evaluation of Peach Bottom Cask
8.2.1.2	Transfer Cask Drop During Hoisting Operations	Staff requested for drop assessment for all fuel confinement structures and components in RAI for independent SNF facility application	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; transfer cask will be handled with single-failure proof crane
8.2.1.3	Transfer Cask Tipover	Staff requested for tipover assessment for all fuel confinement structures and components in RAI for independent SNF facility application	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; system designed to prevent the event
8.2.1.4	Cask Trolley Collision Events	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Collision prevented by limit switches and cask designed to withstand impact
<b>8.2.2 Fuel Packaging Events</b>				
8.2.2.1	Drop of DOE Fuel Container During Handling	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; DOE fuel container will be handled by FHM designed to the requirements of single-failure proof system
8.2.2.2	Drop of Idaho Spent Fuel Basket During Handling	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; spent fuel basket will be handled by FHM designed to the requirements of single-failure proof system
8.2.2.3	Canister Trolley Movement in Raised Position	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; trolley movement before lowering of storage container prevented by interlock
<b>8.2.3 Fuel Storage Accidents</b>				
8.2.3.1	Idaho Spent Fuel Canister Drop	Staff requested for drop assessment for all fuel confinement structures and components in RAI for independent SNF facility application	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; drop events prevented by single-failure proof design of CHM and interlocks

Table 4-9. Accident Analysis for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility <sup>a</sup> (continued)				
Safety Analysis Report Section No.	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
8.2.3.2	Transverse Movement of the CHM with an Idaho Spent Fuel Canister Partially Inserted	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Not a credible event; CHM movement prevented by interlock and seismic design
8.2.4	Other Postulated Accidents			
8.2.4.1	Adiabatic Heatup	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Periodically inspected to keep Inlet and outlet vents free from blockages  Applicant conducted nonmechanistic analysis considering 50-percent blockage, and the evaluated temperature of basket and vault storage is below maximum allowable  Applicant should conduct an analysis with 100-percent blockage scenario
8.2.4.2	Loss of Shielding	No increase in exposure rate expected	No radiological consequences	No significant shielding concern; prevented by administrative control, design, and radiation monitoring
8.2.4.3	Building Structural Failure onto Structures, Systems, or Components	No adverse consequence	No radiological consequences	Not considered credible  Building structures would be designed using regulatory guidance and codes  Lifting devices would be designed as single-failure-proof devices or with added design margins

Environmental Impacts

1 **Table 4-9. Accident Analysis for the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility\* (continued)**

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Safety Analysis Report Section No.	Description	Effects and Consequences	Estimated Dose (mrem)	Corrective Action
8.2.4.4	Fire and Explosion	Staff review of independent SNF Safety Analysis Report generated several RAIs on data, assumptions, and analysis with regard to fire and explosion; without this information, applicant's evaluation cannot be considered complete	No radiological consequences	Radiologically controlled areas are enveloped by fire-rated barriers to minimize potential for off-site release  Impact of INTEC facility, storage yards, fuel storage tanks, and access roads to independent SNF facility was evaluated
8.2.4.5	Maximum Hypothetical Dose Accident	Dose well below the 5 mSv [5,000 mrem] limit	Nonmechanistic dose at the controlled area boundary: .00003 mSv [0.003 mrem] TEDE storage area container leakage release  0.0002 mSv [0.02 mrem] TEDE FPA HEPA filter release	Evaluated hypothetical events that result in nonmechanistic off-site dose for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with 10 CFR 72.106(b)

7

8 CHM = Canister Handling Machine

9 DOE = U.S. Department of Energy

10 FHM = Fuel Handling Machine

11 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

12 FPA = Fuel Packaging Area

13 HEPA = high efficiency particulate air

14 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center

15 RAI = request for additional information

16 SNF = spent nuclear fuel

17 TEDE = total effective dose equivalent

18

19 \* FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

20

21

22 **NOTE:** To convert millirem (mrem) to millisieverts (mSv), multiply by 0.01.

23

24 estimated dose, postulated cause of the event, corrective actions taken, and effects and

25 consequences, including related sections in FWENC (2001b) where the events have been

26 addressed. The potential events analyzed include vehicular collision; storage cask drop and

27 tipover; drop events for fuel container, fuel basket, and SNF canister; trolley collision; adiabatic

28 heatup caused by blockage of inlet and outlet vents; fire and explosion; loss of radiation

29 shielding; and building structural failure. None of the events is estimated to be likely, and no

30 radiological consequences to the public and workers are expected because the SSCs

31 associated with these events are designed to withstand the hypothetical events.

32

33 Included in the various accident scenarios analyzed in FWENC (2001b, Section 8.2) is the

34 maximum hypothetical dose accident for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with the

1 dose limits specified in 10 CFR 72.106(b). This hypothetical, beyond design basis accident was  
2 selected to serve as a worst-case scenario to bound the consequences of any credible accident  
3 at the facility involving the release, and subsequent atmospheric dispersion of radioactive  
4 material. For the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, two maximum hypothetical dose  
5 accidents were evaluated representing each of the two operational phases. For the  
6 repackaging phase of the operation, the maximum hypothetical dose accident involved a Fuel  
7 Packaging Area HEPA filter release. For the storage phase of the operation, the maximum  
8 hypothetical dose accident involved a storage area container leakage release. A detailed  
9 description of the conditions for each maximum hypothetical dose accident is presented in the  
10 applicant's safety analysis report (FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.2.4). A detailed evaluation of the  
11 maximum hypothetical dose estimates will be included in the safety evaluation report being  
12 developed by NRC. The resulting dose for the Fuel Packaging Area HEPA filter and the storage  
13 area container leakage release at the closest INEEL boundary is  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  mSv [ $2 \times 10^{-2}$  mrem]  
14 and  $3 \times 10^{-5}$  mSv [ $3 \times 10^{-3}$  mrem] total effective dose equivalent, respectively. These  
15 calculated dose results are well below the 50-mSv [5,000-mrem] accident dose limit of  
16 10 CFR 72.106. Figures 4-2 and 4-3 provide dose estimates for distances closer to the  
17 proposed facility for the bounding Fuel Packaging Area HEPA filter release. The dose rates  
18 calculated for the nearer locations show the resulting dose rates for workers at nearby facilities  
19 would be well below accepted regulatory limits.

#### 21 4.12.4 External Events

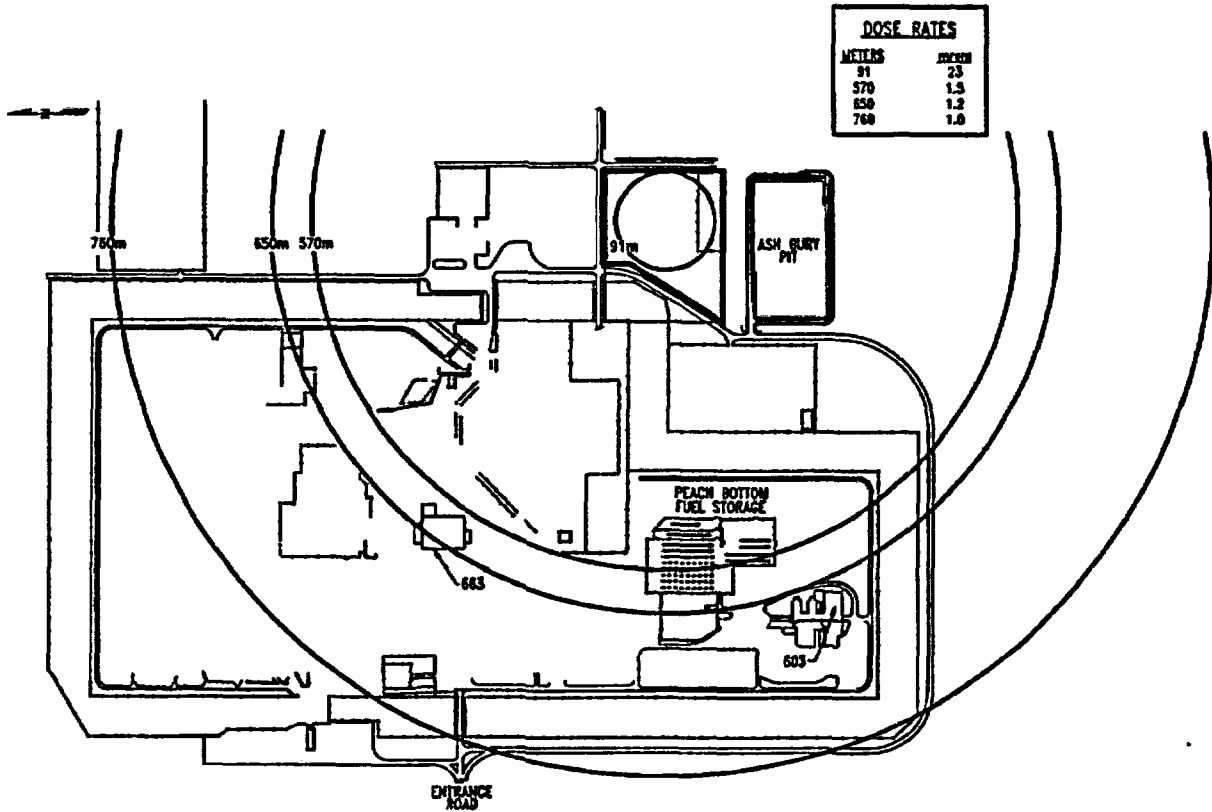
##### 23 4.12.4.1 Flooding Hazards

25 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not discharge effluent as part of normal activities.  
26 The only potential impact to water resources at the site would be the result of the effects of a  
27 probable maximum flood (the largest flood likely to occur). The probable maximum flood at the  
28 site would occur from a failure of Mackay Dam on the Big Lost River (Koslow and Van Haften,  
29 1986). The potential impact on INEEL facilities by a maximum flood was assumed caused by a  
30 probable maximum flood resulting in the overtopping and rapid failure of Mackay Dam. The  
31 sequence of events that lead to a probable maximum flood includes a probable maximum  
32 precipitation event consisting of a 4-hour general storm, preceded 3 days earlier by an  
33 antecedent storm with a magnitude of 40 percent of the 4-hour storm. The postulated  
34 precipitation events would cause overtopping flow across the dam. The overtopping of the  
35 Mackay Dam is assumed to result in dam failure.

37 The probable maximum flood is considered conservative, because the last flood of similar  
38 magnitude occurred nearly 12,000 years ago during a wet climate cycle. The probable  
39 maximum flood scenario has flows estimated at 990 m<sup>3</sup>/s [35,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] with a water velocity  
40 ranging from 0.2 to 0.9 m/s [0.6 to 3.0 ft/s] on INEEL. This flood would result in shallow,  
41 slow-moving, flood water within the INTEC-controlled area with a flood elevation at the  
42 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site of approximately 1,500.0 m [4,921 ft], and water  
43 velocities of approximately 0.3 to 1 m/s [1 to 3 ft/s].

45 Debris bulking was not considered in the flow volumes for the probable maximum flood. Other  
46 than natural topography, the primary choke points for probable maximum flood flows are the  
47 diversion dam on INEEL and the culverts on Lincoln Boulevard to the west of INTEC. The  
48 probable maximum flood would quickly overtop and wash out the diversion dam; essentially,  
49 there would be no effect on flows downstream of the dam. The Lincoln Boulevard culverts are

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1 **Figure 4-2. INTEC Area Maximum Radiological Dose for Maximum Hypothetical Dose Accident (from FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.3). To Convert Meters to Feet, Multiply by 0.3048; to Convert mrem to mSv, Multiply by 0.01.**

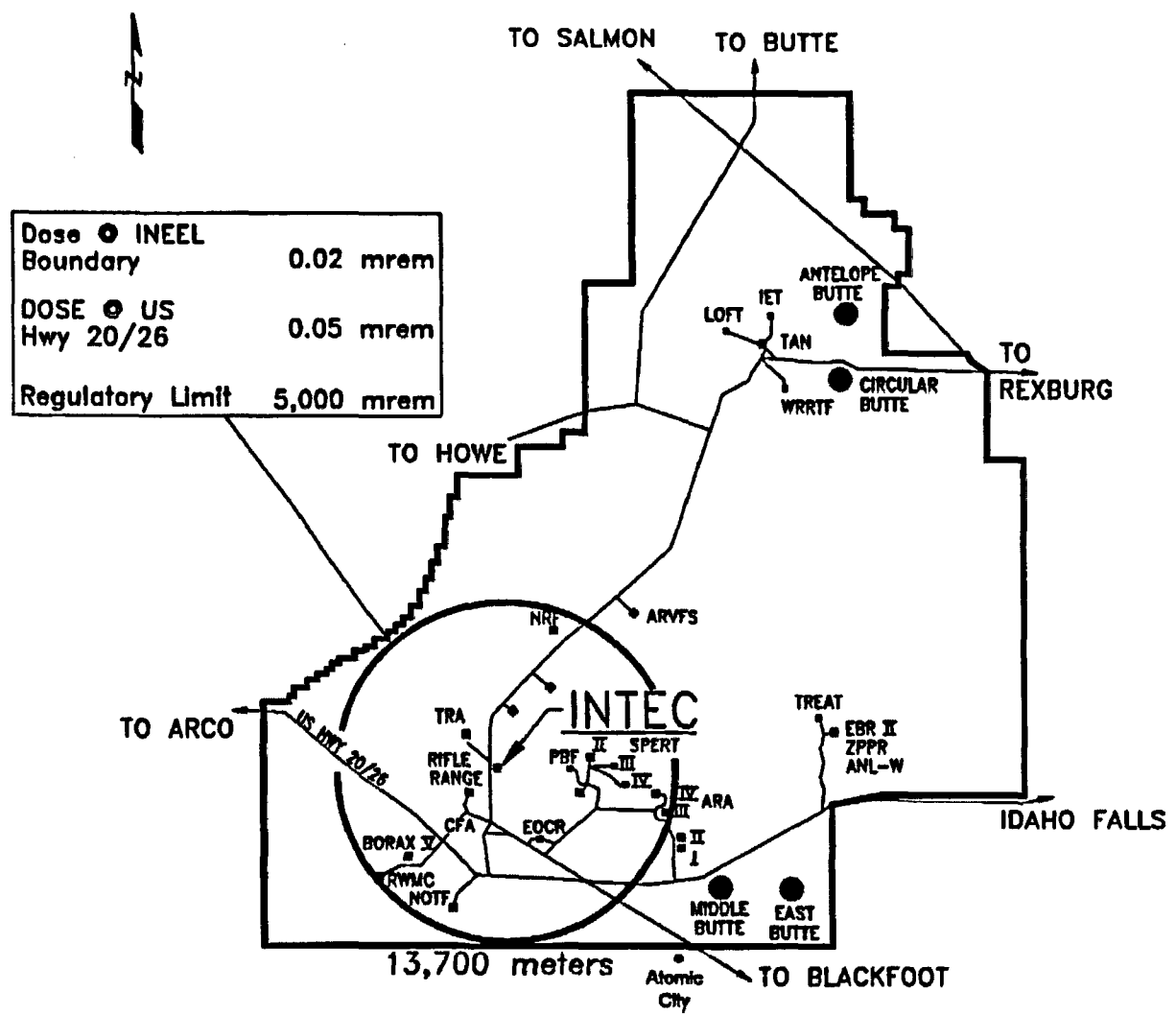


Figure 4-3. INEEL Area Maximum Radiological Dose for Maximum Hypothetical Dose Accident (Modified from FWENC, 2001b, Section 8.3). To Convert Meters to Feet, Multiply by 0.3048; to Convert mrem to mSv, Multiply by 0.01.

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1 capable of passing about 42 m<sup>3</sup>/s [1,500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s] of waterflow (Berenbrock and Kjelstrom, 1998).  
 2 Because of the relatively flat topography in the vicinity of INTEC, debris plugging at the culverts  
 3 would have little effect on the probable maximum flood elevation at INTEC (DOE, 2002a,  
 4 Section 4.8) or at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

5  
 6 The effects of hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces on potentially affected SSCs have been  
 7 considered in the proposed design (FWENC, 2001b). In general, these forces are insignificant  
 8 compared with other normal, off-normal, or accident loads on the affected SSCs. This  
 9 evaluation concludes that the structural integrity of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
 10 confinement boundary would be maintained. The calculated time for the probable maximum  
 11 flood wave to reach the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is at least 13.5 hours, providing  
 12 sufficient time to implement preplanned flood control measures. These measures include  
 13 putting any ongoing processing sequences into a secure configuration and securing waste  
 14 containers. The Storage Area and the Fuel Processing Area are designed to prevent the  
 15 ingress of floodwater. Penetrations and construction joints below the elevation of the probable  
 16 maximum flood in these areas will be sealed to prevent leaks. The elevations of the various  
 17 facility areas communicable with the floodwater and associated pathways are provided in  
 18 Table 4-10.

19  
 20 Flooding hydrostatic forces have been considered in the equipment designs for these areas,  
 21 therefore, any uplift would not damage equipment. Equipment such as the cask trolley, canister  
 22 trolley, and liquid waste storage tank and the building structures include flooding loads in their  
 23 design bases.

24  
 25 **Table 4-10. Elevation<sup>a</sup> of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Relative to the**  
 26 **Probable Maximum Flood<sup>b</sup>**

Area	Elevation <sup>a</sup>	Outside Portal Elevation	PMF Elevations Above Area Floor
Cask Receipt Area	1,497.53	Below PMF	~2.31
Transfer Tunnel	1,497.33	Below PMF	~2.51
Solid Waste Storage/Solid Waste Processing Area	1,498.85	Below PMF	~0.99
Liquid Waste Storage Tank Area	1,498.09	Below PMF	~1.75
HVAC Exhaust Room	1,498.85	Below PMF	~0.99

35 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation  
 36 HVAC = heating, ventilation, and air conditioning  
 37 PMF = maximum probable flood  
 38  
 39 <sup>a</sup> Meters above sea level  
 40 <sup>b</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0033.  
 41 Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.  
 42  
 43 NOTE: To convert to meters (m) to feet (ft), multiply by 3.2808.



**4.12.4.2 Aircraft Impact Hazards**

Aircraft usually fly around the INEEL boundary. INEEL has in place a Federal Aviation Administration advisory prohibiting flights at altitudes below 1,800 m [6,000 ft] above mean sea level. Commercial airports near the INEEL facilities include (i) Idaho Falls Regional Airport, approximately 70 km [43 mi] away; (ii) Pocatello Regional Airport approximately 79 km [49 mi] away; (iii) Burley Municipal Airport, approximately 134 km [83 mi] away; and (iv) Joslin Field–Magic Valley Regional Airport, approximately at Twin Falls 176 km [109 mi] away. There are two small nearby airports that serve as a home base for aircraft. These two airports are usually used by general aviation aircraft. Twelve single-engine aircraft are based at Arco–Butte County Airport, approximately 32 km [20 mi] west of the proposed facility site. Howe Airport is located approximately 32 km [20 mi] north of the proposed site. Four single-engine aircraft are based there. In addition, there are several unpaved landing strips near the INEEL facilities, used primarily for recreational and emergency purposes by private and crop-dusting aircraft. The landing strips nearest the proposed site are located approximately 16 km [10 mi] south-southeast and 20 km [12 mi] south-southwest. These airports are all at significant distances from the INEEL facilities and, therefore, any flights near the INEEL facilities would be in a cruise mode at heights more than 305 m [1,000 ft] above the surface. Based on NUREG–0800 (NRC, 1997, Section 3.5.1.6), any landing and departure operations at these airports would have a negligible crash hazard to the proposed facility.

There are air taxi flights between Idaho Falls and Boise and between Idaho Falls and Salmon. The Idaho Falls Regional Airport has nearly 41,000 annual operations. Approximately 51,000 annual operations take place at the Pocatello Airport. Most traffic is either to Boise or Salt Lake City. Burley Municipal Airport has about 33,800 operations in a year. Approximately 36,800 annual operations take place at Joslin Field–Magic Valley Regional Airport at Twin Falls.

Approximately 98 percent of the traffic at Arco–Butte County airport is general aviation aircraft composed of private and crop-duster aircraft. This airport operates approximately 100 air taxi and commuter flights in a year. One hundred percent of traffic at Howe Airport is by general aviation aircraft mostly used for crop dusting.

Most aircraft used in crop dusting around the INEEL facilities do not cross the INEEL boundary. They use the boundary for turning the aircraft. However, aircraft need to be moved across the INEEL a few times a year. Approximately 60 to 100 overflights by crop dusting and other similar aircraft traditionally have been permitted by the INEEL Flight Department (Lee, et al., 1996).

Air taxi flights from Idaho Falls Regional Airport use Federal Aviation Administration-approved vector 269 while flying to Pocatello, Burley, and Twin Falls. Approximately six flights take place in a day. These flights approach approximately 30 km [19 mi] of the proposed facility (Lee, et al., 1996). On average, two to three air taxi flights are flown between Idaho Falls and Boise each day. The edge of this airway nearest the proposed facility site is approximately 15 km [9 mi] (FWENC, 2003).

General aviation aircraft while flying from Pocatello to Salmon come within approximately 15 km [9 mi] of the proposed facility. Only a small number of flights travel this route annually (Lee, et al., 1996).

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1 Military training routes near the proposed facility (VR1300, IR302, and IR305) are used by the  
2 Idaho Air National Guard for terrain masking (FWENC, 2003). Hazardous activities such as  
3 practice bombing or laser firing are not conducted in these routes. Approximately 435 annual  
4 sorties are flown on these routes.

### 6 4.12.4.3 Volcanic Hazards

7  
8 Lava flows from volcanoes located up topographic gradient from the INTEC site could present a  
9 hazard to the INTEC site if not mitigated. One proposed mitigation strategy for lava-flow  
10 hazards is the construction of 6.1-m- [20-ft-] high compacted earthen berms to divert potential  
11 lava flows away from the INTEC area. The berms would be constructed from 104,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
12 [136,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] of soil from areas immediately adjacent to the INTEC area. Construction of these  
13 berms would occur only after the onset of a potentially hazardous volcanic eruption. Thus, in  
14 the unlikely event of a future lava-flow eruption, construction of a diversionary berm would  
15 adversely impact 104,000 m<sup>3</sup> [136,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] of soils adjacent to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
16 Facility. This potential soil impact appears minimal compared to the impact of a naturally  
17 occurring lava flow, which would bury significantly more soil if the flow extended to the vicinity  
18 of INTEC.

### 20 4.12.4.4 Seismic Hazards

21  
22 One geologic hazards that must be considered in the safe design of nuclear facilities is the  
23 strong shaking of the ground during an earthquake. Earthquakes occur when energy stored  
24 within the earth, usually in the form of strain accumulated in rocks, is released suddenly. This  
25 energy is transmitted to the surface of the earth by earthquake waves. The accumulation of  
26 strain in the rocks results from plate tectonic forces deep in the earth. Because the INEEL site  
27 rests within an active tectonic province in the western United States, there is the possibility that  
28 the site could undergo ground shaking from an earthquake. The potential destructive force of an  
29 earthquake at any site on the earth depends on several factors including size of the earthquake  
30 (usually measured by earthquake magnitude), duration of shaking, and how far away the site is  
31 from the earthquake epicenter.

32  
33 To ensure that critical facilities, including nuclear facilities, remain safe during and after an  
34 earthquake, the SSCs important to safety are designed to withstand vibratory ground motions  
35 from earthquakes. An important part of the design process is to accurately estimate the range  
36 of vibratory ground motions that could occur. Ground motion is most often expressed as ground  
37 acceleration in units of *g* (1*g* is the acceleration of gravitational attraction for standard  
38 conditions). Ground motions are determined for a range of spectral frequencies between 0.5  
39 and 100 Hz (oscillations per second). These estimates of ground accelerations are based on  
40 observations of past earthquakes from the historical seismic record, inferences about the  
41 location and magnitude of prehistoric earthquakes based on the geologic record; and detailed  
42 models of how the energy from earthquakes is attenuated as it travels from the earthquake  
43 source to the site.

44  
45 According to 10 CFR 72.122(b)(2), SSCs important to safety must be designed to withstand the  
46 effects of natural phenomena, including earthquakes. For sites west of the Rocky Mountains,  
47 such as the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, 10 CFR Part 72 requires that seismicity be  
48 evaluated by techniques described in Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 100. This appendix defines

1 the safe shutdown earthquake as the earthquake that produces the maximum vibratory ground  
2 motion at the site and requires the SSCs be designed to withstand these ground motions.

3  
4 Originally, this assessment of the safe shutdown earthquake was based on a deterministic  
5 approach assuming a 100-percent chance that the earthquake will occur. In recent years,  
6 however, geologists, seismologists, and engineers recognized that how frequently an  
7 earthquake occurs is also important to the definition of the safe shutdown earthquake. Thus,  
8 the NRC regulations were modified at 10 CFR 100.23(d)(1) to allow for the use of a probabilistic  
9 seismic hazard analysis (PSHA). In PSHA, the range of ground motions possible at a site is  
10 calculated as a function of how likely these ground motions are. This likelihood is expressed  
11 either as an annual probability that the ground motion would be exceeded or as its reciprocal,  
12 the ground motion return period. Geologic and seismologic inputs necessary to develop a  
13 PSHA include (i) interpretation of the seismic sources from which probability distribution  
14 functions of earthquake parameters (e.g., maximum magnitude and source-to-site distance) can  
15 be obtained, (ii) earthquake recurrence parameters (e.g., slip rate or activity rate), and  
16 (iii) ground motion attenuation. The NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 72 have not yet been  
17 updated to incorporate the use of PSHA methods. Nevertheless, as part of the safety  
18 evaluation report prepared for the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI at INTEC, NRC granted an  
19 exemption from the 10 CFR Part 72 regulations and allowed a PSHA approach, including facility  
20 design based on the 2,000-year return period mean ground motion (SECY-98-071).

21  
22 Inputs to the original PSHA, used to assess earthquake ground motions at the Three-Mile Island  
23 Unit 2 ISFSI at the INTEC facility (Woodward-Clyde Federal Services, 1996), were also used for  
24 the hazard assessment at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. For INTEC, the 2,000-year  
25 return period mean peak horizontal acceleration (ground acceleration at 100 Hz) was estimated  
26 at 0.13g. In 2000, the seismic hazards at five INEEL facility sites, including INTEC, were  
27 recalculated to account for new ground motion attenuation models. These new attenuation  
28 models were developed by URS Woodward-Clyde Federal Services for INEEL and first applied  
29 in the earthquake hazard assessment for the Naval Reactor Fuel ISFSI facility, 10.5 km [6.7 mi]  
30 northeast of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Stamatakos, et al., 2001). The new  
31 attenuation models predicted 12–23 percent lower ground motions compared with  
32 1996 estimates.

33  
34 In preparing a safety evaluation for the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI at the INTEC facility and  
35 for the review of the Naval Reactor Fuel ISFSI site, NRC evaluated previous DOE seismic  
36 hazard analyses (Brach, 1999; Stamatakos, et al., 2001). These reviews concluded that the  
37 analyses and information provided reasonable assurance that adequate geologic and  
38 seismological data were used in developing seismic hazard analyses. Because the proposed  
39 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is located within the same seismotectonic setting as the Three-Mile  
40 Island Unit 2 ISFSI and Naval Reactors Spent Fuel ISFSI site and because there have been no  
41 significant earthquakes since the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 ISFSI safety analysis report and  
42 Naval Fuel ISFSI evaluation were published, no additional update to the seismic hazard was  
43 deemed necessary. The design earthquake at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is,  
44 therefore, based on the 2,000-year return period ground motions from the existing seismic  
45 hazard assessment for INEEL.

46  
47 The primary structural steel members, concrete structures, and footings for the areas  
48 encompassed by the Cask Receipt Area, the Transfer Area, and the Storage Area are designed  
49 to withstand the forces and accelerations associated with the design earthquake. The storage

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1 tube assemblies, including the container  
2 storage tubes, shield plugs, and lids, which  
3 provide the vault storage positions, have  
4 also been designed to withstand these  
5 forces. In addition, the primary structural  
6 steel members of the Cask Receipt Area,  
7 Transfer Area, and Storage Area have  
8 been designed using the same seismic  
9 criteria and load combinations as important  
10 to safety structures. These structures  
11 would not adversely impact the SNF  
12 container or the SNF after a seismic event.  
13 The wall and roof panels and secondary  
14 support structures are not designed to  
15 withstand the design earthquake and may  
16 require repair or replacement after the  
17 event. These building components are not,  
18 however, required to remain intact during  
19 the event and do not provide configuration  
20 control, confinement, support or structural  
21 protection for the SNF. Failure of these  
22 systems would not result in damage to the  
23 SNF container or the SNF, and would not  
24 adversely impact public health and safety.

25

26 Based on the analyses provided in the safety analysis report (FWENC, 2001b), the systems  
27 important to safety for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility systems would withstand the  
28 accident loads with no unacceptable consequences and no significant release of radioactive  
29 material. The design basis ground motions are not expected to breach confinement or damage  
30 in-process or stored fuel or fuel containers. There are no postulated radiological releases or  
31 adverse radiological consequences from these design basis ground motions. These design  
32 basis ground motions do not involve a change to the fuel or structural integrity configuration.  
33 Therefore, no changes to the criticality, confinement, or retrievability of SNF are expected, and  
34 the impacts of the design basis ground motions are minimal.

35

### 36 4.12.4.5 Extreme Wind and Wind-Generated Missiles

37

38 The proposed facility is to be constructed at the INEEL site, approximately 43° 34' north latitude  
39 and 112° 55' west longitude. Based on the analysis presented in Ramsdell and Andrews  
40 (1986), the geographic region encompassing the INEEL site is one of the areas in the United  
41 States with a low tornado hazard occurrence. NRC Guidance (1997) specifies that any event  
42 with an annual probability of occurrence less than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  need not be considered.

43

44 The applicant, based on Ramsdell and Andrews (1986), estimated the characteristics of  
45 potential tornadoes at the proposed site. The average probability of any tornado striking this  
46 region is approximately  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  per year. The probability of a tornado with intensity F2 or  
47 higher {wind speed higher than 180 km/h [113 mph]} is approximately  $1.69 \times 10^{-7}$  per year. The  
48 estimated maximum wind speed at INEEL is 187 km/h [117 mph] (tornado category F2) with a  
49 probability of  $1 \times 10^{-7}$ .

The Fujita or F scale, is commonly used to classify tornadoes. In this scale, intensity of the tornadoes ranges from F0–F5 in order of increasing intensities. Each intensity class has a range of wind speed associated with it, as shown below.

F Scale	Wind Speed km/h [mph]
F0	64–116 [40–72]
F1	117 and 180 [73 and 112]
F2	181 and 253 [113 and 157]
F3	254–332 [158–206]
F4	333–418 [207–260]
F5	Higher than 419 [260]

1 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory developed a probabilistic tornado wind hazard model  
2 for the continental United States (Boissonnade, et al., 2000) on behalf of DOE. This model  
3 formed the basis of the tornado missile criteria in DOE (2002d). Based on Boissonnade, et al.  
4 (2000,), the estimated tornado wind speed at INEEL at an annual probability of exceedence of  
5  $10^{-7}$  (one chance in 10 million) is 459 km/h [285 mph], assuming tornado intensity distribution  
6 based on the contiguous United States; however, the estimated tornado wind speed reduces to  
7 330 km/h [205 mph] when assuming the tornado intensity distribution applicable to the NRC  
8 Region III, which encompasses the proposed facility. The NRC and Center for Nuclear Waste  
9 Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) staffs have requested additional information from FWENC on  
10 the design-basis tornado for the proposed facility, based on site-specific hazard information.

11  
12 The applicant considered Spectrum II missiles, as defined in Section 3.5.1.4, Missiles  
13 Generated by Natural Phenomena, NUREG-0800 (NRC, 1997) as the representative  
14 tornado-generated missiles for the proposed site. These missiles include

- 15 • 52-kg [115-lb] wooden plank traveling at 58 m/s [190 ft/s];
- 16  
17 • 130-kg [287 lb] 15-cm [6-in.] diameter Schedule 40 steel pipe traveling at 10 m/s [33 ft/s];
- 18  
19 • 4-kg [9-lb] 2.54-cm [1-in] diameter steel rod traveling at 8 m/s [26 ft/s];
- 20  
21 • 510-kg [1,124-lb] utility pole traveling at 26 m/s [85 ft/s];
- 22  
23 • 340-kg [750-lb] 0.3-m [12-in] diameter Schedule 40 steel pipe traveling at 7 m/s [23 ft/s]; and
- 24  
25 • 1,810-kg [4,000-lb] automobile traveling at 41 m/s [134 ft/s].

26  
27  
28 The applicant concluded, however, that the utility pole and the 0.3-m [12-in] diameter steel pipe  
29 are not credible missiles, citing DOE Standard DOE/STD-1020-1994 (1994), because heavier  
30 missiles will not be generated by a wind speed less than 322 km/h [200 mph]. Similarly, the  
31 applicant has excluded an automobile as a potential tornado-generated missile for the proposed  
32 facility, citing Coats and Murray (1985), because automobiles will not be picked up or sustained  
33 aloft by tornado events with wind speeds less than or equal to 322 km/h [200 mph]. The  
34 NRC and CNWRA staffs have requested additional information from FWENC on  
35 tornado-generated missiles.

36  
37 FWENC (2001b) analyzed the potential for a tornado missile to strike a safety-related structure  
38 causing radiological release at different locations of the proposed facility: (i) Outside Cask  
39 Receipt Area, (ii) Inside Cask Receipt Area, (iii) Inside Transfer Tunnel, (iv) Fuel Packaging  
40 Area, (v) Canister Closure Area, (vi) Canister Handling Machine on the Second Floor of the  
41 Storage Area, (vii) Storage Area, and (viii) Solid/Liquid Waste Area. Outside the Cask Receipt  
42 Area, the DOE transfer cask provides protection against tornado missiles. Inside the Canister  
43 Receipt Area, the DOE transfer cask provides the protection. SNF would be handled in the  
44 proposed facility approximately 15 percent of the time each year. Additionally, as an added  
45 precaution, any handling of SNF would be suspended when tornado watches or tornado  
46 warnings are in effect (FWENC, 2001b). The Transfer Tunnel would be constructed with a  
47 minimum 0.9-m [3-ft] thick reinforced concrete that would be able to provide the necessary  
48 protection from tornado missiles, based on NRC (1997). Similarly, within the Transfer Area, the  
49 Fuel Packaging Area and Canister Closure Area are isolated and enclosed by 1.2- and 0.9-m

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1 [4- and 3-ft] thick reinforced concrete walls. Therefore, it is anticipated the tornado missiles  
2 would not be a credible hazard for these locations. The Canister Handling Machine has been  
3 designed to withstand the effects of tornados. The Storage Area is enclosed by reinforced  
4 concrete walls up to 9.1 m [30 ft] around the perimeter, with a thickness of 0.9 m [3 ft].  
5 Therefore, it is anticipated tornado missiles would not be a credible hazard there either. The  
6 Solid/Liquid Waste Storage Areas are vulnerable to tornado missiles and wind pressure at some  
7 locations. FWENC (2001b) stated the off-site dose would remain below the regulatory limit  
8 even if there are gross failures of the protective barriers.

### 9 10 4.12.4.6 Wildfires

11  
12 The INEEL site has a desert ecosystem with shrub-steppe vegetation. Wildfires occur within the  
13 INEEL property boundary. Large fires in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, as shown in Figure 3-9,  
14 burned approximately 56,700 ha [140,000 acres] (DOE, 2002a). DOE has an active program to  
15 monitor the affected areas and the recovery of desert vegetation. Although evacuating  
16 personnel from the INEEL facilities when a fire approached too closely was necessary on some  
17 occasions, the INEEL Fire Department, with assistance from other area fire departments such  
18 as BLM, successfully fought the fire on every occasion so that none of the INEEL facilities was  
19 affected. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be constructed adjacent to INTEC on a  
20 previously disturbed site. Vegetation covers less than 5 percent of the surface area of this site.  
21 Therefore, potential for wildfires fueled by this vegetation is low (FWENC, 2001a).

22  
23 Outside the controlled boundary of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the INEEL Fire  
24 Department would provide fire response in accordance with the emergency plan (FWENC,  
25 2001b, Section 4.3). A qualified fire protection engineer would develop the overall fire  
26 protection program and also would design and select necessary equipment. The INEEL Fire  
27 Department would provide periodic site-specific training and fire drills. Personnel at the Idaho  
28 Spent Fuel Facility would be provided with general training; however, emergency response staff  
29 would have specialized training in accordance with FWENC (2001d). Therefore, based on the  
30 small amount of available fuel and the rapid response of the fire fighting team, it is anticipated  
31 that wildfires would not be a credible hazard to the proposed facility.

### 32 33 4.13 Waste Management Impacts

34  
35 Generation of gaseous, liquid, and solid low-level radioactive waste is expected during the SNF  
36 receipt and repackaging operations the first 3 years of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
37 operation (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6).

38  
39 SNF that would be stored at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is predominantly from the  
40 Peach Bottom and Shippingport reactors that ceased operations in 1974 and 1983. The nature  
41 and condition of the SNF have provided a means for radioactive gases to escape. Furthermore,  
42 the storage time has allowed for some decay of radioactive gases. Nonetheless, some release  
43 of radioactive gas is possible during handling and repackaging in areas such as the Transfer  
44 Tunnel, Fuel Packaging Area, and Canister Closure Area. Based on the expected radionuclide  
45 inventory of SNF to be received at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the primary gaseous  
46 radionuclides of concern are iodine-129, krypton-85, and tritium (FWENC, 2001b, Chapter 6).

1 The proposed heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system (HVAC) would serve to prevent  
 2 accidental release of radioactive material into the environment and maintain personnel  
 3 exposures ALARA. Any gases released within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be  
 4 passed through HEPA air filters to remove particulates and allow monitoring of radioactive  
 5 gases before discharge through the exhaust stack. Evaluation of potential radiological impacts  
 6 from normal heating ventilation and air-conditioning system discharges of gaseous effluents to  
 7 the MEI at the controlled area boundary {approximately  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  mSv/yr [ $3 \times 10^{-5}$  mrem/yr]}  
 8 (FWENC, 2001b, Chapter 6) would be well below the regulatory constraint in 10 CFR Part 20 for  
 9 members of the public {0.1 mSv/yr [10 mrem/yr]}.

11 Once repackaged, no further gaseous releases are expected from the SNF because packages  
 12 would be sealed and monitored for integrity during storage. Hydrogen gas also may be  
 13 produced by radiolytic decomposition of aqueous solutions. Release of hydrogen gas is  
 14 possible in the liquid radioactive waste storage tank or in the SNF transfer cask where small  
 15 amounts of moisture may be present with the SNF. Conservative FWENC estimates of the rate  
 16 of hydrogen generation in the liquid waste storage tank (with no ventilation) indicate passive  
 17 ventilation of the tank would be sufficient to maintain hydrogen concentrations below the  
 18 4 percent flammable concentration level (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6). Regarding the transfer  
 19 casks, the internal atmospheric concentration of hydrogen would be sampled to ensure gas  
 20 concentrations are within acceptable limits prior to removal of the cask lid (FWENC, 2001b,  
 21 Section 6).

23 Liquid radioactive waste would not be generated during normal operations of the proposed  
 24 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, however, such waste may be generated during nonroutine  
 25 decontamination activities or as a result of sprinkler or firefighting water (Table 4-11). FWENC  
 26 estimates no more than 17,800 L [4,700 gal] of liquid radioactive waste would be generated

28 **Table 4-11. Estimated Concentrations of Principal Radionuclides in Liquid Waste<sup>a</sup>**

Radionuclide <sup>b</sup>	Concentration (Ci/g)
Tritium	$1.11 \times 10^{-9}$
Krypton-85	$7.75 \times 10^{-9}$
Strontium-90	$1.33 \times 10^{-10}$
Yttrium-90	$1.33 \times 10^{-10}$
Cesium-137	$1.41 \times 10^{-10}$
Barium-137	$1.33 \times 10^{-10}$
Plutonium-238	$1.57 \times 10^{-12}$

37 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

39 <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." Section 6. NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
 40 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Section 6. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

41 <sup>b</sup> Other radionuclide concentrations estimated at < 1 pCi/g.

42 NOTE: To convert grams (g) to ounces (oz), multiply by 0.03527.

## Environmental Impacts

1 each year from decontamination activities (2001b, Section 6). A liquid waste processing system  
 2 would collect and store such liquid wastes temporarily in a 18,900-L [5,000-gal] tank prior to  
 3 transfer to a licensed treatment facility by a mobile service contractor. The tank would be  
 4 located below grade with an effective containment volume of 41,650 L [11,000 gal] in the event  
 5 of a tank failure or spill (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6). Liquid waste collection would be available  
 6 in the personnel safety shower and eye wash, the solid waste processing area where water may  
 7 be used for decontamination, the Transfer Tunnel where decontamination water or fire sprinkler  
 8 water could be generated, the Canister Closure Area where decontamination or container weld  
 9 test water may be generated, the workshop where decontamination water may be generated,  
 10 and the liquid waste storage area where a sump would filter and collect spilled or wash water to  
 11 be transferred to the liquid waste storage tank. Normal decontamination activities would involve  
 12 only small amounts of water for wiping with cloth or paper (no free liquid wastes would  
 13 be generated).

14  
 15 Solid waste generated at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be from repackaging of  
 16 SNF and other process-related activities. Solid waste is classified as large canister waste,  
 17 small canister waste, and process level waste. The canister waste includes large and small  
 18 containers used to deliver SNF to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Process waste  
 19 includes paper, rubber, plastic, rags, machinery parts, tools, vacuum cleaner debris, welding  
 20 materials, and HEPA filters. Estimated volumes of solid waste are provided in Table 4-12.

21  
 22 Solid waste from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be characterized for disposal as  
 23 low-level radioactive waste (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6) and would be handled through the solid  
 24 waste processing system located in the solid waste processing area. This solid waste  
 25 processing system would handle, package, and temporarily store solid waste pending  
 26 transportation to the (onsite) INEEL Radioactive Waste Management Complex or available  
 27 off-site locations, including the Nevada Test Site and Hanford, for disposal (DOE, 2000). Waste  
 28 would be characterized, analyzed, and disposed of in accordance with existing DOE/INEEL  
 29 reuse, recycle, and waste acceptance criteria (DOE, 1999b). The Radioactive Waste  
 30 Management Complex would accept packages with radiation limited to 500 mR/hr at 1 m [3.3 ft];  
 31 however, the general practice is to limit waste container surface radiation to below 100 mR/hr.  
 32 Canister waste would be processed by surveying containers and cleaning and sectioning in the  
 33 fuel processing area using specially designed saws to ensure canister waste meets a radiation  
 34

35 **Table 4-12. Estimated Volumes of Solid Low-Level Radioactive Waste<sup>a</sup>**

36 Waste Type (m <sup>3</sup> )	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
37 Canister Waste	81	81	138	300
38 Process Generated	37	37	28	102
39 Total Volume	118	118	166	402

40 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

41  
 42 <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." Section 6. NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
 43 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

44  
 45 NOTE: To convert meters cubed (m<sup>3</sup>) to yards cubed (yd<sup>3</sup>), multiply by 1.3079.

46



1 limit of 50 mR/hr prior to transfer to the Radioactive Waste Management Complex for further  
2 sectioning and packaging for disposal (FWENC, 2001b, Section 6). No mixed waste is  
3 expected to be generated by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

4  
5 The Radioactive Waste Management Complex Subsurface Disposal Area has a total capacity of  
6 approximately 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> [70,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] (FWENC, 2003). For the past 3 years, DOE has  
7 disposed of low-level radioactive waste at a rate of approximately 4,000 m<sup>3</sup> [5,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] per year  
8 (FWENC, 2003). The aforementioned estimated total volume of solid waste during proposed  
9 fuel receipt and repackaging operations in Table 4-12 is approximately 400 m<sup>3</sup> [500 yd<sup>3</sup>],  
10 representing a 3-percent annual increase in low-level waste generation. Therefore, the  
11 increase in the waste generation rate and estimated total volume of waste for the proposed  
12 action is small compared with the current waste generation rate and existing disposal capacity.

13  
14 In summary, no chemical effluents or wastes are planned to be generated from the proposed  
15 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Small amounts of gaseous, particulate, and dilute liquid radioactive  
16 wastes are planned to be generated by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Control  
17 systems planned for gaseous, particulate, and liquid radioactive wastes would contain releases  
18 and limit exposures to workers and the public well below regulatory limits. Solid radioactive  
19 wastes generated at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would consist of used waste  
20 containers and process wastes, both classified as low-level radioactive waste. The INEEL site  
21 includes a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility with the capacity to dispose of the waste  
22 generated by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Volumes of low-level solid waste  
23 estimated to be generated by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are a small fraction of the  
24 annual INEEL site low-level waste generation and existing disposal capacity. INEEL and other  
25 applicable low-level radioactive waste sites have been previously assessed for environmental  
26 impacts; therefore, no significant environmental impacts are expected from solid wastes.  
27 Overall, waste management activities associated with the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
28 are designed to limit waste volumes and maintain exposures ALARA. No significant  
29 environmental impacts are expected to result from waste management activities.

#### 30 31 **4.14 Cumulative Impacts**

32  
33 Cumulative impacts (effects) refer to the impacts on the environment that result from the  
34 incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably  
35 foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person  
36 undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but  
37 collectively significant actions taking place during a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7). This  
38 definition encompasses the following relative to this section:

- 39  
40 • The action refers to the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
41 Facility to be located adjacent to INTEC at INEEL.
- 42  
43 • The direct and indirect incremental impacts of the proposed action are a key criterion in  
44 determining if cumulative effects on localized and regional environmental and natural  
45 resources, ecosystems, and human communities need to be addressed (e.g., if the  
46 proposed action has no effects on a given resource, it is not necessary to address the  
47 existing cumulative effects that have occurred on the resource).

## Environmental Impacts

- 1 • For those cumulative effects that need to be addressed, it is necessary to consider the  
2 direct and indirect effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions on  
3 the affected resources, ecosystems, and human communities (past actions can include  
4 those prior to INEEL, as well as INEEL actions since 1949; present actions include those  
5 in detailed planning, being constructed, and recently initiated; and reasonably  
6 foreseeable future actions include those beyond mere speculation, but within the  
7 timeframe for analysis).
- 8
- 9 • Direct effects are those effects caused by the proposed action, past actions, present  
10 actions, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, that occur at the same time and place  
11 as the respective actions (40 CFR 1508.8a); indirect effects are caused by the  
12 respective actions and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still  
13 reasonably foreseeable (indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects; other  
14 effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density; or  
15 growth rate; and related effects on air, water, and other natural systems, including  
16 ecosystems) (40 CFR 1508.8b).
- 17
- 18 • The respective actions may have been, or would be, the result of decisions made by  
19 various governmental levels (federal, state, or local) or the private sector; further, such  
20 actions may be on INEEL lands or offsite (the key is that common resources,  
21 ecosystems, or human communities are affected).
- 22
- 23 • Cumulative effects need to be analyzed relative to a place-based perspective  
24 (the situation at INEEL) on the specific resources, ecosystems, and human  
25 communities affected.
- 26
- 27 • Each affected resource, ecosystem, and human community must be analyzed for its  
28 sustainability and capacity to accommodate additional effects, based on its own time and  
29 space parameters (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997).
- 30

31 A detailed methodology based on Council on Environmental Quality guidance (1997) is included  
32 in Appendix C.

### 34 **4.14.1 Incremental Impacts of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility**

35  
36 Section 8.1 and Table 2-1 contain a summary of the potential environmental impacts identified  
37 for construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. These impacts were  
38 abstracted from Sections 4.1–4.13. Detailed information on the assumptions, calculations, and  
39 qualitative descriptions of the impacts is presented in the respective earlier sections.

40  
41 Based on the impact analysis, all incremental impacts of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
42 would be small in the context of historical, current, and planned operations at INEEL. No  
43 significant impacts have been identified from the construction and operation of the proposed  
44 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; however, cumulative effects are addressed for most of the impact  
45 categories summarized previously. Cumulative effects on noise and visual/scenic qualities are  
46 not addressed because of the temporary and localized nature of the noise impacts from the  
47 facility, and the lack of visual intrusions from the facility in relation to its adjoining location  
48 to INTEC.

49

#### 1 **4.14.2 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions**

2  
3 Cumulative effects assessment entails consideration of the incremental impacts of the proposed  
4 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility when added to the effects of past, present, and reasonably  
5 foreseeable future actions. Past actions can include those prior to the establishment of INEEL  
6 (or its precursor names) in 1949 and other actions implemented at INEEL prior to the current  
7 time. Examples of these past actions on INEEL lands include

- 8
- 9 • Agricultural practices and cattle and sheep grazing from 1860 through the 1940s;
- 10
- 11 • Bombing practice in the Central Facilities Area in the 1940s;
- 12
- 13 • Usage by the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes for subsistence and religious practices for  
14 many decades prior to the 1940s; and
- 15
- 16 • Development of the infrastructure and facilities at nine multiprogram areas within INEEL  
17 by the DOE (or its precursor agencies); these program areas include INTEC, Test Area  
18 North, Naval Reactors Facility, Test Reactor Area, Central Facilities Area, Power Burst  
19 Facility, Auxiliary Reactor Area, Argonne National Laboratory–West, and the Radioactive  
20 Waste Management Complex (see Figure 3-2 for the location of these areas).
- 21

22 The cumulative effects of past actions are summarized in Table 4-13 and described in more  
23 detail in Appendix C. Cumulative effects concerns are divided into four groups—major, modest,  
24 minor, and none. No cumulative effects concerns exist for noise because of the localized and  
25 transient nature of noise impacts. There are no cumulative effects concerns for visual and  
26 scenic issues because of INEEL's compliance with current guidelines. Additional information on  
27 the rationale for the grouping of each remaining affected environment is presented in  
28 Section 4.14.3.

29

30 Current actions and reasonably foreseeable future actions include those identified in the DOE  
31 programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995), the Idaho High-Level Waste (HLW) and Facilities  
32 Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a), and the EIS on the ISFSI for Three-Mile Island Unit 2 Spent Fuel  
33 (NRC, 1998). Table 4-14 includes the projects considered to be within the current actions and  
34 reasonably foreseeable future actions based on the earlier DOE analysis (DOE, 1995). These  
35 actions are part of the projected baseline (i.e., the future without the proposed action  
36 conditions). The project Dry Fuel Storage, Fuel Receiving, Canning/Characterization, and  
37 Shipping includes the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part B,  
38 Appendix C).

39

40 Additional onsite reasonably foreseeable future actions included in this cumulative effects  
41 assessment are listed in Table 4-15. Information related to the closure of various INTEC  
42 facilities identified in Table 4-15, including a list of facilities and their closure actions,  
43 deactivation activity period, and demolition activity period is provided in the Idaho HLW and  
44 Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a, Section 5.4).

45

46 As part of the preparation of the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002a),  
47 discussions were held with the City of Idaho Falls, the State of Idaho Department of  
48 Environmental Quality, and the BLM regarding anticipated future activities that could contribute  
49 to a cumulative impact on a particular resource or through a particular pathway within the

Environmental Impacts

Table 4-13. Summary of the Cumulative Effects Concerns Related to Past Actions*		
Affected Environment	Category	Cumulative Effects Concerns
Land Use	E	Modest concerns because small land use changes can impact many other environmental features
Transportation	HC	Minor concerns because adequate highways and on-site roads exist, along with a rail system in the region
Geology and Soils	R	Some soil contamination exists in and around INTEC facility, thus a minor concern exists
Water Resources--Surface Water	R	Minor concerns because surface water is not used as a water supply, the quality meets applicable standards, and wastewater treatment systems exist at INEEL
Water Resources--Groundwater	R	Groundwater usage is well within INEEL water rights; however, contaminated soils in the vadose zone and groundwater underlying the INTEC facilities suggest a major cumulative effects concern
Ecology	E	Minor concerns because the large majority of the INEEL area supports a diversity of flora, fauna, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands
Air Quality	R	Modest concerns because atmospheric transport can be a major cumulative effects pathway; however, current radiological and nonradiological air qualities are in compliance with applicable federal and state standards
Noise	R	No concerns due to localized and transient nature of noise sources at INEEL and in the region
Historic and Cultural	HC	Minor concern with regard to eligible historic structures; major concerns due to cumulative effects of continued restricted access on the Shoshone and Bannock Tribes
Visual and Scenic	HC	No concerns because the land uses both onsite at INEEL and on the adjacent lands are compatible with the Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Management Guidelines
Socioeconomic	HC	Major beneficial cumulative effect because the overall operations of INEEL represent a significant contribution to the regional economy
Environmental Justice	HC	Minor concern because three recent impact studies indicated no disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations
Public and Occupational Health	HC	Modest concerns due to cumulative exposures to INEEL workers and to the general public living nearby; both radiological and nonradiological stressors exist
Waste Management	R	Major concerns due to the quantities of radioactive wastes and spent nuclear fuel stored at INEEL
E = ecosystems HC = human communities INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center R = resources * See Appendix C of this report.		

1	
2	<b>Table 4-14. Current Actions and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Identified In</b>
3	<b>the DOE Programmatic EIS on SNF and Included in the Projected Baseline Conditions*</b>
4	Borrow Source Silt Clay
5	Calcine Transfer Project
6	Central Liquid Waste Processing Facility Decontamination and Decommissioning
7	Dry Fuels Storage Facility, Fuel Receiving, Canning/Characterization, and Shipping
8	Environmental Assessment Determination for CPP-627
9	Experimental Breeder Reactor-II Blanket Treatment
10	Experimental Breeder Reactor-II Plant Closure
11	Expended Core Facility Dry Cell Project
12	Engineering Test Reactor Decontamination and Decommissioning
13	Fuel Processing Complex (CPP-601) Decontamination and Decommissioning
14	Gravel Pit Expansions (New Borrow Source)
15	Greater-Than-Class C Dedicated Storage
16	Headend Processing Plant (CPP-640) Decontamination and Decommissioning
17	Heath Physics Instrument Lab
18	High-Level Tank Farm Replacement (upgrade phase)
19	Increased Rack Capacity for CPP-666
20	Industrial/Commercial Landfill Expansion
21	Material Test Reactor Decontamination and Decommissioning
22	Mixed Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility
23	Nonincinerable Mixed Waste Treatment
24	Partnership Natural Disaster Reduction Test Station
25	Pit 9 Retrieval
26	Private Sector Alpha-Mixed Low-Level Waste Treatment
27	Radioactive Scrap/Waste Facility
28	Remediation of Groundwater Facilities
29	Remote Mixed Waste Treatment Facility
30	Radiological and Environmental Sciences Laboratory Replacement
31	Radioactive Waste Management Complex Modifications for Private Sector Treatment of
32	Alpha-Mixed Low-Level Waste
33	Sodium Processing Plant
34	Test Area North Pool Fuel Transfer
35	Tank Farm Heel Removal Project
36	Treatment of Alpha-Mixed Low-Level Waste
37	Technical Support Annex Enclosure and Storage Project

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1	<b>Table 4-14. Current Actions and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Identified In the DOE Programmatic EIS on SNF and Included in the Projected Baseline Conditions<sup>a</sup> (continued)</b>	
2		
3		
4		Vadose Zone Remediation
5		Waste Calcine Facility (CPP-633) Decontamination and Decommissioning
6		Waste Characterization Facility
7		Waste Handling Facility
8		Waste Immobilization Facility
9		Waste Experimental Reduction Facility Incineration
10	DOE = U.S. Department of Energy	
11	EIS = Environmental Impact Statement	
12	SNF = spent nuclear fuel	
13		
14	<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F. "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.	
15		
16		

17  
18 geographical boundaries of the study. No specific off-site reasonably foreseeable future actions  
19 were identified for inclusion in the analysis.

20  
21 **4.14.3 Magnitude and Significance of Cumulative Effects**

22  
23 The magnitude of cumulative effects resulting from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable  
24 future actions is addressed using a three-step process: (i) the cumulative effects of past actions  
25 on selected resources, ecosystems, and human communities are discussed in Section 4.14.2  
26 and summarized in Appendix C and Table 4-13; (ii) the cumulative effects of current actions and  
27 reasonably foreseeable future actions are included in Table 4-16; and (iii) the incremental  
28 impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are  
29 summarized in Section 8.1. A discussion of the magnitude of the additive cumulative effects  
30 and their significances, is presented in this section. Prior to the discussion, however, some  
31 clarifying comments regarding Table 4-16 are in order.

- 32  
33 • The data and information in Table 4-16 were extracted from the comprehensive systems  
34 model described in DOE (1995). The systems model included all SNF, HLW,  
35 transuranic waste, low-level waste, mixed low-level waste, hazardous waste, and  
36 industrial waste activities. The model was based on planned treatment, storage, and  
37 disposal activities at INEEL, EIS project summaries, and operating parameters of  
38 existing facilities, and was updated to reflect projects included in the DOE programmatic  
39 SNF EIS record of decision and other projects that occurred subsequent to that EIS.
- 40  
41 • The data and information listed for the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE,  
42 2002a) represent the maximum impact from the alternatives analysis contained in  
43 that EIS.
- 44  
45 • In Table 4-16, column New Silt/Clay Source was included as a separate reasonably  
46 foreseeable future action because excavation of silt and clay for use in INEEL operations  
47 and remedial activities would be needed; further, these materials may be required to  
48 support facility disposition activities at INTEC (DOE, 2002a, Section 5.4).

**Table 4-15. Summary of Current Actions and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions Identified in the Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition<sup>a</sup>**

Project	Description
Programmatic SNF EIS <sup>b</sup>	DOE <sup>b</sup> provided the scope and timetable for SNF and environmental restoration activities to be included in the cumulative impact analysis of DOE. <sup>a</sup>
Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project <sup>c</sup>	Retrieve, sort, characterize, and treat mixed low-level waste and approximately 65,000 m <sup>3</sup> [85,000 yd <sup>3</sup> ] of alpha-contaminated mixed low-level waste and transuranic waste currently stored at the INEEL Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Package the treated waste for shipment offsite for disposal.
Waste Area Group 3 Remediation <sup>c</sup>	Ongoing activities addressing remediation of past releases of contaminants at INTEC.
New silt/clay source development and use at INEEL	INEEL activities require silt/clay for construction of soil caps over contaminated sites, research sites, and landfills; replacement of radioactivity contaminated soil with topsoil for revegetation and backfill; sealing of sewage lagoons; and other uses. Silt/clay will be mined from three onsite sources (ryegrass flats, Spreading Area A, and Water Reactor Research Test Facility).
Closure of various INTEC facilities unrelated to Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS Alternatives <sup>a</sup>	Reduce the risk of radioactive exposure and release of hazardous constituents and eliminate the need for extensive long-term surveillance and maintenance for obsolete facilities at INTEC.
Percolation Pond Replacement	DOE intends to replace existing percolation ponds at INTEC with replacement ponds approximately 3,110 m [10,200 ft] southwest of the existing percolation ponds.

DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  
 EIS = Environmental Impact Statement  
 HLW = high-level waste  
 INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
 INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center  
 SNF = spent nuclear fuel

<sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0250, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

<sup>b</sup> ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

<sup>c</sup> Included in the baseline conditions identified in DOE<sup>b</sup>.

**Table 4-16. Maximum Impact from Other Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects<sup>a,b</sup>**

Resource Area	Waste Processing <sup>a</sup>	Facility Disposition <sup>a</sup>	SNF Management <sup>b</sup>	New Silt/Clay Source Development and Use at INEEL <sup>a</sup>	Disposition of Unrelated INTEC Facilities <sup>a</sup>	Percolation Pond Replacement <sup>a</sup>	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility <sup>c</sup>
Land Resources/ Acres Disturbed	8.9 ha	None	545.1 ha	8.5 ha/yr and 9.7 ha/yr	None	6.9 ha	7.3 ha
Socioeconomic s	Direct employment of 870 during construction, 530 during operations	Direct peak year employment of 790	Overall decrease in employment	None/use of existing workforce	Small numbers of workers drawn from existing labor pool	None/use of existing workforce	Direct employment of 250 during construction; 60 during first 4 years of operation
Air Resources	Consumption up to 40 percent of prevention of significant deterioration increment/no health-based standards exceeded	No health-based standards exceeded	Below applicable standards	Short-term elevated levels of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions	Emissions of fugitive dust/vehicle exhaust during demolition activities	Temporary emissions of fugitive dust and vehicular exhaust during construction activities	Temporary emissions of fugitive dust and vehicular exhaust during construction activities; no chemical air discharges during operations, radiological emissions are controlled by filtration and monitoring
Water Resources/ Groundwater Withdrawal and Contamination	352 million L/yr; negligible latent cancer fatality risk	Increase of 41.6 million L/yr; latent cancer fatality risk of $2.9 \times 10^{-4}$ from facility disposition	Increase of 314.2 million L/yr; latent cancer fatality risk of $5 \times 10^{-5}$	Negligible	Within existing water use; latent cancer fatality risk of $2 \times 10^{-6}$ from closure of CPP-633	Relocation of ponds reduces potential for contaminant migration	3.41 million L during first year of construction, 1.7 million L/yr during operations; no planned liquid discharges from the facility
Ecological Resources/ Acreage Loss	8.9 ha	None	545.1 ha	8.5 ha and 9.7 ha/yr	None	1.5 ha	7.3 ha

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1 **Table 4-16. Maximum Impact from Other Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Projects<sup>a,b</sup> (continued)**

2 3	Resource Area	Waste Processing <sup>a</sup>	Facility Disposition <sup>a</sup>	SNF Management <sup>a</sup>	New Silt/Clay Source Development and Use at the INEEL <sup>a</sup>	Disposition of Unrelated INTEC Facilities <sup>a</sup>	Percolation Pond Replacement <sup>a</sup>	Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility <sup>c</sup>
4 5	Geology and Soils	Negligible (use of existing on-site sources)	Negligible (use of existing on-site sources)	1,355,000 m <sup>3</sup>	3,517,000 m <sup>3</sup> as a silt/clay source	Materials obtained from existing INEEL sources	Soil disturbance on 6.9 ha	Soil disturbance on 7.3 ha; materials obtained from existing INEEL sources
6 7	Cultural Resources	Negligible	Potential for loss of historic data on nuclear facilities	70 structures and 23 sites affected	No significant resources identified in survey of 40-acre plots at each on-site location	Potential for loss of historic data on nuclear facilities	Surveys will be conducted/ resources avoided	Two structures potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are near current storage locations or proposed transfer routes; no identified cultural resources
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	DOE = U.S. Department of Energy EIS = Environmental Impact Statement HLW = high-level waste INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory INTEC = Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center SNF = spent nuclear fuel  <sup>a</sup> DOE. DOE/EIS-0250, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002. <sup>b</sup> ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995. <sup>c</sup> See Table 2-1 of this report for a detailed summary.  NOTE: To convert hectares (ha) to acres, multiply by 2.471; meters cubed (m <sup>3</sup> ) to yards cubed (yd <sup>3</sup> ), multiply by 1.3079; liters (L) to gallons (gal), multiply by 0.2642.							

4-51

## Environmental Impacts

- 1 • In Table 4-16, column Disposition of Unrelated INTEC Facilities addresses impacts of  
2 the disposition of the facilities listed in DOE (2002a, Section 5.4).  
3
- 4 • In Table 4-16, column Percolation Pond Replacement is included because residual  
5 contamination left in place from Waste Area Group 3 activities would contribute to the  
6 source for long-term risks associated with INTEC. DOE has chosen to remediate  
7 contaminated perched water at Waste Area Group 3 using institutional controls with  
8 aquifer recharge control. This choice would entail restricting future use of contaminated  
9 perched water and future recharge to contaminated perched water and taking the  
10 existing INTEC percolation ponds out of service and replacing them with new ponds built  
11 outside the zone influencing perched water contaminant transport (DOE, 2002a,  
12 Section 5.4).  
13
- 14 • Table 4-16 does not include summary information on impacts to transportation, noise,  
15 visual/scenic, environmental justice, public and occupational health and safety, and  
16 waste management. Noise and visual/scenic impacts are excluded because of minimal  
17 existing concerns and the minimal incremental impacts of the proposed Idaho Spent  
18 Fuel Facility. The other impacts are addressed in the following paragraphs.  
19

20 For land use, existing industrial development at INEEL occupies 4,600 ha [11,400 acres] of a  
21 total resource of 230,850 ha [570,000 acres] (nearly 2 percent). Modest cumulative effects  
22 concerns are related to these past and present actions because it is recognized that even  
23 though the percentage of land use is small, such land use changes can affect other resources,  
24 ecosystems, and human communities. Implementation of all current and future actions, as  
25 shown in Table 4-16 (for the period 2000–2095), would lead to the conversion of an additional  
26 approximately 650 ha [1,600 acres] to industrial use. The total industrial land use would  
27 increase to 2.3 percent. Finally, the incremental impact of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
28 Facility would be an additional 3.2 ha [8 acres] of land permanently converted to industrial use.  
29 Total industrial land use would increase to approximately 5,270 ha [13,008 acres] (still about  
30 2.3 percent). As a result, modest cumulative effects concerns would persist; however, these  
31 can be minimized via careful land use planning that involves land use conversions to industrial  
32 development in or near areas that have been previously used for such purposes.  
33

34 For transportation and infrastructure, existing conditions include six highways and one rail line  
35 providing access to INEEL. Further, 140 km [87 mi] of paved roads are located within INEEL.  
36 These transportation components have been previously analyzed for cumulative radiological  
37 impacts because of shipments of radioactive materials to INEEL (DOE, 2002a). Another  
38 perspective is to consider the adequacy of the capacity (levels-of-service) of the transportation  
39 system for the volume of worker and shipment ingress to INEEL and egress from INEEL. From  
40 this perspective, only minor cumulative effects concerns exist, and no level-of-service changes  
41 are currently needed. Further, even with the implementation of all current and planned or  
42 proposed future actions at INEEL, traffic volumes are not expected to increase. Incremental  
43 impacts of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility on traffic volume would be small; however,  
44 the transfer of currently stored SNF from INTEC to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
45 would be required for planned operations. The traffic volume would be low, and the transfers  
46 would be made in accordance with the requirements of the DOE orders and procedures for  
47 on-site SNF transfer. As a result, no changes are anticipated in the minor cumulative effects  
48 concerns for transportation.  
49

1 For geology and soils, the primary issue from past and present actions is that soils have been  
 2 disturbed in areas where the land use has been converted to industrial activities. Soil losses  
 3 have occurred via erosion, and some soils at specific locations have become radiologically  
 4 contaminated. More specifically, some soil contamination exists in and around the INTEC  
 5 facility, thus, a minor cumulative effects concern exists. Surveys do not show any existing soil  
 6 contamination at the proposed site for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The remediation focus of  
 7 many current and future actions listed in Table 4-16 would require some additional land  
 8 disturbance for the extraction of silt and clay for use as borrow material and the replacement of  
 9 the percolation pond at INTEC. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would affect the soil at  
 10 the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site, and to some extent, at the adjacent construction laydown area (a  
 11 temporary impact). Therefore, the incremental impact of the proposed facility is almost  
 12 negligible within the overall geological and soil resources at INEEL. Further, because of the  
 13 planned remediation projects at INEEL, the current minor cumulative effects concern would  
 14 be reduced.

15  
 16 Regarding surface water resources, only minor cumulative effects concerns exist from past and  
 17 present actions. Surface water is not used as a water supply at INEEL, and its quality meets  
 18 applicable standards. Current and planned actions would also not require surface water use,  
 19 nor would the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Storm water control plans would be used for  
 20 current and planned actions and for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Wastewaters  
 21 generated at INEEL are currently handled via planned treatment systems, as would such  
 22 wastewater that may be generated by all current and future actions.

23  
 24 Past and current INEEL operations use groundwater as the water supply source. Current  
 25 annual water withdrawals from the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer total 6.4 to 7.2 billion L  
 26 [1.7 to 1.9 billion gal], and these withdrawals are well within the allocated INEEL water rights  
 27 that permit a maximum consumption of 43.2 billion L [11.4 billion gal] per year. Table 4-16  
 28 indicates that current and future actions would require a maximum total of 707 million L  
 29 [187 million gal] on an annual basis (an approximate 10-percent increase from current use,  
 30 however, not on a continuing basis, and still well within the water rights). The incremental water  
 31 use from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is an increase of only 0.1 percent of the current  
 32 water use. Thus, the cumulative effects on groundwater use would not be significant.

33  
 34 A major cumulative effects concern related to past and present actions is the contaminated soils  
 35 in the vadose zone and the contaminated groundwater underlying the INTEC facilities and  
 36 surrounding area. Planned and future actions are focused on remediation effects, thus, the  
 37 contamination would be reduced and more appropriately managed. No soil and groundwater  
 38 impacts are anticipated from construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
 39 Facility located adjacent to the southeastern boundary of INTEC.

40  
 41 Ecological resources associated with the undisturbed land at INEEL are diverse and include  
 42 15 vegetation associations and 280 different vertebrate species (46 mammal, 204 bird,  
 43 10 reptile, 2 amphibian, and 9 fish). Seven bird species, six mammals, one reptile, and six plant  
 44 species are listed as threatened or endangered, or species of concern, or other unique species.  
 45 Some wetland characteristics are exhibited by approximately 130 areas within the INEEL  
 46 boundaries. There are minor cumulative effects concerns from past and present actions  
 47 because nearly 98 percent of INEEL lands still supports the diversity noted previously. Land  
 48 use required for current and future actions totals 650 ha [1,600 acres] (Table 4-16), and the land  
 49 requirement for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is 3.2 ha [8 acres]. These current and

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1 future actions would cumulatively affect 651 ha [1,608 acres] and increase the disturbed land  
2 area total to 2.3 percent (the past and present actions total is nearly 2 percent). Therefore, the  
3 ecological diversity at INEEL should be maintained, and cumulative effects concerns would  
4 continue to be minor.

5  
6 Regarding ambient air quality, the current radiological and nonradiological air quality at INEEL is  
7 in compliance with applicable federal and state standards. Modest cumulative effects concerns  
8 currently exist, however, because atmospheric transport of radioactivity releases can be a major  
9 pathway for the occurrence of cumulative health effects. Table 4-16 indicates that no  
10 health-based air quality standards would be exceeded by the current and future actions,  
11 although short-term elevated levels of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions would occur in  
12 localized areas. Consumption up to 40 percent of prevention of significant deterioration  
13 increments may occur from future waste processing. The incremental effects of the  
14 construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be essentially  
15 negligible when considered in relation to current and future radiological and nonradiological  
16 emission inventories at INEEL.

17  
18 Regarding historical and cultural resources at INEEL, no known resources would be lost as a  
19 result of the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Past and  
20 present actions at INEEL probably have caused the loss or damage to historic buildings and  
21 cultural sites; further, the major current concern is associated with the cumulative effects of  
22 continued restricted access of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes. As summarized in Table 4-16,  
23 some historic structures and cultural resources sites may be impacted by current and future  
24 actions. Moreover, the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and related  
25 federal and state laws would be followed for all current and future actions, including the  
26 construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

27  
28 The 2001 INEEL workforce was approximately 8,100 workers; this represents approximately  
29 6 percent of the total work force in the region of influence. Thus, the operations at INEEL  
30 provide a major beneficial cumulative effect on the socioeconomic characteristics of the region.  
31 Table 4-16 indicates that waste processing activities would sustain a maximum of 870 direct  
32 jobs during the peak year (2013) of the construction phase and a maximum of 530 direct jobs  
33 during the peak year (2015) of the operations phase (DOE, 2002a). Facility disposition  
34 activities would require direct employment of up to 790 workers. Further, DOE anticipates these  
35 workers would be drawn from the existing workforce through retraining and reassignment.  
36 When the workforce of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is considered (a construction  
37 force of 250 for 4 years and an operational force of up to 60 for the next several decades), it is  
38 seen that the incremental impacts are small in relation to the current total and anticipated  
39 workforce. Accordingly, the cumulative effects of the proposed facility on the workforce, when  
40 added to the effects of other reasonably foreseeable future actions on the workforce, will be  
41 small and within normal INEEL workforce fluctuations.

42  
43 Regarding cumulative environmental justice impacts, the two recent programmatic impact  
44 studies (DOE, 1995, 2002a), along with NRC (1998), all concluded there were no  
45 disproportionate impacts. Table 4-13 lists minor cumulative impact concerns, primarily because  
46 of the potential for such impacts occurring over time. Regarding disproportionate impacts, none  
47 were noted for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; thus, there are no significant cumulative  
48 environmental justice impacts.

49

1 Current annual individual exposures to airborne releases of radioactivity from past and present  
2 actions are well below the 0.1 mSv/yr [10 mrem/yr] limit in 40 CFR Part 61 for onsite workers  
3 and the MEI and considerably below the natural background level of 3.6 mSv/yr [360 mrem/yr].  
4 Occupational doses for INEEL workers are also considerably below the annual occupational  
5 dose limit of 50 mSv [5,000 mrem] in 10 CFR Part 20. Although the exposure levels are well  
6 below the regulatory limits, however, there are modest cumulative effects concerns because of  
7 the human health nature of these effects. A detailed discussion of such effects from current and  
8 future actions is found in DOE (2002a). The anticipated annual exposures from current and  
9 future actions are still well below regulatory limits for INEEL workers and the MEI. Further,  
10 because many current and future actions are related to remediation, annual public exposure  
11 levels would be expected to decrease. Finally, the incremental impacts from the construction  
12 and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are also well below regulatory limits for  
13 INEEL workers and the MEI.

14  
15 A variety of radioactive wastes are currently stored, generated, or both at INEEL. These  
16 wastes, resulting from past and present actions, represent a major cumulative effects concern.  
17 Many current and future actions are focused on better management and control of existing  
18 stored wastes, including reducing the potential for contamination of INEEL groundwater and air  
19 quality. The purpose of the proposed ISFSI facility is to accomplish better management and  
20 control of a portion of the SNF currently stored at INEEL (from the Peach Bottom reactor,  
21 Shippingport reactor, and TRIGA reactors). Relative to the quantities of waste materials  
22 currently stored and generated annually at INEEL, only small quantities of gaseous, liquid, and  
23 solid low-level radioactive waste would be generated during SNF receipt and repackaging  
24 operations planned for the first 3 years of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. After the SNF  
25 is repackaged and stored, no gaseous releases, or liquid or solid radioactive wastes are  
26 anticipated to be generated on a regular basis from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

#### 27 28 **4.15 Impacts of the No-Action Alternative**

29  
30 For the no-action alternative, NRC would not grant the license and the proposed facility would  
31 not be constructed. In this case, DOE would maintain current storage activities as described in  
32 the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Section 5). Specific  
33 information related to the no-action alternative for a generic dry fuel storage facility is provided  
34 in the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part A, Appendix C). Under the  
35 no-action alternative, SNF stored at INEEL would be transferred and consolidated at existing  
36 facilities at INTEC, including CPP-603 Irradiated Fuel Storage Facility, CPP-749, and  
37 CPP-666. During a 3-year transition period, U.S. Navy SNF would continue to be received and  
38 stored at INTEC (CPP-666) according to the terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement. Existing  
39 procedures and site-wide plans such as the Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (DOE,  
40 2001b) and the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan (DOE, 2002c) would continue to  
41 be implemented by DOE and its contractors.

42  
43 In the short term, no major upgrades or new facilities would be installed, and minor fuel  
44 conditioning would be necessary for maintaining safe operation. Because there would be no  
45 construction of new facilities, short-term impacts to geologic resources, land use, water  
46 resources, and ecological, visual/scenic, and cultural resources would be the same as those  
47 discussed in DOE (1995). Transportation and storage of the remaining TRIGA reactor fuel  
48 would continue per an existing DOE record of decision (DOE, 1996a,b). Cumulative impacts of  
49 the no-action alternative are addressed in the DOE programmatic SNF EIS (DOE, 1995). In the

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1 longer term, current storage and fuel-handling facilities at INTEC will be open and operational  
2 longer than planned. Ultimately, existing facilities will need to be modified or facilities similar to  
3 those described in the proposed action will need to be built. For example, the current storage  
4 location of Shippingport SNF at the INTEC Irradiated Spent Fuel Storage Facility (CPP-603) will  
5 be modified to expand the hot cell and add a load-out facility in lieu of the availability of the  
6 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Long-term impacts would be similar to the proposed Idaho  
7 Spent Fuel Facility, because SNF must be repackaged before shipment can occur from INEEL  
8 to a national HLW geologic repository.

### 9 10 **4.16 Decontamination and Decommissioning**

11  
12 In accordance with the 1995 Settlement Agreement among DOE, the State of Idaho, and the  
13 U.S. Navy, SNF must be removed from Idaho by 2035. It is anticipated that SNF would be  
14 transferred from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to a geologic repository. The proposed  
15 facility would need to be decontaminated and decommissioned in accordance with the NRC  
16 license termination criteria after the fuel is removed. According to the terms of its contract with  
17 FWENC to construct and operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, DOE is obligated to  
18 provide funding for decommissioning the proposed facility.

19  
20 Decontamination and decommissioning of the proposed ISFSI is anticipated to occur many  
21 years in the future, and details of the activities are uncertain at this time. FWENC provided a  
22 conceptual plan for decommissioning the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility as an appendix to  
23 its license application (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix C). The objective of the plan is to  
24 demonstrate that the facility can be decommissioned in a manner both economical and safe.  
25 The plan describes the costs and activities required for safely removing the proposed Idaho  
26 Spent Fuel Facility from service and reducing residual radioactivity through remediation to a  
27 level that permits release of the property and termination of the NRC license. Prior to beginning  
28 decontamination and decommissioning of the site, FWENC would be required to submit a  
29 detailed plan to NRC for review and approval.

30  
31 The primary areas of anticipated radioactive contamination at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
32 Facility are the Transfer Area, Solid Waste Processing Area, HVACs, and those portions of  
33 systems that contained radioactive fluids. Because the exterior of the storage canisters would  
34 not contact the radioactive materials, the canisters should not become contaminated. After the  
35 canisters are removed from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Site, the Storage Area  
36 should require little or no remediation.

37  
38 The decision concerning how to proceed with decontamination and decommissioning would be  
39 made during the decommissioning planning phase (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix C). The decision  
40 would be based on numerous factors, including

- 41
- 42 • Physical condition of equipment and structures during a long-term period;
  - 43 • Optimization of radiological aspects to minimize dose to workers and the public;
  - 44 • Environmental impacts of the project;
  - 45 • Existence of technical resources;
  - 46 • Availability of waste management and disposal facilities;
  - 47 • Costs; and
  - 48 • Public opinion.
- 49

1 In its preliminary plan (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix C), FWENC assumed an approach to  
2 decommissioning the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility that included decontaminating  
3 equipment and building surfaces, demolishing and completely removing contaminated buildings,  
4 and free release of as many items as possible for recycling/salvage in accordance with the NRC  
5 release criteria.

6  
7 FWENC intends to select construction materials and use preventive and protective methods  
8 (ALARA principles) during operations to minimize the amount of actual decontamination  
9 required during decommissioning. Based on this approach, FWENC assumes that a majority of  
10 building surfaces and some equipment should be uncontaminated and released for unrestricted  
11 use. Equipment and surface decontamination methods would also be chosen to minimize  
12 secondary wastes and ensure the maximum amount of free-releasable items without  
13 unnecessarily inflating costs.

14  
15 Decommissioning activities would likely begin with the decontamination and removal of  
16 equipment from the Transfer Area. Systems would be vacuumed or flushed, as appropriate, to  
17 remove any residual materials, and contaminated filters would be removed from equipment for  
18 safe disposal. As required by facility operation procedures, a complete history of materials  
19 processed through the Transfer Area and facility maintenance activities would be maintained  
20 along with accounts of spills and clean-up actions. This historical record would be available for  
21 making needed revisions to the decommissioning plan before final decommissioning operations  
22 begin. Based on the preliminary plan, decommissioning of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
23 Facility would be divided into two broad phases: (i) decontamination and dismantling and  
24 (ii) site restoration.

25  
26 The decontamination and dismantling phase would begin after all SNF has been transferred  
27 from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to a geologic repository. Major activities during this  
28 phase include removing contaminated systems and components, decontaminating structures,  
29 and performing a final radiation survey. The intent of this phase would be to reduce radioactivity  
30 to acceptable levels, allowing termination of the NRC license. As noted previously, based on  
31 the current design for the proposed facility, the anticipated areas of radioactive contamination  
32 would be the Transfer Area, Solid Waste Processing Area, HVACs, and those portions of  
33 systems that contained radioactive liquids. During this phase, contaminated systems and  
34 components would be handled in one of two ways: (i) they would be decontaminated and  
35 removed or (ii) they would be removed, packaged, and shipped either to an off-site processing  
36 facility or to a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.

37  
38 The site-restoration phase would begin immediately after the decontamination and dismantling  
39 phase is completed, although some site-restoration activities may occur during the  
40 decontamination and dismantling phase. The site restoration phase would involve the final  
41 disposition of SSCs. SSCs required to contain and control radioactive materials during  
42 decommissioning activities would be identified and excluded from any restoration until no longer  
43 required. These excluded systems then would be decontaminated and removed for the  
44 performance of the final site survey. Site-restoration activities not involving radioactive  
45 materials may be completed following termination of the NRC license.

46  
47 FWENC developed a 24-month schedule for decommissioning (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix C) to  
48 support the preliminary decommissioning plan. During the decommissioning planning phase, a  
49 final decommissioning schedule would be created. The sequence of decommissioning activities

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1 would depend on access and material-handling restrictions or by personnel exposure  
2 considerations. All activities would be planned to minimize the spread of contamination. In  
3 most parts of the facility, uncontaminated or only slightly contaminated items would be removed  
4 first to avoid contamination or further contaminating them when more highly contaminated  
5 equipment is removed. When uncontaminated equipment cannot be removed first, covers or  
6 other protection would be used to minimize the spread of contamination. The proposed Idaho  
7 Spent Fuel Facility would be equipped with cranes, hoists, forklifts, and lifting and transport  
8 systems. These systems would be used to lift and transport components and equipment to  
9 support decommissioning activities. Installed cranes, hoists, and other lifting devices would  
10 be decontaminated and dismantled when they are no longer needed to support  
11 decommissioning activities.

12  
13 A final radiological survey would be performed to determine the condition of the proposed Idaho  
14 Spent Fuel Facility site after decontamination activities have been completed. This survey is to  
15 demonstrate that radiological conditions at the site meet the NRC license termination criteria. A  
16 detailed plan for the survey would be submitted to the NRC for approval prior to the final survey  
17 and submittal of the application for license termination. NRC has provided guidance for  
18 developing the final radiological survey plan (NRC, 1992, 2000b). The final survey results  
19 would be provided to NRC to support license termination. The final survey would be designed  
20 so that NRC can verify procedures, results, and interpretations.

21  
22 Release of the site, facility, and materials would be based on release criteria for surface  
23 contamination, direct exposure, and soil and water concentrations consistent with the NRC  
24 requirements in 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. NRC provided additional guidance for site-release  
25 criteria (NRC, 1994)

26  
27 FWENC (2001c, Appendix C) provides a preliminary estimate of the decommissioning costs for  
28 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The costs of activities involved in radiological  
29 decommissioning as well as expenditures necessary to complete nonradiological site  
30 restoration activities are included in the cost estimate. The costs (in 2001 dollars) for the  
31 selected decommissioning alternative have been estimated at \$22,600,000 for radiological  
32 decommissioning activities and \$13,200,000 for nonradiological decommissioning activities  
33 (site restoration).

34  
35 The NRC requirements in 10 CFR 72.30(c) provide financial assurance methods acceptable for  
36 decommissioning. Decommissioning of the facility would remain the responsibility of DOE in  
37 accordance with its contract with FWENC. Under the terms of the contract, DOE would work to  
38 give the contract a high priority and obligate additional funds as necessary to pay the costs of  
39 decontamination and decommissioning (FWENC, 2001c, Appendix C).

40

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 47

## Environmental Impacts

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- 3 February 1998.
- 4
- 5 U.S. Bureau of the Census. "2000 Census of Population and Housing." Washington, DC:
- 6 U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 2000.
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- 9 the INEEL." Draft Letter Report. Idaho Falls, Idaho: LMITCO. 1996.

## 5 MITIGATION MEASURES

### 5.1 Mitigation Measures During Construction and Operation

The types of impacts and potential mitigation measures for the proposed action are summarized in Table 5-1, based on the generic analyses presented in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part B, Appendix C). As described in Section 4, most of the impacts from the proposed action are small or negligible. Mitigation measures typically include monitoring and best-management practices, such as using water to control fugitive dust and soil-retention methods to control erosion.

### 5.2 Environmental Measurement and Monitoring Programs Conducted by Other Agencies

Environmental monitoring is a key aspect of mitigating potentially adverse impacts that may result from the proposed action. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be one of many in the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The DOE Idaho Operations Office is the principal INEEL manager, responsible for site services, environmental control and management, and overall safety and emergency planning functions. The day-to-day management and operation of the facility is performed for DOE by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, a consortium of Bechtel National, Inc.; BWX Technologies Company; and eight regional universities.

In accordance with the organizational structure for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) is responsible for operational monitoring programs within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site and relies on the DOE Idaho Operations Office programs outside the boundaries of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site (FWENC, 2001a,b). This situation is not uncommon at INEEL. To prevent multiple organizations collecting duplicate data and using varied methodologies, the INEEL Monitoring and Surveillance Committee was formed in 1997. The Committee meets periodically to coordinate activities among organizations with a stake in operations at the INEEL facility, including DOE; Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC (the INEEL Management and Operations contractor); Argonne National Laboratory–West; INEEL and DOE contractors; Shoshone–Bannock Tribes; the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; the U.S. Geological Survey; and the Environmental Science and Research Foundation. It is expected that FWENC will participate in this committee and share in the exchange of information related to monitoring, analytical methodologies, and quality assurance, to coordinate efforts and avoid unnecessary duplication (FWENC, 2001a,b).

The environmental monitoring programs on the INEEL include

- Effluent Monitoring Program;
- Drinking Water Program;
- Stormwater Monitoring Program;
- Site Environmental Surveillance Program;
- Off-Site Environmental Surveillance Program;
- U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Monitoring Program;
- Meteorological Monitoring Program; and
- INEEL Oversight Program.

## Mitigation Measures

Table 5-1. Summary of Potential Impacts and Potential Mitigation Measures*			
	Impact Area	Potential Impact	Potential Mitigation
1	Land Use	Land disturbance and restricted access	Land is previously disturbed and already in restricted access area; no mitigation required
2	Geology and Soil	Disturbance of soil	Fugitive dust control; erosion control; existing INEEL Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans
3	Water Resources	Water usage and runoff during construction; no liquid effluent during operations	Best management practice; existing INEEL Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans
4	Ecological Resources	Endangered and threatened species; habitat fragmentation	Preactivity surveys for sensitive and protected species; needed mitigations would be explicitly identified based on survey results and consultation with appropriate federal, state, and tribal agencies
5	Historic, Archaeological, or Cultural Resources	No known resources at proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility	Conduct and report survey; prepare mitigation plans in consultations with affected federal, state, and tribal agencies; existing INEEL Cultural Resource Management Plans
6	Air Resources	Radiological operational emissions; toxic air pollutants; fugitive dust	Fugitive dust control, hazardous material control, and air monitoring both onsite and offsite
7	Public and Occupational Health and Safety	Radiological and nonradiological effects from normal operations and off-normal operations	Access control, facility design; safety analysis, emergency planning; NRC inspection and surveillance; NRC annual reporting requirements
8	Transportation	Potential operational exposures from on-site SNF transfers; transport of remaining TRIGA fuel elements to INEEL	Use of approved transport vehicles and containers, transport casks, qualified equipment operators, and shipment manifesting procedures
9	Waste Management	Industrial wastes from construction and operations; low-level radioactive waste from operations	Current waste management programs at INEEL, including waste minimization and recycling
10			
11			
12			
13			

**Table 5-1. Summary of Potential Impacts and Potential Mitigation Measures\* (continued)**

Impact Area	Potential Impact	Potential Mitigation
Socioeconomics	Up to 250 workers during peak construction; 60 workers during first 4 years of construction	Small proportion (less than 5 percent) of total INEEL workforce; minimal impacts
<p>DOE = U.S. Department of Energy  EIS = environmental impact statement  INEEL = Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  NRC = U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  SNF = spent nuclear fuel  TRIGA = Training, Research, and Isotope Research Reactors built by General Atomic</p> <p>* DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Vol. 2, Part B, Appendix C. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.</p>		

The FWENC monitoring program for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is discussed in more detail in Section 6 of this EIS. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will also prepare a safety evaluation report to provide a detailed evaluation of compliance of the monitoring program with the applicable regulations. The environmental programs managed by other agencies at and around INEEL are described in DOE (2000) and summarized next.

### 5.2.1 Effluent Monitoring Program

This section summarizes the environmental monitoring programs conducted by others for the DOE Idaho Operations Office at INEEL.

#### 5.2.1.1 Radiological Effluents

There are six airborne emission sampling points for continuous monitoring of radionuclides at INEEL, outside the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Of the six sample locations, two are at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), adjacent to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Data from each airborne sample location are reported monthly to a centralized database, the Radioactive Waste Management Information System, operated by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC.

#### 5.2.1.2 Nonradiological Effluents

Nonradiological airborne effluents are monitored at the sources, the New Calcining Facility and at Argonne National Laboratory-West. The results are published in the INEEL Non-Radiological Waste Management Information System annual reports. Nonradiological liquid effluents are monitored from discharge points within INEEL and in Idaho Falls.

### 5.2.2 Drinking Water Program

Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, monitors the INEEL production and drinking water wells for radiological, chemical, and bacteriological contamination at INEEL facilities. The program uses laboratories certified by the states where the analysis is accomplished (FWENC, 2001a). In the

## Mitigation Measures

1 facilities not operated by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, and that have a production well, Argonne  
2 National Laboratory–West provides samples to INEEL for analysis. No new production wells  
3 are within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site boundaries; therefore, FWENC will not  
4 need to provide samples for analysis.

5  
6 The production well and distribution water samples are analyzed for alpha- and beta-emitting  
7 radionuclides. Tritium analyses are also performed on drinking water samples. Strontium-90  
8 analyses are performed on samples from drinking water wells in the INTEC area, adjacent to  
9 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Water samples are also tested for coliform  
10 bacteria, volatile organic compounds, inorganic contaminants (lead and copper), nitrates, and  
11 dissolved solids.

12

### 13 **5.2.3 Storm Water Monitoring Program**

14

15 As a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General  
16 Permit, INEEL developed and implemented programs for monitoring snow melt and rain runoff  
17 for construction activities (DOE, 1998) and industrial operations (DOE, 2001). Samples are  
18 collected and analyzed in accordance with NPDES sampling standards. A site-specific storm  
19 water pollution prevention plan would be developed for construction activities at the proposed  
20 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (FWENC, 2001a, Section 12.1).

21

### 22 **5.2.4 Site Environmental Surveillance Program**

23

24 The site environmental surveillance program has the overall responsibility for sampling air and  
25 soil as well as measuring environmental radiation at various onsite locations. Some sampling is  
26 also conducted offsite for comparison. Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, maintains the database  
27 containing sampling and analytical information from this program. Sampling includes

28

- 29 • Low-volume air samplers;
- 30 • Atmospheric moisture samplers;
- 31 • Nitrogen dioxide/sulfur dioxide monitoring stations; and
- 32 • Environmental dosimeters.

33

### 34 **5.2.5 Off-Site Environmental Surveillance Program**

35

36 The Environmental Science and Research Foundation conducts independent environmental  
37 monitoring, using off-site laboratories to perform radiological and radiochemical analyses.  
38 Samples are collected from a network of off-site, low-volume air and atmospheric moisture  
39 samplers. The Foundation also analyzes the following samples:

40

- 41 • Air samples from stations in Rexburg and Blackfoot to determine concentrations of  
42 fine particulates;
- 43
- 44 • Drinking water samples from local communities;
- 45
- 46 • Milk samples from regional dairies;
- 47
- 48 • Produce samples from private gardens;

49



- 1 • Wheat samples from regional grain elevators;
- 2
- 3 • Potato samples from storage warehouses;
- 4
- 5 • Tissue samples from sheep grazing on the INEEL and game animals;
- 6
- 7 • Soil samples from boundary locations, and
- 8
- 9 • Radiation readings from regional thermoluminescent dosimeters.

10  
11 Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC, also does off-site monitoring by collecting periodic precipitation  
12 samples in Idaho Falls for tritium analysis by liquid scintillation counting. The National Park  
13 Service manages the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE)  
14 program, a cooperative measurement effort governed by a steering committee composed of  
15 representatives from federal and regional–state organizations. The IMPROVE monitoring  
16 program was established in 1985 to aid in the protection of visibility in Class I areas. Part of the  
17 program includes measuring fine suspended particles that are the primary cause of visibility  
18 degradation. The program uses two samplers: one at Craters of the Moon National Monument  
19 and Preserve and one inside INEEL (DOE, 2000).

#### 20 21 **5.2.6 U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Monitoring Program**

22  
23 Since 1949, the U.S. Geological Survey has monitored INEEL ground and surface water. The  
24 U.S. Geological Survey maintains aquifer observation wells on or near INEEL. The wells are  
25 monitored for water levels and radiological and nonradiological substances. The  
26 U.S. Geological Survey collects water samples from selected onsite production wells and  
27 groundwater monitoring wells and analyzes the samples for purgeable organic compounds.  
28 Results of these studies are periodically published in U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources  
29 Investigations Reports and Open-File Reports.

#### 30 31 **5.2.7 Meteorological Monitoring Program**

32  
33 The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Air Resources Laboratory  
34 maintains meteorological stations in the vicinity of INEEL, which continuously measure  
35 parameters including temperature, wind direction and speed, relative humidity, and precipitation.  
36 A wind-profiling radar system on INEEL also makes continuous measurements. Data from the  
37 stations are telemetered to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Idaho  
38 Falls facility and archived.

#### 39 40 **5.2.8 Idaho Oversight Program**

41  
42 Since 1990, the State of Idaho has operated an environmental surveillance program that  
43 includes collection and analysis of air, precipitation, atmospheric moisture, water, soil, and milk  
44 samples taken on and around INEEL. The program also has a network of pressurized ion  
45 chambers, electric ion chambers, and environmental dosimeters.

## Mitigation Measures

### 1 5.3 References

2

3 DOE. DOE/ID-10431, "INEEL Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for Industrial Activities."  
4 Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2001.

5

6 ———. DOE/ID-12082, "Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Site  
7 Environmental Report for Calendar Year 1998." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations  
8 Office. 2000.

9

10 ———. DOE/ID-10425(98), "INEEL Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for Construction  
11 Activities—Generic Plan." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1998.

12

13 ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel  
14 Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste  
15 Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE,  
16 Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

17

18 FWENC. "Environmental Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.

19 ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001a.

20

21 ———. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.

22 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001b.

1                   **6 EFFLUENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS AND**  
2   **MONITORING PROGRAMS**

3  
4 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be one of many active, proposed, and formerly  
5 operational facilities at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).  
6 The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office is the principal INEEL manager  
7 and has a comprehensive environmental monitoring program conducted on and around INEEL.  
8 The INEEL Monitoring and Surveillance Committee was formed to prevent multiple  
9 organizations from collecting duplicate data using varied methodologies. The environmental  
10 monitoring programs at INEEL include Effluent Monitoring Program, Drinking Water Program,  
11 Storm Water Monitoring Program, Site Environmental Surveillance Program, Off-Site  
12 Environmental Surveillance Program, U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Monitoring Program,  
13 Meteorological Monitoring Program, and INEEL Oversight Program. Further information  
14 concerning these programs is discussed in Section 5 and presented in the Foster Wheeler  
15 Environmental Corporation (FWENC) environmental report (2001a). It is expected that  
16 FWENC would participate in this committee and the associated monitoring programs. FWENC  
17 is responsible for operational monitoring programs within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
18 site and relies on these Idaho Operations Office programs outside the proposed Idaho Spent  
19 Fuel Facility site (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3).

20  
21 **6.1 Radiological Monitoring**

22  
23 FWENC would be responsible for monitoring within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site  
24 and would rely on existing monitoring programs outside the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
25 site. Existing environmental programs on INEEL include the monitoring of effluents, drinking  
26 water, snow melt and rain runoff, direct radiation, air, soil, off-site produce and animal products,  
27 groundwater, surface water, and meteorology. The remainder of this section describes the  
28 monitoring performed on the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Based on FWENC  
29 (2001b, Section 7.6.1.4), there would be no radioactive liquid discharges from the proposed  
30 facility. Radiological monitoring for the preoperational and operational periods are presented in  
31 the next two subsections.

32  
33 **6.1.1 Preoperational Radiological Monitoring**

34  
35 The preoperational radiological monitoring program would establish background information for  
36 the site. Monitoring and sampling locations for the preoperational program are shown in  
37 Figure 6-1. The background information would be compared to operational data and ultimately  
38 with decommissioning survey results. The preoperational program would measure direct  
39 radiation, airborne radionuclide concentrations within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
40 site boundaries, and radionuclide concentrations in the soil on the proposed site. Direct  
41 radiation would be measured at the facility fence using 10 environmental thermoluminescent  
42 dosimeters that would be exchanged quarterly. After dust-generating activities are complete  
43 and electric power is available, particulate air samplers would begin collecting data at four  
44 locations (oriented at 90-degree intervals from the predominant wind direction, west-southwest).  
45 The filter paper in the particulate air samplers would be collected weekly for analysis and  
46 replaced. At the start of construction, five soil samples would be collected from random  
47 locations and analyzed quarterly.

Effluent and Environmental Measurements  
and Monitoring Programs

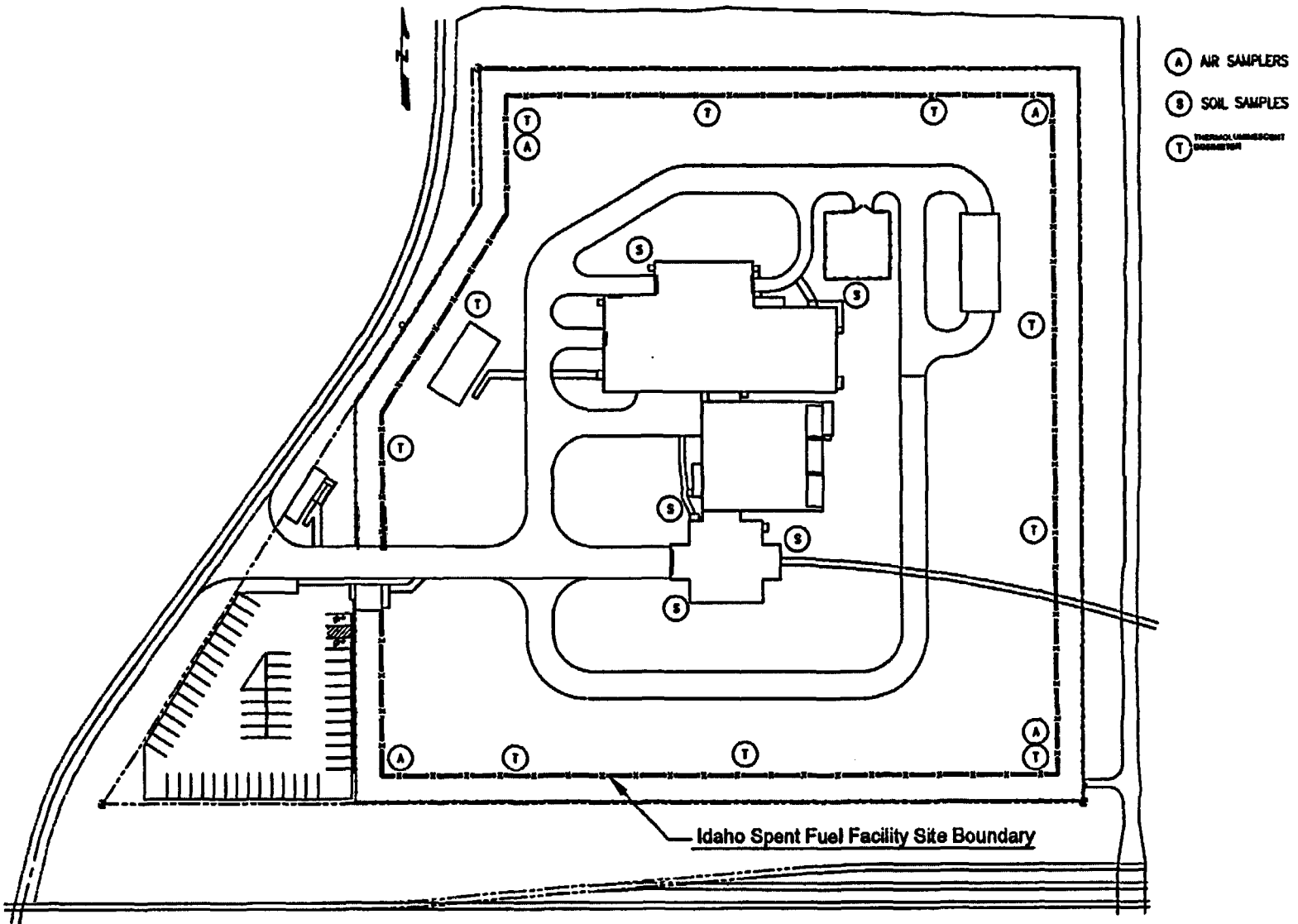


Figure 6-1. Preoperational Environmental Radiation Monitoring Locations at the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (Modified from FWENC, 2001b)

## Effluent and Environmental Measurements and Monitoring Programs

1 Information gained during the preoperational phase of the radiological monitoring program may  
2 be used to modify the plans for operational monitoring (e.g., result in additional  
3 sampling locations).

### 4 5 **6.1.2 Operational Radiological Monitoring**

6  
7 The operational monitoring program would demonstrate compliance with the exposure limits to  
8 the public in 10 CFR Part 72.104 and 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart H. Similar to the preoperations  
9 monitoring program, the operational program would measure direct radiation, airborne  
10 radionuclide concentrations within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site boundaries, and  
11 radionuclide concentrations in the soil on the proposed site (Figure 6-2). The environmental  
12 thermoluminescent dosimeters at the fence would be exchanged monthly during operations.  
13 Particulate air samplers would continue to collect data at the four preoperational locations plus  
14 an additional location at the interior of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. The filter  
15 paper in the particulate air samplers would be collected weekly for analysis and replaced.  
16 During operations, five soil samples would be collected from random locations and analyzed  
17 quarterly. Additional sampling and analysis would be performed if routine outdoor surveys show  
18 unexpected anomalies or after any incident involving a radioactive spill.

19  
20 Particulates and gaseous radionuclides are expected to constitute the proposed Idaho Spent  
21 Fuel Facility releases during operations. Specifically, the primary particulate radionuclides are  
22 cesium-137/barium-137m and strontium-90/yttrium-90. The primary gaseous radionuclides of  
23 concern are iodine-129, krypton-85, and tritium (hydrogen-3), which could be released as a  
24 result of the fuel-packaging operations conducted in the Fuel Packaging Area. Facility effluent  
25 monitoring at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would consist of stack sampling for  
26 particulate radionuclides and stack sampling for iodine-129 and tritium. An isokinetic sampler in  
27 the stack would determine effluent concentrations.

### 28 29 **6.2 Nonradiological Monitoring**

#### 30 31 **6.2.1 Preoperational monitoring**

32  
33 Preoperational monitoring was used to collect baseline data on the proposed site. Much of this  
34 baseline information is presented in Section 3 of this environmental impact statement (EIS).

35  
36 Air sampling within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility during the preoperational phase  
37 would begin after dust-generating activities are complete and would not include analysis for  
38 nonradioactive constituents (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.1).

39  
40 Soil sampling of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site was conducted in July 2000 as part  
41 of a geotechnical investigation to determine site geotechnical characteristics (FWENC, 2001a,  
42 Section 6.1). Soil samples also would be collected periodically from within the proposed Idaho  
43 Spent Fuel Facility site boundaries during the preoperational phase; however, these samples  
44 would not be analyzed for nonradioactive constituents (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.1).

45  
46 No surface or groundwater bodies are affected by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
47 Therefore, the environmental monitoring programs do not need to include these areas (FWENC,  
48 2001a, Section 6.1). Rainwater and snow melt from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
49 would be classified as storm water discharge and must be considered by the National Pollutant

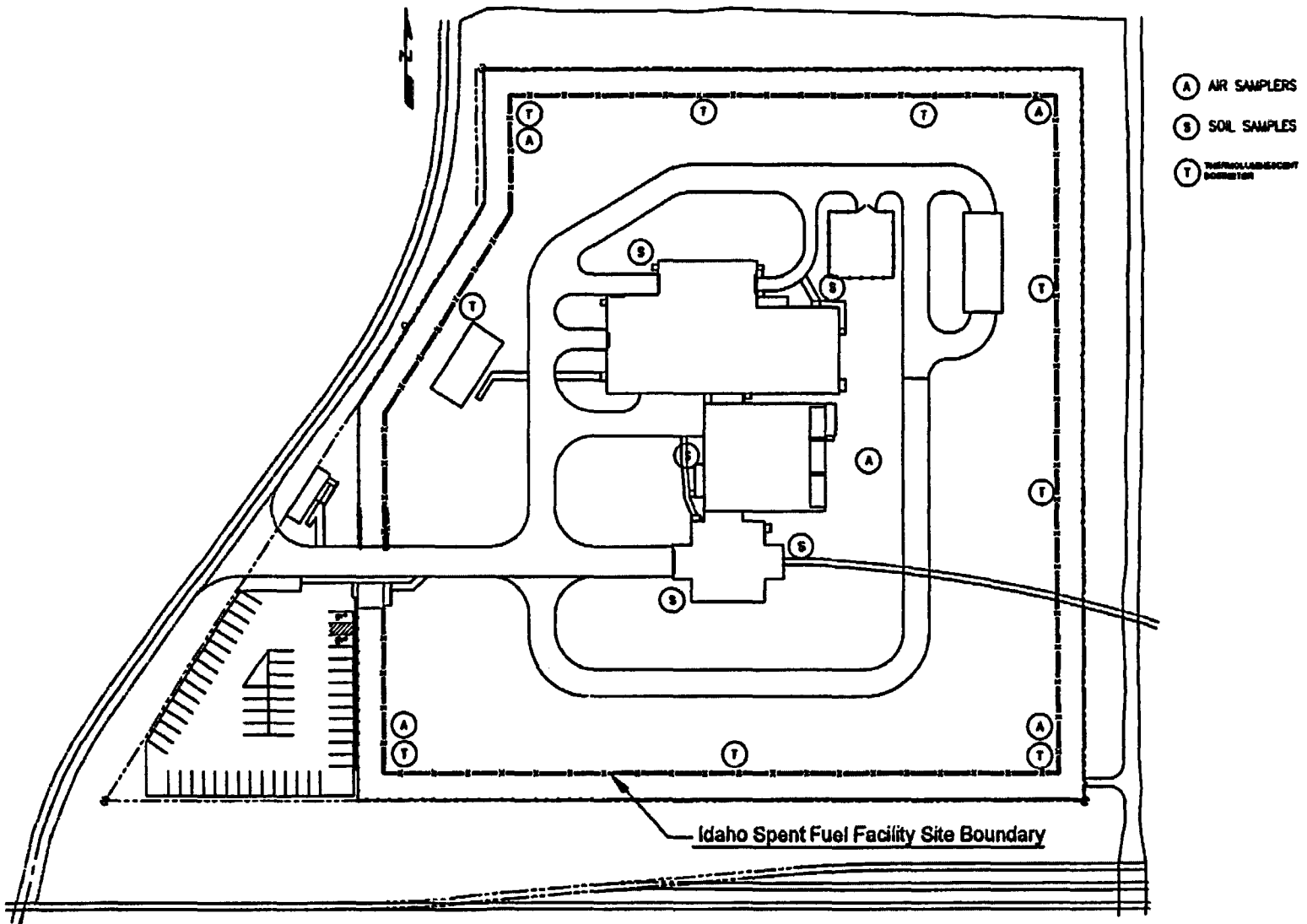


Figure 6-2. Operational Environmental Radiation-Monitoring Locations at the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
(Modified from FWENC, 2001b)

## Effluent and Environmental Measurements and Monitoring Programs

1 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process. Storm water permits fall into two  
2 classifications—construction and industrial activities. For the construction storm water permit  
3 process, the DOE Idaho Operations Office filed for a construction general permit as required by  
4 federal law (DOE, 1998). A site-specific Construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan  
5 would be developed, but does not need to be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection  
6 Agency (EPA) (FWENC, 2001a, Section 12.1).

7  
8 INEEL has undergone a variety of ecological assessments in the last 10 years. Two of the most  
9 recent were the Spent Nuclear Fuel Programmatic EIS (DOE, 1995) and the Idaho High-Level  
10 Waste and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002). Because these assessments did not include  
11 the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site, FWENC sponsored a separate assessment by the  
12 S.M. Stoller Corporation. The parameters and results of this assessment are summarized in the  
13 applicant's environmental report (FWENC, 2001a, Section 4.3).

### 14 15 **6.2.2 Operational Monitoring**

16  
17 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have no chemical air discharges to the  
18 environment. Nonradiological airborne effluents are monitored at the sources, the New  
19 Calcining Facility, and the Argonne National Laboratory–West (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3).  
20 At the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, process ventilation would be filtered and discharged  
21 through the monitored exhaust stack. Air sampling within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
22 Facility would be limited to radiological constituents (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.2).

23  
24 No nonradiological soil sampling within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site would be  
25 conducted during the operation phase (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.1).

26  
27 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, as part of INEEL, would become part of the site  
28 environmental surveillance program. This program has the overall responsibility for sampling air  
29 and soil at various onsite locations. Some sampling is also conducted offsite for comparison.  
30 Nonradiological constituents monitored in this program include nitrogen dioxide and sulfur  
31 dioxide (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3).

32  
33 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, as part of the INEEL, would also become a part of the  
34 off-site environmental surveillance program. The Environmental Science and Research  
35 Foundation conducts environmental monitoring independent of the INEEL management and  
36 operating contractor. The Foundation analyzes samples from stations in Rexburg and Blackfoot  
37 to determine concentration of fine particulates. The National Park Service manages a program  
38 called *Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE)* to measure fine  
39 particles that are the primary cause of visibility degradation. This program uses two  
40 samplers—one at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and one inside INEEL  
41 (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3).

42  
43 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have no chemical liquid discharges to the  
44 environment (FWENC, 2001a, Section 5.3). Nonradiological liquid effluents are monitored from  
45 discharge points within INEEL and in Idaho Falls. Because no liquid effluents would be  
46 discharged, no nonradiological monitoring of any liquid discharge at the proposed Idaho Spent  
47 Fuel Facility is required.

## Effluent and Environmental Measurements and Monitoring Programs

- 1 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility does not require addition of any new water supply wells.  
2 The proposed facility would use water from the existing INEEL wells and would have minimal  
3 impact on groundwater resources (FWENC, 2001a, Section 5.6).  
4
- 5 The INEEL management and operating contractor monitors the INEEL production and drinking  
6 water wells for chemical and bacteriological contamination. Facilities that the INEEL  
7 management and operating contractor do not operate and that contain a production well must  
8 provide samples to the INEEL management and operating contractor for analysis. No  
9 production wells are within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site boundaries. Therefore,  
10 FWENC would not need to provide samples to the INEEL management and operating  
11 contractor (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3). Production and drinking water wells adjacent to the  
12 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site would be monitored for nonradiological constituents as  
13 part of the existing INEEL Environmental Monitoring Program.  
14
- 15 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, as part of INEEL, would become a part of the  
16 U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Monitoring Program. The U.S. Geological Survey  
17 maintains aquifer observation wells on or near INEEL, which are monitored for nonradiological  
18 substances. The U.S. Geological Survey also collects water samples from selected onsite  
19 production wells and groundwater monitoring wells and analyzes the samples for purgeable  
20 organic compounds (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.3).  
21
- 22 As a requirement of the NPDES General Permit, INEEL developed a program for monitoring  
23 snow melt and rain runoff. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be exempt from the  
24 industrial activities storm water permit, because it is not included in EPA-identified sectors or  
25 subsectors requiring this permitting process (FWENC, 2001a, Section 12.1).  
26
- 27 Because the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be within the INEEL boundary, annual  
28 environmental assessments prepared for DOE would provide information updates related to the  
29 INEEL ecological monitoring program (FWENC, 2001a, Section 6.1).  
30

### 31 **6.3 References**

- 32
- 33 DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final  
34 Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.  
35
- 36 ———. DOE/ID-10425(98), "INEEL Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for Construction  
37 Activities—Generic Plan." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1998.  
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- 39 ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel  
40 Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste  
41 Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE,  
42 Idaho Operations Office. 1995.  
43
- 44 FWENC. "Environmental Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
45 ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001a.  
46
- 47 ———. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.  
48 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001b.



## 7 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

The potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) are discussed in Section 4 of this environmental impact statement (EIS). This section summarizes other costs and benefits associated with the proposed action and the no-action alternatives. The economic costs and benefits provided by Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) in its license application and environmental report (FWENC, 2001a,b) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)<sup>1</sup> are presented and supplemented as necessary with additional assessments by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses staffs. In addition, this section summarizes the results of a generic analysis for a Dry Fuel Storage, Fuel Receiving, Canning/Characterization and Shipping Facility presented in the DOE programmatic spent nuclear fuel (SNF) EIS (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part B, Appendix C, Alternative B).

### 7.1 Costs Associated with the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility

An estimate of costs for construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is provided by FWENC as part of its license application (FWENC, 2001a). The estimate is based on the assumption the proposed facility will be constructed on a 3.2-ha [8-acre] site adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). In the FWENC analysis, construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility was assumed to begin in July 2003, with operations scheduled to commence in June 2005. Using the current schedule, construction would begin later than these assumed dates. The differences in estimated costs, however, would likely be small, and the FWENC estimates are suitable to evaluate cost and benefit of the proposed action.

#### 7.1.1 Costs Associated with Construction Activities

FWENC would design, construct, and initially operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility per contract with DOE. In accordance with the terms of the contract, after an initial payment by DOE, FWENC would be responsible for funding the construction and initial operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. FWENC estimates construction costs associated with the proposed facility will be \$119.6 million (2001 dollars) (FWENC, 2001a).

#### 7.1.2 Costs Associated with Operational Activities

After the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is operational, DOE would make payments to FWENC during the transfer and storage of the first 800 fuel-handling units of SNF. As defined in the contract, one fuel-handling unit is equal to one fuel element for intact SNF. These amortized capital costs total approximately \$119.6 million (2001 dollars). In addition to the amortizing payments, DOE would also make payments for the transfer and storage of the remaining SNF at specific unit prices for each SNF type. The total payments inclusive of all fuel types could be nearly \$32.5 million (2001 dollars).

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<sup>1</sup>DOE. DOE-ID-11003, "Moving INEEL Spent Nuclear Fuel to the Repository." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. Predecisional Draft. 2002.

## Cost-Benefit Analysis

1 In accordance with the contract, poststorage operation and maintenance of the facility by  
2 FWENC would be at the option of DOE. Pending the necessary transfer of the NRC license  
3 from FWENC, DOE would have the contractual option to assume responsibility for the facility  
4 after the initial fuel-handling, packaging, and storage operations. Should DOE desire that  
5 FWENC continue as the licensee during the poststorage operations phase of the project, DOE  
6 would pay FWENC almost \$1.94 million (2001 dollars) per year.

### 7.1.3 Costs Associated with Decontamination and Decommissioning

9  
10 As part of the contract with FWENC, DOE retains ownership of the SNF and remains financially  
11 responsible for the eventual decontamination and decommissioning of the proposed Idaho  
12 Spent Fuel Facility. FWENC provided a proposed decommissioning plan (FWENC, 2001a,  
13 Appendix C) that presents the estimated cost of dismantling, decontaminating, and  
14 decommissioning the site in 2018 at \$22.6 million (2001 dollars) for radiological  
15 decommissioning activities and \$13.2 million (2001 dollars) for the nonradiological activities  
16 associated with site restoration. The decommissioning cost estimates were derived using  
17 approaches from industry and DOE guidance (TLG Engineering, 1986; DOE, 1994). Unit cost  
18 factors incorporating site-specific considerations were used whenever practicable, and  
19 quantities and volumes of the equipment and material expected to be removed during  
20 decommissioning were estimated using proposed facility drawings. The cost estimate also  
21 includes peripheral costs such as preparing work plans and writing procedures, and waste costs  
22 as described in DOE (1994). These costs are summarized in Table 7-1 and described in more  
23 detail next.

#### 7.1.3.1 Radiological Decommissioning Costs

24  
25  
26  
27 The radiological decommissioning cost estimate provided by FWENC for the proposed Idaho  
28 Spent Fuel Facility considers radiological decommissioning costs to be only those costs  
29 associated with normal decommissioning activities necessary for the release of the site for  
30 unrestricted use in accordance with the NRC radiological criteria for license termination in  
31 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart E. The radiological decommissioning cost estimate does not include  
32 those costs associated with SNF management or the disposal of nonradioactive structures  
33 and materials.

34  
35 Burial costs were derived from FWENC modeling and analysis of low-level radioactive  
36 waste disposal costs. Contingencies were applied to each area of the cost estimate  
37 (i.e., decontamination and dismantlement, waste disposal, final survey). No credit was taken  
38 for equipment salvage value.

#### 7.1.3.2 Nonradiological Decommissioning Costs

39  
40  
41  
42 Although not required by the NRC regulations, FWENC included cost estimates for  
43 nonradiological decommissioning activities conducted as part of site restoration. The cost  
44 estimates considered nonradiological decommissioning costs to be those costs associated with  
45 site remediation and demolition and removal of uncontaminated structures.

46

1 **Table 7-1. Estimated Decommissioning Costs<sup>a</sup>**

2 <b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Cost (2001 Dollars)</b>
3 Dismantlement, decontamination, and remediation	\$12,500,000
4 Waste disposal <sup>b</sup>	\$6,300,000
5 Final survey	\$3,800,000
6 Subtotal (radiological decommissioning costs)	\$22,600,000
7 Site-restoration total (nonradiological decommissioning)	\$13,200,000
8 <b>Total Decommissioning Costs</b>	<b>\$35,800,000</b>

9 FWENC = Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation

10

11 <sup>a</sup> FWENC. "License Application, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0127. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001.

12

13 <sup>b</sup> Waste disposal estimate based on construction debris landfill at \$18-\$24 per metric ton [\$16-\$22 per ton];

14 low-level waste at \$1,500-\$60,625 per metric ton [\$1,360-\$55,000 per ton]; and special materials at \$41,335 per

15 metric ton [\$37,500 per ton].

16

17 **7.1.4 Other Costs Associated with the Proposed Action**

18

19 Materials required for construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will  
 20 be similar to those for an industrial construction project. In the DOE programmatic SNF EIS  
 21 (DOE, 1995, Volume 2, Part B, Appendix C, Alternative B), DOE provides generic estimates for  
 22 the costs of a facility similar to the FWENC design. These estimates are summarized for the  
 23 construction and operation phases in Table 7-2.

24

25 Construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would result in physical changes to the  
 26 3.2-ha [8-acre] tract for the proposed facility and the contiguous 4.1-ha [10-acre] construction  
 27 laydown tract. Because these areas are small compared with the 2,305 km<sup>2</sup> [890 mi<sup>2</sup>] INEEL,  
 28 the physical changes would be minor. These changes would restrict land use and access, but  
 29 this restriction would not affect the value of the land, because access to the property is  
 30 currently restricted.

31

32 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be constructed on federal reserve land under the  
 33 jurisdiction of the DOE Idaho Operations Office. Therefore, there would be no costs associated  
 34 with purchase of the land. Construction materials will include gravel, sand, concrete, steel,  
 35 aluminum, copper, plastics, and lumber, at costs comparable to those for a similar size  
 36 industrial facility. Other than special purpose items such as construction steel, SNF storage  
 37 containers, and other dedicated special equipment, materials are available regionally.

38

39 The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility operation would likely have little effect on regional  
 40 economy. Transfer of SNF into new storage containers and placement in the vault would  
 41 require consumable materials such as filters, welding supplies, and other housekeeping  
 42 materials. Storage operations will require materials such as high efficiency particulate air filter  
 43 media and other housekeeping materials.

44

Cost-Benefit Analysis

1 **Table 7-2. Costs Associated with a Generic Dry Fuel Storage Facility/Fuel Receiving,**  
 2 **Canning/Characterization, and Shipping Project<sup>a</sup>**

3		Construction	Operation
4	<b>Dry Fuel Storage</b>		
5	Electrical	20 Megawatt hr/yr	200 Megawatt hr/yr
6	Fuel	Diesel: 6,400 L [1,690 gal]	0 <sup>b</sup>
7	Solid Waste Generation	Total: 37.5 m <sup>3</sup> [49.0 yd <sup>3</sup> ]	Industrial: 10 m <sup>3</sup> /yr [13.1 yd <sup>3</sup> /yr] Low-Level Waste: 5 m <sup>3</sup> /yr [6.5 yd <sup>3</sup> /yr]
8	<b>Canning/Characterization Facility</b>		
9	Electrical	30 Megawatt hr/yr	1,800 Megawatt hr/yr
10	Fuel	Diesel: 10,000 L [2,640 gal]	Fuel Oil: 300,000 L [79,260 gal]
11	Solid Waste Generation	Total: 37.5 m <sup>3</sup> [49.0 yd <sup>3</sup> ]	Industrial: 490 m <sup>3</sup> /yr [640 yd <sup>3</sup> /yr] Low-Level Waste: 220 m <sup>3</sup> /yr [290 yd <sup>3</sup> /yr]
12	DOE = U.S. Department of Energy		
13	EIS = environmental impact statement		
14			
15	• DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho		
16	National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final		
17	Environmental Impact Statement." Vol. 2, Part B, Appendix C, Alternative B. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE. 1995.		
18	• Normal operations. Backup diesel generators may require diesel fuel.		

19  
 20 After SNF is transferred from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to a national high-level  
 21 waste (HLW) repository, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be decommissioned. A  
 22 small portion of the materials used in construction would not be available for release and would  
 23 require disposal at a radioactive waste site. The rest of the materials would be recycled.  
 24 Therefore, most proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility construction materials would be available  
 25 for reuse or recycling.

26  
 27 Because the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be located more than 17 km [10.5 mi]  
 28 from the nearest community (Atomic City), there would be minimal impact on regional  
 29 communities. The distances of communities from the construction site would also limit impacts  
 30 from noise and other construction disturbances. Construction and operation would use regional  
 31 labor resources, and an influx of workers is not anticipated. Impacts to housing availability and  
 32 cost, transportation, or community infrastructures are expected to be small.

33  
 34 Because the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site is within INEEL, public access is controlled  
 35 by DOE and limited to the highways (US 20/26). The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would  
 36 not restrict public access to these rights of way or to archeological, cultural, or recreational sites.  
 37

### 7.1.5 Impact of the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility on the Programmatic Costs of SNF Management at INEEL

DOE estimated the programmatic costs of SNF management both with and without the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (FWENC, 2003). Taking into account the strategy of employing the DOE standard storage container and the core capability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility (FWENC, 2001c), the current life-cycle cost estimate for sending all SNF managed by DOE at INEEL to a national HLW repository is \$2.815 billion (2001 dollars). This life-cycle cost considers the costs of the current contract between DOE and FWENC for construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, plus the predicted cost of implementing any future modifications or enhancements to the facility necessary to prepare the SNF for shipment to a national HLW repository. The estimates of costs associated with modification, enhancement, or both includes obtaining appropriate amendments to any NRC license for the facility.

If the strategy of repackaging SNF in a DOE standard storage container is not implemented and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is not constructed, the life-cycle cost estimate for sending all DOE-managed SNF from INEEL to a national HLW repository is estimated to be \$3.069 billion (2001 dollars). This estimate assumes alternative facility approaches (essentially making major modification to and extending the life of existing facilities) will be used in lieu of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

The assumptions used to develop this programmatic life-cycle cost/benefit estimate include

- The national HLW geological repository will open and shipments of SNF will begin in fiscal year 2010.
- Shipments to the repository will be complete by January 1, 2035.
- Certain facilities will be open and operational longer than planned if the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is not built to meet the previous assumptions.
- The INTEC Irradiated Spent Fuel Storage Facility (CPP-603) would be modified to expand the hot cell and add a load-out facility in lieu of the availability of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.
- Standard rail casks and cost of transportation to the repository are provided by the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management at no charge to INEEL.
- The full cost of fuel characterization programs deemed necessary for shipment of bare fuel to the geologic repository, though potentially significant, is not factored into this programmatic cost-benefit analysis.

Thus, the current estimate of programmatic cost-benefit to the government of employing the use of the DOE standard storage container and the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is, at a minimum, \$251 million (2001 dollars) (FWENC, 2003).

## Cost-Benefit Analysis

### 7.2 Benefits Associated with the Proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility

Construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would have a minor positive effect on the regional economy. Socioeconomic benefits include using regional workers for construction of the proposed facility and increasing sales of materials for regional suppliers throughout construction. Because the work force would be small relative to the number of employees at INEEL, the proposed action would not result in a regional growth spurt, and the infrastructure of public services and transportation systems would not be adversely affected (see Section 4.10).

The proposed action is designed to support the INEEL mission and comply with agreements and commitments negotiated by DOE. Currently, most SNF to be received by the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is stored at INTEC. The 1995 Settlement Agreement among the DOE, the State of Idaho, and the U.S. Navy established specific activities required to remove SNF from Idaho by 2035. Although the current storage configuration has worked well, it does not prepare the SNF for shipment from INEEL to a national HLW repository. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would provide the ability to remove the SNF from existing storage locations, place it in specially designed storage containers, then seal and place the loaded containers in interim storage. The new containers would be designed for compatibility with transportation systems and with the eventual permanent disposal systems. After the SNF is placed in the containers, it would not need to be repackaged for shipment to a national HLW repository when one becomes available.

### 7.3 References

DOE. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

———. DOE/EM-0142P, *Decommissioning Handbook*. Washington, DC: DOE. 1994.

FWENC. "Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Related to Environmental Review." NRC Docket No. 72-25, TAC No. L20768. Letter (March 7) from R.D. Izatt to NRC.  
FW-NRC-ISF-03-0048. Richland, Washington: FWENC. 2003. [The preceding document is available for public review through the NRC electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.]

———. "License Application, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0127. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001a.

———. "Environmental Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0032. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001b.

———. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25. ISF-FW-RPT-0033." Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001c.

## Cost-Benefit Analysis

- 1 TLG Engineering. "Guidelines for Producing Commercial Nuclear Power Plan
- 2 Decommissioning Cost Estimates." AIF/NESP-036. Bridgewater, Connecticut: TLG Services,
- 3 Inc. 1986.

## 8 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

### 8.1 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

Information on the adverse impacts to the affected environment at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) that cannot be avoided for this proposed action is given in Section 4 of this environmental impact statement (EIS). The environmental impacts from the proposed action are small and will be mitigated by methods described in Section 5. Monitoring methods are described in Section 6. Comparison with the potential impacts from the proposed action to those of the no-action alternative is provided in Table 2-1. Detailed analysis of the potential impacts on public health and safety is provided in the safety evaluation report to be prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Following is a brief summary of the impacts presented in Section 4 with topical areas classified as resources, ecosystems, or human communities.

- **Land Use (Section 4.1)—Ecosystem:** Construction activities to occur on an 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site and an adjoining 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. The 7.3 ha [18 acres] are adjacent to Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) and have been previously disturbed by other construction activities and land uses. Potential operation impacts include restricted access to the 3.2-ha [8-acre] facility site; and the use of the site for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) receiving, packaging, and storage.
- **Transportation (Section 4.2)—Human Community:** Operation impacts are related to transfer of the currently stored SNF at INTEC, a distance of approximately 700 m [2,300 ft], to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Shipments would be made in U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-supplied casks loaded on trailers. Movement of the SNF within the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be conducted in accordance with the DOE procedures and orders for SNF transfers within the INEEL complex.
- **Geology and Soils (Section 4.3)—Resource:** Construction-related impacts to soil would occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site and, to some extent, on the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Excavation, earthmoving, and grading would occur on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site. There is no contamination at the site above regulatory limits. No construction or operation impacts would occur on mineral deposits or unique geological resources.
- **Water Resources—Water Quality (Section 4.4.1)—Resource:** Construction phase impacts would be minimal to both surface water quality and groundwater quality. A storm water pollution prevention plan will be implemented. The proposed site is 140–146 m [460 to 480 ft] above the Snake River Plain Aquifer. Water used for construction phase dust control would evaporate or seep into surface soils. No new groundwater wells or percolation ponds would be required.
- **Water Resources—Water Use (Section 4.4.2)—Resource:** During the first year of construction, approximately 1.5 million L [396,000 gal] of water would be used for dust suppression, with an estimated additional 1.91 million L [505,000 gal] for concrete production at the site. During the second year of construction, it is estimated that water needs would be reduced by half. Drinking water use during operation would be nearly 141,950 L/mo [37,500 gal/mo]. These two amounts are a small fraction of the



## Summary of Environmental Consequences

- 1           7.4 billion L [2.0 billion gal] used annually at the INEEL and the annual withdrawal of  
2           43 billion L [11.4 billion gal] permitted by the DOE/State of Idaho Water Rights  
3           Agreement. Wastewater treatment requirements would be met via existing  
4           INTEC facilities.
- 5
- 6           •       Ecological (Section 4.5)—Ecosystem: Minimal impacts from the construction and  
7           operation of the facility would be anticipated. There are no wetlands or habitats for  
8           threatened or endangered plant or animal species at the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site or 4.1-ha  
9           [10-acre] laydown area. Secondary impacts on wildlife from noise and various human  
10          activities would also be minimal.
- 11
- 12          •       Air Quality (Section 4.6)—Resource: Construction-related fugitive dusts and exhaust  
13          emissions would be temporary and highly localized. With construction phase watering,  
14          the fugitive dusts and particulates would be about 8.2 metric tons [9 tons]; this is a small  
15          amount in relation to the INEEL emission inventory for particulates. No impacts to  
16          radiological air quality are anticipated from construction activities. During operation,  
17          there would be no chemical air discharges, and the vehicular exhausts would be small  
18          and within limitations. Therefore, no significant impacts to nonradiological air quality are  
19          anticipated. Facility operations would not be expected to result in the atmospheric  
20          discharge of significant amounts of gaseous radioactive effluents. The facility would be  
21          fully enclosed and includes a special ventilation system along with high efficiency  
22          particulate air (HEPA) filters. Monitoring of stack emissions for particulate radionuclides,  
23          iodine-129, and tritium would be used to identify any releases.
- 24
- 25          •       Noise (Section 4.7)—Resource: Construction phase noise levels would be typical of  
26          industrial areas; further, the noise would be temporary and highly localized. Noise from  
27          construction and operation traffic would be minimal in relation to existing traffic noise  
28          levels in the INTEC area. Potential noise levels from operations would be less than  
29          those from construction. Hearing protection will be required for workers per  
30          29 CFR 1910.95. No unique noise receptors are in the vicinity of the proposed Idaho  
31          Spent Fuel Facility. Therefore, noise impacts are not expected to be significant.
- 32
- 33          •       Historical, Cultural, and Paleontological (Section 4.8)—Human Community: There are  
34          no known historical and cultural resources, or paleontological resources, within the  
35          3.2-ha [8-acre] site and the 4.1-ha [10-acre] laydown area. Thirty-eight buildings and  
36          structures within INTEC are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic  
37          Places, but only one of these (CPP-603) is near the area that would be affected by the  
38          construction of the proposed facility and the transfer of SNF. The proposed facility  
39          would not introduce a built environment in a pristine natural setting. There are potential  
40          cumulative effects from withdrawal of access to the proposed 7.3-ha [18-acre] site by the  
41          Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, however, these lands are already contained within the  
42          limited access buffer area around INTEC.
- 43
- 44          •       Visual/Scenic (Section 4.9)—Human Community: Because of its smaller scale in  
45          relation to the adjacent INTEC facilities, construction and operation of the proposed  
46          Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would not cause visual impacts to the Bureau of Land  
47          Management (BLM) Class IV rating for the INTEC area. Fugitive dusts and exhaust  
48          emissions from construction would not impair the BLM Class III rating of lands adjacent

1 to INEEL nor would the minimal-to-nil releases of radioactive particulates and gases  
2 during operations. No significant visual or scenic impacts are anticipated.

3  
4 • **Socioeconomic (Section 4.10)— Human Community:** Construction of the proposed  
5 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility is scheduled to last approximately 2 years. This phase would  
6 employ a maximum of 250 workers, approximately 3 percent of the current INEEL  
7 workforce of 8,100. Because most of the workers would likely come from the existing  
8 INEEL workforce, the construction phase would not have significant socioeconomic  
9 effects on population growth, employment levels, housing, and infrastructure. For the  
10 first 4 years of facility operations, when fuel receipt and packaging occurs, about  
11 60 employees would be required. Storage operations beyond the first 4 years will likely  
12 require fewer staff. Most operations personnel would be from the local INEEL  
13 workforce. Again, no significant impacts are expected on the various features of the  
14 socioeconomic environment.

15  
16 • **Environmental Justice (Section 4.11)—Human Community:** The minority population  
17 near INEEL is predominately Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian, with these groups  
18 composing approximately 7 percent of the population within a 80-km [50-mi] radius. The  
19 low-income population in this same area comprises approximately 14 percent of the  
20 population. Special concerns related to the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes have been  
21 identified numerous consultations between tribal officials and INEEL officials. Two  
22 recent programmatic impact studies for INEEL concluded that environmental justice  
23 impacts are not significant (DOE, 1995, 2002), as did the recent EIS on the independent  
24 SNF storage installation for the Three-Mile Island Unit 2 Spent Fuel (NRC, 1998).  
25 Accordingly, because of the small socioeconomic impacts of the proposed Idaho Spent  
26 Fuel Facility, in general, and the lack of identified disproportionate impacts in the three  
27 recent impact studies, it is likely that no disproportionately high and adverse human  
28 health or environmental effects will occur on minority and low-income populations.

29  
30 • **Public and Occupational Health and Safety (Section 4.12)—Human Community:**  
31 Potential impacts were examined for normal, off-normal, and accident conditions. For  
32 normal operating conditions, no chemical discharges are planned from the proposed  
33 facility, and a health and safety program would be in place for the workers. The primary  
34 pathway for off-site radiation exposure to the public would be from atmospheric  
35 emissions of radioactive particulates, iodine-129, tritium, and a few other radionuclides.  
36 Iodine-129 and tritium contribute approximately 80 percent of the total dose. The  
37 estimated annual dose for the maximally exposed individual at the southern boundary of  
38 INEEL is  $3 \times 10^{-7}$  mSv [ $3 \times 10^{-5}$  mrem] from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility;  
39 from all nearby facility operations, the dose is less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem]. The  
40 regulatory annual dose limit is 0.1 mSv [10 mrem], and the natural background annual  
41 radiation is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem] in this general area. Therefore, public radiation impacts  
42 during normal operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be minimal and  
43 insignificant. Occupational radiological doses from the construction of the proposed  
44 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be less than 0.0032 mSv [0.32 mrem] annually to  
45 construction workers. The NRC annual occupational limit is 50 mSv [5,000 mrem], and  
46 the annual natural background radiation dose is 3.6 mSv [360 mrem]. The occupational  
47 dose to SNF-handling workers would be 9.1 mSv [910 mrem] annually, with the NRC  
48 annual occupational limit being 50 mSv [5,000 mrem]. The annual radiation dose to all  
49 workers within an 8-km [4.8-mi] radius is  $6.68 \times 10^{-5}$  mSv [ $6.68 \times 10^{-3}$  mrem]. Detailed

## Summary of Environmental Consequences

1 analyses of the radiation doses from off-normal events and accidents at the proposed  
2 Idaho Spent Fuel Facility are in Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC)  
3 (2001a). Further, analyses were also made of the public and occupational health and  
4 safety impacts of external events such as flooding, aircraft impact, volcanic hazards,  
5 seismic hazards, and extreme wind and wind-generated missiles. Design features and  
6 operational practices are expected to minimize the public and occupational health and  
7 safety impacts of these events and accidents.  
8

- 9 • Waste Management (Section 4.13)—Resource: Small quantities of gaseous, liquid, and  
10 solid low-level radioactive waste would be generated during the SNF receipt and  
11 repackaging operations planned for the first 3 years at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
12 Facility. After repackaging and storing, no gaseous releases, or liquid or solid  
13 radioactive wastes are anticipated to be generated on a regular basis at the proposed  
14 facility. Less than 17,790 L [4,700 gal] of low-level liquid wastes would be annually  
15 generated from decontamination activities. The INEEL Radioactive Waste Management  
16 Complex has the capacity to handle the small quantities of the generated wastes during  
17 the storage period for the repackaged SNF.  
18

### 19 **8.2 Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity**

20  
21 As discussed in Section 4.1 of this EIS, the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility includes the  
22 short-term use of up to 7.3 ha [18 acres] of previously disturbed, undeveloped land. This  
23 includes the 3.2-ha [8-acre] tract where the proposed facility will be constructed and a  
24 contiguous 4.1-ha [10-acre] construction laydown tract. The proposed action would result in  
25 physical changes to the site, including construction of a new facility and grading and leveling to  
26 prepare the site. Because these two areas are small compared with the 2,305 km<sup>2</sup> [890 mi<sup>2</sup>]  
27 INEEL and the 101-ha [250-acre] INTEC facility adjacent to the proposed facility, the physical  
28 changes are expected to be minor. These changes would restrict access to the land during  
29 construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The restriction would not  
30 affect the value of the land, because the property is classified as least productive, and access is  
31 already limited. The site would be decontaminated and decommissioned to meet applicable  
32 NRC standards at the end of facility use (see Sections 4.16 and 7.1.3). Therefore, it is  
33 anticipated that impacts from the proposed action would not lead to any impacts on the  
34 long-term productivity of the land.  
35

### 36 **8.3 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment**

37  
38 The construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would consume  
39 irretrievable amounts of electrical energy, fuel (see Table 7-2), and miscellaneous chemicals.  
40 Also, there would be an indefinite commitment of concrete, metals, plastic, lumber, sand, gravel,  
41 and a fraction of the water used in construction. Transfer of SNF into new storage containers  
42 and placement in the vault will require consumable materials such as filters, welding supplies,  
43 and other housekeeping materials. Storage operations would require materials such as HEPA  
44 filter media and other housekeeping materials. Scarce or strategic material would not be used  
45 for the construction of the facility. When the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility ceases  
46 operation, DOE would be required to submit an updated decontamination and decommissioning  
47 plan for NRC review and approval. NRC will require the site be cleaned to applicable standards  
48 at that time. The current conceptual decontamination and decommissioning plan for the facility

1 is described in the FWENC license application for the proposed action (FWENC, 2001b) and  
2 discussed in Sections 4.16 and 7.1.3 of this EIS.

3

#### 4 **8.4 References**

5

6 DOE. DOE/EIS-0287-F, "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final  
7 Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE, Idaho Operations Office. 2002.

8

9 ———. DOE/EIS-0203-F, "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel  
10 Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste  
11 Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE,  
12 Idaho Operations Office. 1995.

13

14 FWENC. "Safety Analysis Report, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.

15 ISF-FW-RPT-0033. Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001a.

16

17 ———. "License Application, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility." NRC Docket No. 72-25.

18 ISF-FW-RPT-0127." Morris Plains, New Jersey: FWENC. 2001b.

19

20 NRC. NUREG-1626, "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and  
21 Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation to Store the Three-Mile Island  
22 Unit 2 Spent Fuel at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory."

23 Washington, DC: NRC. March 1998.

## 9 INDEX

Subjects are indexed by section, figure, table, and appendix designations only.

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## **APPENDIX A**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING PROCESS**

## **SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

### **Proposed Idaho Spent Nuclear Fuel Facility Independent Storage Installation**

**November 2002**



**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Maryland**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CNWRA</b>	<b>Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses</b>
<b>DOE</b>	<b>U.S. Department of Energy</b>
<b>EIS</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Statement</b>
<b>FWENC</b>	<b>Foster Wheeler Environment Corporation</b>
<b>INEEL</b>	<b>Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory</b>
<b>INTEC</b>	<b>Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center</b>
<b>NEPA</b>	<b>National Environmental Policy Act</b>
<b>NRC</b>	<b>U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission</b>
<b>TRIGA</b>	<b>Training, Research, and Isotope reactors built by General Atomics</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

On November 19, 2001, Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) filed an application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2002a) at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) in Butte County, Idaho. If licensed, this new installation would be situated on an eight-acre (3.24 ha) site located adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), about three miles (4.8 km) north of the INEEL Central Facilities Area.

The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility will be designed, constructed, and operated by FWENC under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE has leased the site to FWENC for the operating life of the installation. The facility would store spent fuel and associated radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, and various Training, Research, and Isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactors). This spent fuel is currently being stored within the INTEC. DOE plans to transfer it to the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility when that facility becomes operational. These transfers would occur completely within the boundaries of the INEEL site and will comply with INEEL procedures and the requirements of DOE. Upon arrival at the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the spent fuel would be (1) remotely removed from the containers in which it is currently stored, (2) visually inspected, (3) inventoried, (4) placed into new multipurpose canisters, and (5) placed into interim storage. When a geologic repository becomes available, the multipurpose canisters are intended to be removed from storage at the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and transported to the repository.

The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would implement, in part, the portion of the DOE Spent Fuel Management and INEEL record of decision concerning construction of a dry spent fuel storage facility (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995a). It also would allow DOE to satisfy, in part, its commitments in the October 16, 1995, Settlement Agreement among the DOE, the U.S. Department of the Navy, and the State of Idaho to construct dry storage facilities and employ multipurpose canisters to prepare spent fuel for disposal outside of Idaho. These objectives would be accomplished at the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility by:

- Receiving spent nuclear fuel generated at the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, and various TRIGA research reactors;
- Transferring the spent nuclear fuel from the DOE storage containers in which it is currently stored into new multipurpose canisters certified by the NRC; and
- Placing the NRC-certified canisters into an NRC-licensed, interim spent fuel storage facility.

The license application will be considered under the provisions of NRC regulations at 10 CFR Part 72. If granted, the license will authorize the applicant to store spent nuclear fuel in a dry storage system at the applicant's Idaho Spent Fuel Facility site. Additionally, in accordance with NRC regulations at 10 CFR Part 51 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared by the NRC to examine the potential environmental impacts of the proposed licensing action (i.e., to construct and operate an independent spent fuel storage installation). As part of the NEPA process, the NRC solicited



## Appendix A

scoping comments from the public. Scoping is an early and open process designed to determine the range of actions, alternatives, and potential impacts to be considered in the EIS, and to identify the significant issues related to the proposed action. Input from the public and other agencies is solicited so the analysis can be more clearly focused on issues of genuine concern. The NRC and its contractor, the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), are reviewing relevant documents to ensure efficiency and to make decisions regarding their use (i.e., supplementing, tiering, or adoption) in preparing the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility EIS.

Under the present schedule, the EIS will be used to support a decision in 2004 by the NRC whether to authorize construction of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The schedule includes publishing the draft EIS for public comment in June 2003. The availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and scheduled public meetings will be announced in the Federal Register, on the NRC Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Web page, and in local news media. Following the public comment period, the draft EIS would be revised as necessary, and a final EIS would be published in January 2004. No cooperating agencies have been identified during the scoping process. The NRC will prepare the EIS with the assistance of the CNWRA. As discussed in Section 3, the EIS will analyze both construction and operation impacts.

In addition to the EIS for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, the NRC will prepare a safety evaluation report on health and safety issues raised by the proposed action. The safety evaluation report will document the NRC evaluation of the safety of the activities proposed by FWENC in its license application and the compliance with applicable NRC regulations.

In the notice of intent, the NRC announced the public scoping period (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2002b). Announcements of the scoping process were provided on the NRC Idaho Spent Fuel Facility Web page (<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/idaho-spent-fuel.html>) and in the following local newspapers:

- The Idaho News, Idaho Falls (Sunday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 7, 2002); and
- The Idaho Statesman, Boise (Sunday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 7, 2002).

The public scoping period extended from publication of the notice of intent on July 26, 2002, until September 16, 2002. During this period, 15 written comments were received from two organizations. These public comments are discussed in Section 2 of this report and have been categorized under the following issue headings:

- NEPA Issues
- Policy Issues
- Ecology, Air, and Water
- Cumulative Impacts
- Human Health Impacts
- Waste Management
- Security and Terrorism
- INEEL Infrastructure and Existing Conditions

The scope of the EIS and the summary of issues that will be addressed in the EIS are discussed in Section 3. Although issues raised during the scoping period will be considered in preparing the EIS for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, some of these issues will either be analyzed in less detail or will not be analyzed at all, depending on their relevance to the proposed action and the anticipated impacts. Issues that will be considered, but not analyzed in detail, are summarized in Section 4. The preliminary outline for the EIS is included as Attachment.A.

## **2. SCOPING COMMENT SUMMARY**

The following summary groups the comments received during the scoping period by technical area and issue.

### **2.1 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT ISSUES**

**Use of Existing NEPA Documents:** Both commenters noted that many of the impacts of the proposed action have been addressed by previous NEPA documents prepared by the DOE and the NRC (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b, 2002; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1998). One commenter expressed concern, however, that the programmatic EIS prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy (1995b) to address the impacts of spent nuclear fuel management at the INEEL facility did not adequately address the potential impacts to the environment from flooding, earthquakes, and construction disturbances.

**Public Involvement:** One commenter noted that the NRC schedule for the scoping process did not allow for full development of scoping comments. They requested that the NRC make sure that the Citizens Advisory Board for the INEEL is on the distribution list for the draft EIS when it becomes available for public review.

### **2.2 POLICY ISSUES**

**Application of NRC Regulations:** One commenter noted the understanding that the FWENC license application will be considered under NRC regulations and that if the application is approved, FWENC would be authorized to receive, possess, store, and transfer spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

### **2.3 ECOLOGY, AIR, AND WATER**

**Surface Water Impacts:** One commenter expressed concern that the INTEC area, where the spent nuclear fuel is currently stored and where the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be located, are within the 100-year floodplain. The commenter also noted that there are multiple areas of existing contamination at INTEC, also within the floodplain. The commenter wanted the impact analysis to consider the effects of flooding and the existing areas of contamination.

**HEPA Filters:** One commenter pointed out that the potential environmental consequences of using sintered metal HEPA filters at the proposed facility have either not been documented, or have been documented in a cursory fashion.

**Air Emissions:** One commenter was concerned that the potential impacts of air emissions during the fuel rod drying process have not been documented in a satisfactory manner.

## Appendix A

**Construction Impacts:** One commenter indicated that the previous DOE NEPA (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b; 2002) analyses have not provided an adequate analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the construction disturbances associated with the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

**Accident Issues:** One commenter expressed concern about the potential impacts to the environment due to earthquake. The commenter noted that previous NEPA analyses by the U.S. Department of Energy (1995b, 2002) have not adequately addressed this disruptive scenario. The same commenter also noted concerns with the potential environmental consequences of accidental nuclear criticality.

### 2.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

**Past Releases and Continued Waste Generation:** One commenter noted that previous DOE NEPA (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b; 2002) analyses have not properly addressed the cumulative impact of previous releases of radioactive and hazardous materials within the context of continued generation of waste at the INTEC facility.

### 2.5 WASTE MANAGEMENT

**Waste Generation:** One commenter raised concern over the cumulative impacts of continued generation of waste at the INEEL, particularly in the context of previous radioactive and hazardous waste releases.

### 2.6 SECURITY AND TERRORISM

One commenter expressed concern that the INTEC represented a concentrated area of high-risk targets for internal and external terrorism. The commenter noted that external auditors have identified problems with the DOE facility security system and stated that the design basis threats considered in the DOE security procedures have not been updated to reflect concerns resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The commenter wanted the NRC EIS to address the potential impacts of internal and external terrorism under realistic and current scenarios.

### 2.7 IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

**Spent Fuel Storage Expansion:** One commenter noted that the proposed action would be an expansion of spent nuclear fuel storage at the INEEL, and wanted the EIS to consider this in terms of cumulative impact with existing storage capacity at the site.

## 3. SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

NEPA (Public Law 91-90, as amended), and the NRC's implementing regulations for NEPA (10 CFR Part 51), specify in general terms what should be included in an EIS prepared by the NRC. Regulations established by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), while not binding on the NRC, provide useful guidance. The NRC has also prepared environmental review guidance to its staff for meeting NEPA requirements associated with licensing actions (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 2001).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.71(a), in addition to public comments received during the scoping process, the contents of the draft EIS will depend in part on the environmental report submitted by FWENC. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.71(b), the draft EIS will consider major points of view and objections concerning the environmental impacts of the proposed action raised by other Federal, State, and local agencies, by any affected groups of Native Americans, and by other interested persons. Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.71(c), the draft EIS will list all Federal permits, licenses, approvals, and other entitlements which must be obtained in implementing the proposed action, and will describe the status of compliance with these requirements. Any uncertainty as to the applicability of these requirements will be addressed in the draft EIS.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.71(d), the draft EIS will include a consideration of the economic, technical, and other benefits and costs of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. In the draft analysis, due consideration will be given to compliance with environmental quality standards and regulations that have been imposed by Federal, State, regional, and local agencies having responsibilities for environmental protection, including any applicable zoning and land-use regulations and water pollution limitations or requirements established or imposed pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The environmental impact of the proposed action will be evaluated in the draft EIS with respect to matters covered by such standards and requirements, regardless of whether a certification or license from the appropriate authority has been obtained. Compliance with the environmental quality standards and requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or designated permitting states) does not negate the requirement for NRC to weigh all environmental effects of the proposed action, including the degradation, if any, of water quality, and to consider alternatives to the proposed action that are available for reducing adverse effects. While satisfaction of NRC standards and criteria pertaining to radiological effects will be necessary to meet the licensing requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, the draft EIS will also, for the purposes of NEPA, consider the radiological and non-radiological effects of the proposed action and alternatives.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.71(e), the draft EIS will normally include a preliminary recommendation by the NRC staff with respect to the proposed action. Any such recommendation would be reached after considering the environmental effects of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives, and after weighing the costs and benefits of the proposed action.

The scoping process summarized in this report will help determine the scope of the draft EIS for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. For example, the adequacy of the existing NEPA analyses prepared by the DOE and the NRC for actions at the INEEL facility (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b, 2002; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1998) will be examined within the context of the proposed action, and supplemented and updated as necessary. The draft EIS will also include analyses of the impacts of flooding, facility emissions, construction, as well as the potential effects of an earthquake on the facility. The draft EIS will contain a discussion of the cumulative impacts of the proposed action in the context of the INEEL site. The development of the draft EIS will be closely coordinated with the safety evaluation report prepared by the NRC to evaluate the health and safety impacts of the proposed action.

The No-action alternative will be considered in the draft EIS. This alternative will address not licensing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and continuing the current interim storage of the Peach Bottom, Shippingport, and TRIGA reactor fuel. Neither commenting organization identified other alternatives to the proposed action. Other alternatives may be identified and analyzed during the preparation of the draft EIS.

## Appendix A

Issues to be analyzed in depth pertain to the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. In addition to the information provided in the documents prepared by FWENC as part of its license application to NRC, the draft EIS will also recognize previous NEPA analyses prepared by both the DOE and the NRC for activities at the INEEL (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b, 2002; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1998).

The goal in writing the EIS is to present the impact analyses in a manner that makes it easy for the public to understand. This EIS will provide the basis for the NRC decision with regard to potential environmental impacts. Significant impacts will be discussed in greater detail in the EIS, and explanations will be provided for determining the level of detail for different impacts. This should allow readers of the EIS to focus on issues that were determined to be important in reaching the conclusions supported by the EIS. The following topical areas and issues will be analyzed in the EIS.

**Geology, Soils, Earthquakes, and Volcanoes.** The EIS will describe the characteristics of the INEEL, with specific attention to the area adjacent to the INTEC that will be disturbed by the proposed action. Evaluation of the potential for disruption of the facility by earthquakes or volcanic activity will be considered to the extent that they may have an impact on facility construction or operation. Existing contamination at the site will be identified to the extent that it may affect or be affected by the proposed action. The detailed analysis of the health and safety impacts, however, will be addressed in the safety evaluation report to be prepared by the NRC in support of its licensing decision.

**Hydrology.** The EIS will assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the surface water, storm-water runoff, and groundwater resources including the Snake River Plain Aquifer. The assessment will consider water resources, water quality, water use, flood plains, and the probable maximum flood (the largest flood that is likely to occur). The EIS will not, however, evaluate the health and safety aspects associated with these site characteristics which will be addressed in the safety evaluation report.

**Air Quality.** Potential air quality impacts associated with the proposed action will be evaluated in the EIS. The evaluation will include potential impacts resulting from construction activities and operation (e.g., fuel rod drying activities) and will compare the anticipated air quality impacts, if any, with relevant standards.

**Ecology.** The area adjacent to the INTEC intended for the proposed facility is already in use as a construction laydown area, and has been substantially disturbed from its natural state. The EIS will include an update of threatened and endangered species and other ecological resources at the INEEL, focusing on the area immediately around the INTEC.

**Land Use.** The general land use activities at the INEEL will be summarized. The total area involved in the proposed action is confined to an existing industrial facility at the INTEC, therefore the level of detail in the impact analysis for land use is likely to be low. Existing NEPA analyses will be summarized and incorporated where appropriate.

**Cultural Resources.** The EIS will assess potential impacts of the proposed action on the historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources of the INEEL, with particular attention to the area adjacent to the INTEC that will be disturbed by the proposed action. The EIS will also describe the programmatic framework for evaluating these resources at INEEL.

**Transportation.** Transportation distances are short in the proposed action, and are not covered in the environmental report prepared by FWENC. The DOE, not FWENC, is responsible for the transportation of the spent nuclear fuel from its current storage location at the INTEC to the proposed facility. As a connected action, the EIS will rely on the DOE orders and procedures for transportation of spent nuclear fuel within the INEEL boundaries.

**Waste Management.** The EIS will document the quantities, types, and disposal of the potential waste streams resulting from the proposed action. The EIS will consider the impacts of these waste streams on the existing waste management capacities at the INEEL, either specifically or through incorporation of reference material from existing NEPA analyses.

**Socioeconomics.** All activities related to the proposed action are restricted to within the INEEL boundaries, so the EIS will consider the socioeconomic impact of the proposed action to the extent that it affects employment at the INEEL and imposes additional burden on the existing services provided by the communities immediately around the INEEL. These may include impacts on housing, social services, and emergency services or other impacts identified during the preparation of the EIS.

**Environmental Justice.** The potential for disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental impacts on minority and low-income populations will be evaluated and discussed at the census block level. Because all activities related to the proposed action are restricted to within the INEEL boundaries, the EIS will consider the impact on these communities immediately around the INEEL either specifically or through incorporation of reference material from existing NEPA analyses.

**Aesthetics.** The aesthetics of the INEEL, specifically the INTEC, will be summarized. The proposed facility is confined to an existing industrial facility at the INTEC, therefore, the level of detail in the impact analysis for aesthetics is likely to be low. Existing NEPA analyses will be summarized and incorporated where appropriate.

**Noise.** The current noise aspects at the INTEC will be summarized. The proposed facility is confined to an existing industrial facility at the INTEC, therefore, the level of detail in the impact analysis for noise is likely to be low. Existing NEPA analyses will be summarized and incorporated where appropriate.

**Human Health Impacts.** In preparing its safety evaluation report, NRC will evaluate the potential human health impacts of the proposed facility on the workers and the general public for normal operations (including construction, handling, transfer, and inspection activities) and under off-normal or accident conditions. The detailed analyses will be reported in the safety evaluation report and summarized in the EIS. Potential exposures to radioactive materials and to hazardous chemicals will be considered. Both cancer and non-cancer health effects will be evaluated, as appropriate. Calculations for the general public account for sensitive populations as well as normal healthy adults. Models, assumptions, and supporting data used to develop the impacts from these potential exposures will be clearly described. The safety evaluation report will assess the impacts associated with all credible accidents at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, both from natural and human activities. Based on the analyses in the safety evaluation report, the EIS will summarize the potential environmental impacts resulting from credible bounding accidents at the proposed facility.

In the context of the EIS, DOE and FWENC programmatic plans for security, emergency response, and environmental monitoring activities will be considered as mitigation measures for

## Appendix A

potential impacts. These issues may be summarized and discussed in the EIS to the extent that they are required as mitigation measures.

**Decontamination and Decommissioning.** The November 2001 license application submitted by FWENC includes a proposed decommissioning plan that includes decontaminating and/or removing systems and components of the proposed facility. The EIS will include an evaluation of the effects of decontaminating and decommissioning the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

**Cumulative Impacts.** The EIS will analyze the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed facility in the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. This will include impacts from connected actions such as the transportation of the fuel from its current storage location at the INTEC to the proposed facility.

**Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts.** The EIS will include a discussion of potential environmental impacts, if any, that could not be avoided if the proposed action were to be implemented.

**Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.** The irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources, including land use, materials, and energy will be discussed. Potential waste minimization and pollution prevention activities and mitigation measures will be evaluated.

**Cost-Benefit Analysis.** The EIS will include a cost-benefit analysis that summarizes the environmental and other costs and benefits of the proposed action.

**Compliance with Applicable Regulations.** The EIS will present a listing of the relevant permits and regulations that apply to the proposed action. Consultations with involved Federal, State, and local agencies will be documented as appropriate.

Although not anticipated, any pertinent proprietary information that is not available to the public will be reviewed by the NRC in preparing both the safety evaluation report and the EIS. By law, however, the NRC must protect any proprietary information from public disclosure. Therefore, any proprietary information will not be released to the public. As indicated above, all available non-proprietary documentation generated by the DOE and FWENC will be used and incorporated by reference, as appropriate.

#### **4. ISSUES CONSIDERED PERIPHERAL, OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, OR COVERED BY PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Issues raised during the scoping period for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL are summarized in Section 2 of this report. Section 3 outlines the subjects and issues that will be addressed in detail in the EIS. Certain issues will not be addressed in depth in the EIS. Major categories of these issues and the reasons for not analyzing them in detail in the EIS are explained in this section. In general, these issues are not directly related to the assessment of potential impacts from the proposed major Federal action now under consideration. The lack of in depth discussion in the EIS, however, does not mean that an issue or concern lacks value. Issues beyond the scope of the EIS may not yet be ripe for resolution, or are more appropriately discussed and decided in other venues. For example, health and safety issues will be considered in detail in the safety evaluation report prepared by NRC for the proposed action and will be summarized in the EIS.

## 4.1 PREVIOUS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY DECISIONS

Both commenters noted that previous NEPA analyses have been prepared by the DOE for the INEEL (U.S. Department of Energy, 1995b; 2002). Sections of these EISs may be relevant to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility, and will be reviewed in preparing the draft EIS. Because the scope of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility EIS is limited to the licensing action now under review by NRC, issues pertaining to decisions already made by DOE will be addressed by referencing the appropriate DOE NEPA analysis, and by summarizing the information, as appropriate.

## 4.2 IMPACTS FROM TERRORISM

One commenter identified the INTEC area as a potential target for internal and external terrorism. However, the EIS will not address the impacts of terrorism as the staff does not consider these impacts to be reasonably foreseeable as a result of the proposed action. However, it must be noted that the consideration of terrorism issues in NEPA documents is currently an issue before the Commission in a number of adjudicatory proceedings. The staff will incorporate these decisions as they become available.

## 5. REFERENCES

- U.S. Department of Energy. "Idaho High-Level Waste and Facilities Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement." DOE/EIS-0287-F. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE. 2002.
- U.S. Department of Energy. "Environmental Statements Availability, etc; Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs" *Federal Register*, Volume 60 pp: 28680-28696. June 1, 1995a.
- U.S. Department of Energy. "Department of Energy Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement." DOE/EIS-0203-F. Idaho Falls, Idaho: DOE. 1995b.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation, Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; Notice of Docketing, Notice of Consideration of Issuance, and Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing for a Materials License for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. *Federal Register*, Volume 67, pp: 43358-43359. June 27, 2002a.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation's proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility's Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process. *Federal Register*, Volume 67, pp: 48953-48956. July 26, 2002b.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulator Commission. "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs. Draft Report for Interim Use and Comment." NUREG-1748. Washington, DC: NRC. 2001.
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. , "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation to Store the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Spent Fuel at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory." NUREG-1626. Washington, DC: NRC. 1998.



**ATTACHMENT A**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO  
SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FACILITY INDEPENDENT STORAGE  
INSTALLATION—PRELIMINARY OUTLINE**

Summary

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## **APPENDIX B**

## CONSULTATION LETTERS

December 4, 2002

Ms. Suzi Pengilly Neitzel  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Idaho State Historical Society  
210 Main Street  
Boise, ID 83702-5642

**SUBJECT: INITIATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL FACILITY**

Dear Ms. Pengilly Neitzel:

Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) has submitted a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to receive, transfer, package, and possess spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. The NRC is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed facility to be located at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), located near Idaho Falls. The proposed facility will receive SNF from DOE, repackage the SNF into NRC licensed canisters, and place these canisters into interim dry storage pending its final removal from the State of Idaho. This proposed facility, as well as all associated construction activities and impacts, will be within the boundaries of INEEL. The forthcoming EIS will document the impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facility.

A "Cultural Resource Investigations for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL" was prepared for DOE in March, 2001, by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office (attachment). This report describes the areas that will be affected by the construction of the proposed facility and the cultural resources that are in or near these areas. The proposed location of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be on previously disturbed land adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) in the south-central portion of the INEEL. The area includes a small complex of existing office buildings, warehouses, and trailers immediately to the east of the INTEC perimeter fence and north of a coal-fired power plant. There are two areas of potential effect for the proposed project. The first is the facility construction site, which is an 8-acre parcel located near a large ash pit associated with INTEC's coal-fired power plant. The second area is a 4-acre construction laydown area, which would be used to facilitate construction activities. This area is located a short distance to the northeast of the proposed facility location. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the facility and other temporary support facilities will be localized, but extensive in both areas. There will not be any modifications or removal of existing structures or buildings within the INTEC facility. Both areas of potential effect have been investigated for cultural resources. Intensive archeological surveys from the 1980s, subsequent archeological reconnaissance by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office, historic building inventories and lists of other structures, and previous and ongoing consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have been combined to identify any significant cultural resources with visible surface remains in the affected areas. Based on this research, few cultural resources have been identified in the

Appendix B

S.P. Neitzel

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vicinity of INTEC. On the eastern side of the INTEC, where the proposed facility will be constructed, three archeological resources have been identified. However, these resources are located outside of the areas of potential effect for the proposed project and would not be impacted. Nonetheless, these areas would be monitored to avoid any impacts to these or any other resources that are discovered during construction activities.

As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC is requesting the views of the State Historical Preservation Officer on further actions to identify historic properties that may be affected by the NRC's undertaking (i.e. licensing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility). As part of the EIS preparation, the NRC conducted a public scoping process to solicit information on environmental issues. This scoping information, along with the "Cultural Resource Investigations for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL" (attachment), and any information you provide will be used to document affects in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d).

My staff will be in contact with your office throughout the EIS process. We will contact your office after we have completed the draft EIS in the Spring of 2003. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Matt Blevins of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at 301-7684.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Chief  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Attachment: Cultural Resource Investigations for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

cc: See attached list

April 17, 2003

Ms. Suzi Pengilly Neitzel  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Idaho State Historical Society  
210 Main Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON THE DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL  
STORAGE FACILITY**

Dear Ms. Pengilly Neitzel:

By a letter dated December 5, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff notified you of a pending license application submitted to the NRC by the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) to allow the receipt, transfer, packaging, and possession of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility located on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The NRC is in the process of completing the draft Environmental Impact Statement which is scheduled for completion in June 2003.

A "Cultural Resource Investigations for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL" was prepared for the DOE in March 2001 by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office (attachment). This report describes the areas that will be affected by the construction of the proposed facility and the cultural resources that are in or near these areas. The proposed location of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be on previously disturbed land adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) in the south-central portion of the INEEL. The area includes a small complex of existing office buildings, warehouses, and trailers immediately to the east of the INTEC perimeter fence and north of a coal-fired power plant. There are two areas of potential effect for the proposed project. The first is the facility construction site, which is an 8-acre parcel located near a large ash pit associated with INTEC's coal-fired power plant. The second area is a 4-acre construction laydown area, which would be used to facilitate construction activities. This area is located a short distance to the northeast of the proposed facility location. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the facility and other temporary support facilities will be localized, but extensive in both areas. There will not be any modifications or removal of existing structures or buildings within the INTEC facility. Both areas of potential effect have been investigated for cultural resources. Intensive archeological surveys from the 1980s, subsequent archeological reconnaissance by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office, historic building inventories and lists of other structures, and previous and ongoing consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have been combined to identify any significant cultural resources with visible surface remains in the affected areas. Based on this research, few cultural resources have been identified in the vicinity of INTEC. On the eastern side of the INTEC, where the proposed facility will be



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Ms. S. P. Neitzel

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constructed, three archeological resources have been identified. However, these resources are located outside of the areas of potential effect for the proposed project and would not be impacted. Nonetheless, these areas would be monitored to avoid any impacts to these or any other resources that are discovered during construction activities.

Based on this information the NRC has determined that no historic properties are affected by the proposed undertaking (i.e., licensing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility). Please provide your concurrence regarding NRC's determination that the undertaking will not effect historic properties. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Matthew Blevins at 301-415-7684. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*/RAJ*

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Acting Chief  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Attachment: As stated

April 21, 2003

Ms. Kendra Womack  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 368  
Boise, Idaho 83709

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON THE DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON  
FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES AND THEIR CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THE  
PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

Dear Ms. Womack:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is in the process of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility to be located at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), located near Idaho Falls. The proposed facility will receive spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from locations on the INEEL, repackage the SNF into NRC licensed canisters, and place these canisters into interim dry storage pending its final removal from the state of Idaho. This proposed facility, as well as all associated construction activities and impacts, will be within the boundaries of INEEL. The forthcoming EIS will evaluate the actions and impacts associated with the construction and operation of the facility.

An ecological resources report for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL was prepared for the DOE (May 2001) and is enclosed. This report describes the areas that will be affected by the construction of the proposed facility and the ecological resources that are in or near these areas. The proposed location of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be on previously disturbed land adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) in the south-central portion of the INEEL. The area includes a small complex of existing office buildings, warehouses, and trailers immediately to the east of the INTEC perimeter fence and north of a coal-fired power plant. There are two areas of potential effect for the proposed project. The first is the facility construction site which is an 8-acre parcel located near a large ash pit associated with INTEC's coal-fired power plant. The second area is a 9-acre construction laydown area, which would be used to facilitate construction activities. This area is located a short distance to the northeast of the proposed facility location. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the facility and other temporary support facilities will be localized, but extensive in both areas. Both areas of potential effect have been investigated for ecological resources. Intensive ecological surveys from the 1980s, subsequent plant and wetland surveys by various research personnel, and previous consultation with your office have all been combined to identify ecological resources. Based on this report and the NRC's preliminary analysis in support of the draft EIS, the NRC has determined that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species or critical habitat. The most recent species list, 1-4-02-SP-821, provided by your office in September 2002 was used in making this determination.

## Appendix B

Ms. K. Womack

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Please provide your concurrence regarding NRC's determination that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any listed species or critical habitat. If you have any questions or comments or need any additional information, please contact Matthew Blevins at 301-415-7684. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Acting Chief */RA/*  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Attached List

June 3, 2003

Ms. Sandi Arena  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
4425 Burley Drive  
Chubbuck, ID 83202

**SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION TO APRIL 21, 2003, LETTER REQUESTING CONCURRENCE  
ON THE DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES  
AND THEIR CRITICAL HABITATS FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL  
STORAGE FACILITY**

Dear Ms. Arena:

In a letter dated April 21, 2003, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested concurrence on its finding for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. Based on conversations between yourself and Matthew Blevins of my staff, it is my understanding that clarification to the previous letter is necessary. Previously, we asked for concurrence on the NRC's finding of "not likely to adversely affect any listed species or critical habitat" for the proposed facility. The earlier request should have clearly stated the NRC's finding that the proposed facility "will not affect any listed species or critical habitat." I believe the information provided in the earlier request will support this finding.

Please provide your concurrence regarding the NRC's determination that the proposed action will not affect any listed species or critical habitat. If you have any questions or comments or need any additional information, please contact Matthew Blevins at 301-415-7684. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Acting Chief  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

cc: Attached List



# 1 DETAILED CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ASSESSMENT

## 2 3 Methodology

4  
5 The 11-step cumulative effects assessment methodology published by the Council on  
6 Environmental Quality is used as the framework for addressing cumulative effects (Council on  
7 Environmental Quality, 1997). The steps, in an expanded format, are as follows:

- 8  
9 • Step 1: Identify the significant cumulative effects issues associated with the proposed  
10 action and define the assessment goals. This step is focused on the incremental  
11 impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.  
12 Accordingly, these impacts have been summarized based on the information in  
13 Sections 4.1–4.13. Further, where the incremental impacts were deemed to be small  
14 and insignificant, no analyses of cumulative effects were conducted. Therefore, the  
15 assessment goal is to assess the direct, indirect, and contributed impacts of the  
16 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility on nearby resources, ecosystems, and human  
17 communities that may have been, or would be, subject to cumulative effects. Step 1  
18 results are described in Section 4. [Resources considered herein include geology and  
19 soils (Section 4.3), water (4.4), air quality (4.6), noise (4.7), and waste management  
20 (4.13); ecosystems include land use (4.1) and ecology (4.5); and human communities  
21 include transportation (4.2), historical and cultural (4.8), visual/scenic (4.9),  
22 socioeconomical (4.10), environmental justice (4.11), and public and occupational  
23 health and safety (4.12).]  
24
- 25 • Step 2: Establish the geographic scope for the analysis (Council on Environmental  
26 Quality, 1997). The geographic scope is dependent on the affected resources,  
27 ecosystems, and human communities. Because of more site-specific and localized  
28 concerns, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)  
29 boundaries were used to define the impact area for geology and soils, water, air quality,  
30 noise, waste management, land use, ecology, and historical and cultural resources.  
31 INEEL and its surrounding region were used to establish impacts to transportation,  
32 visual/scenic, socioeconomical, environmental justice, and public and occupational  
33 health and safety resources.  
34
- 35 • Step 3: Establish the timeframe for the analysis (Council on Environmental Quality,  
36 1997). The timeframe for the analysis includes the past, present, and future. The  
37 historical (past) boundary was assumed to be prior to the establishment of the  
38 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and precursor activities at INEEL (established in  
39 1949). Accordingly, the boundary selected was the 1940s. Past activities also include  
40 the facilities and programs at INEEL to year 2003. The future time boundary would  
41 extend to 2039 to encompass the construction period for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
42 Facility (2–4 years), meet the terms of the 1995 Settlement Agreement, and a 2- to  
43 4-year decommissioning period. The recent Idaho High-Level Waste (HLW) and  
44 facilities disposition environmental impact statement (EIS) incorporated a timeframe for  
45 analysis from 2000 to 2095 (DOE, 2002, Section 5.4). The 2000–2095 period was the  
46 timeframe established for completion of activities evaluated in that EIS and the assumed  
47 period of institutional control, although DOE has no plans to relinquish institutional  
48 control of INEEL facilities or lands.  
49

## Appendix C

- 1 • **Step 4: Identify other actions affecting the resources, ecosystems, and human**  
2 **communities of concern (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997). This step was**  
3 **accomplished by reviewing the identified actions in the DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel**  
4 **Programmatic EIS, the DOE Idaho HLW and Facilities Disposition EIS (DOE, 2002), and**  
5 **the EIS on the independent spent fuel storage installation for Three-Mile Island Unit 2**  
6 **Spent Fuel (U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 1998). Actions within INEEL, as well**  
7 **as off-site, were identified. Information on these past, present, and reasonably**  
8 **foreseeable future actions is summarized in Section 4.14.2. Contributions to cumulative**  
9 **effects are summarized in Section 4.14.3.**
- 10
- 11 • **Steps 5 and 6: Characterize the resources, ecosystems, and human communities**  
12 **identified in Steps 1–4 for response to change and capacity to withstand stresses.**  
13 **Further, characterize the stresses affecting these resources, ecosystems, and human**  
14 **communities and their relations to regulatory thresholds (Council on Environmental**  
15 **Quality, 1997). Considerable information on the conditions of these environmental**  
16 **categories, their current stresses, and their relations to regulatory thresholds and**  
17 **requirements is in Section 3 of the EIS. A summary table and discussion is included in**  
18 **Section 4.14.**
- 19
- 20 • **Step 7: Define a baseline condition for the resources, ecosystems, and human**  
21 **communities (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997). The words baseline condition**  
22 **can be used in three ways in an impact study: (i) to define the conditions of pertinent**  
23 **resources, ecosystems, and human communities at an historical reference date and as**  
24 **reflected by trends to the current date; (ii) to define the current conditions (such as in**  
25 **Section 3 of the EIS, with the current conditions reflective of historical cumulative**  
26 **effects); and (iii) to define the future without the proposed action conditions based on**  
27 **forecasting changes for the future time period within the analysis. Descriptive**  
28 **information will be included on conditions reflective of an historical reference date and**  
29 **trends. Steps 5 and 6 previously discussed relate to current conditions, with summary**  
30 **information included. The future without the proposed action conditions is summarized**  
31 **in conjunction with Step 9.**
- 32
- 33 • **Step 8: Identify the important cause-and-effect relationships between human activities**  
34 **and resources, ecosystems, and human communities (Council on Environmental**  
35 **Quality, 1997). These relationships will be addressed by identifying and describing**  
36 **common pathways or connections between the construction and operation of the**  
37 **proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable**  
38 **future actions; and the affected resources, ecosystems, and human communities. This**  
39 **step is related to Steps 1 and 4 previously discussed and will be addressed in**  
40 **Section 4.14 of the EIS.**
- 41
- 42 • **Step 9: Determine the magnitude and significance of cumulative effects (Council on**  
43 **Environmental Quality, 1997). The magnitude of the cumulative effects will be**  
44 **determined based on information from selected tables in DOE (2002), as well as impact**  
45 **information from Sections 4.1–4.13 of this report. The significance of the cumulative**  
46 **effects was determined considering historical, current, and forecasted conditions for the**  
47 **affected resources, ecosystems, and human communities, along with professional**  
48 **judgment. Information related to this step is in Section 4.14 of the EIS.**
- 49

1 • Step 10: Modify or add alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant cumulative  
 2 effects (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997). Because there are no significant  
 3 incremental impacts from the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility and no significant  
 4 cumulative effects associated therewith, it would not be necessary to develop  
 5 alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant cumulative effects. The proposed  
 6 facility already includes a number of design, construction, and operational measures that  
 7 are focused on avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.  
 8 These measures are mentioned in various locations in Sections 2 and 4. In addition,  
 9 they are addressed in a summary fashion in Section 5 of the EIS.

10  
 11 • Step 11: Monitor the cumulative effects of the selected alternative and adapt  
 12 management (Council on Environmental Quality, 1997). Extensive monitoring of the  
 13 physical-chemical and biological environment is already conducted at INEEL, including  
 14 specific components that are related to Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering  
 15 Center (INTEC) and its environs (including the site for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel  
 16 Facility). Because there are no significant incremental impacts from the proposed Idaho  
 17 Spent Fuel Facility and no significant cumulative effects associated therewith, it would  
 18 not be necessary to develop and implement a special cumulative effects monitoring  
 19 program with related adaptive management strategies. Specific monitoring of selected  
 20 parameters is planned for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. For example, process  
 21 and effluent radiation monitoring would include criticality monitoring, area radiation  
 22 monitoring, radiation signature monitoring, continuous air monitoring, and exhaust gas  
 23 stack sampling. This monitoring program is presented in Section 6 of the EIS.  
 24

## 25 Cumulative Impacts of Past Actions

26  
 27 This summary is of the affected environment in accordance with 13 topical areas classified  
 28 as resources, ecosystems, or human communities. The information is abstracted from  
 29 Sections 3.1–3.14. Detailed information and data can be found in these sections, along with  
 30 information on pertinent regulatory thresholds and environmental management policies and  
 31 requirements. The approach used is to describe current conditions, which are reflective of the  
 32 cumulative effects from past actions at INEEL, along with actions from the 1940s, or earlier,  
 33 which predate the DOE operations.  
 34

35 • Land Use (Sections 3.1 and 3.2)—Ecosystem: INEEL covers 230,850 ha  
 36 [570,000 acres] in southeast Idaho, with about 2 percent {4,600 ha [11,400 acres]}  
 37 developed to support DOE. One of nine developed areas is INTEC, located in the  
 38 south-central part of INEEL. INTEC includes 150 buildings located on 101 ha  
 39 [250 acres]. The proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be constructed on 3.2 ha  
 40 [8 acres] adjacent to the southeast boundary of INTEC; construction laydown activities  
 41 would also occur on an adjoining 4.1-ha [10-acre] area. Additional land uses at INEEL  
 42 include 340,000 acres leased for cattle and sheep grazing. Future industrial  
 43 development at INEEL is expected to occur in the central portion within existing major  
 44 facility areas. A designated Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem Reserve {29,672 ha  
 45 [73,263 acres]} is located at INEEL; its southern boundary is 17.6 km [11 mi] north of  
 46 INTEC. Approximately 75 percent of the land adjacent to INEEL is administered by the  
 47 Bureau of Land Management for wildlife habitat, mineral and energy production, grazing,  
 48 and recreation. Approximately 1 percent of the adjacent land is owned by the State of  
 49 Idaho and is used for purposes similar to that of the federal government. The remaining



## Appendix C

- 1 24 percent of the land adjacent to INEEL is privately owned and primarily used for  
2 grazing and crop production (DOE, 2002). Historical use of a portion of the INEEL land  
3 in the 1940s was as a bombing range; agricultural and grazing operations existed on a  
4 periodic basis prior to and during the 1940s.
- 5
- 6 • **Transportation and Infrastructure (Section 3.3)—Human Community:** Two interstate  
7 highways (86 and 15), three U.S. highways (91, 20, and 26), and one state highway (33)  
8 serve the regional area and provide access to INEEL. Approximately 140 km [87 mi] of  
9 paved roads are located within INEEL. One DOE-owned spur line provides railway  
10 access to INEEL. Historical trails and roads existed in the INEEL area and region prior  
11 to and during the 1940s.
- 12
- 13 • **Geology and Soils (Section 3.4)—Resources:** INEEL is located on the Eastern Snake  
14 River Plain, which is a broad northeast-trending basin that began filling with volcanic  
15 deposits approximately 6 million years ago. Overlying and interlacing the volcanic lavas  
16 are thin, discontinuous deposits of wind-blown sand and loess, floodplain, riverbed and  
17 lake sediments, and landslope debris. Surficial sediments at the proposed Idaho Spent  
18 Fuel Facility site consist mostly of gravel, gravelly sands, and sands. The proposed site  
19 has been previously disturbed, and its vegetation covers approximately 5 percent of the  
20 3.2 ha [8 acres]. Site soils are below thresholds for radiological and nonradiological  
21 contaminants. No mineral resources are associated with the 3.2-ha [8-acre] site.  
22 Finally, there is a low rate of seismicity in the Eastern Snake River Plain, and the annual  
23 probability of nearby volcanic eruptions is also low. Historical agricultural and grazing  
24 activities on current INEEL lands may have caused some losses of soil caused by  
25 erosion. Radiological contamination of soils in the vicinity of INTEC would have  
26 occurred in more recent decades.
- 27
- 28 • **Water Resources—Surface Water (Section 3.5.1)—Resources:** Three main streams are  
29 associated with INEEL—the Big and Little Lost Rivers and Birch Creek. INTEC is  
30 located 61 m [200 ft] from the Big Lost River channel; however, INTEC is surrounded by  
31 a storm water drainage ditch system for controlling storm water runoff. Several studies  
32 of a probable maximum flood near INTEC have been conducted. Based on conservative  
33 assumptions, small areas of the northern portion of INTEC could flood at the estimated  
34 100- and 500-year flows, but the southeast corner of INTEC, where the proposed Idaho  
35 Spent Fuel Facility would be located, is not within the estimated 100- and 500-year flood  
36 plains. Additional work is ongoing at INEEL by the U.S. Geological Survey and the  
37 Bureau of Reclamation to further refine flow frequency estimates for the Big Lost River in  
38 the vicinity of INTEC. Finally, it should be noted that no surface water is used as a water  
39 supply at INEEL.
- 40
- 41 **Water quality in the Big Lost River has remained fairly constant for the period of record.**  
42 **Applicable drinking water quality standards for measured physical, chemical, and**  
43 **radioactive parameters have not been exceeded (DOE, 1995). INEEL activities do not**  
44 **directly affect the quality of surface water because discharges are to artificial seepage**  
45 **and evaporation basins or storm water injection wells. Effluents are not discharged to**  
46 **natural surface waters. Water from the Big Lost River, however, as well as seepage**  
47 **from evaporation basins and storm water injection wells, does infiltrate the Snake River**  
48 **Plain Aquifer.**
- 49

1 • **Water Resources—Groundwater (Section 3.5.2)—Resources:** The Snake River Plain  
2 Aquifer is the largest groundwater system in Idaho. As the major source of drinking  
3 water for southeast Idaho, it has been designated a sole-source aquifer by the  
4 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Aquifer recharge is primarily from the infiltration  
5 of irrigation water and by valley underflow from the mountains to the north and northeast  
6 of the plain. The vadose zone extends down from the ground surface to the top of the  
7 Snake River Plain Aquifer; at INTEC, the zone extends from the ground surface to  
8 140–146 m [460–480 ft] below the ground surface. Three zones of perched  
9 groundwater occur at INTEC ranging approximately 9–98 m [30–322 ft] below the  
10 ground surface.

11  
12 **Monitoring of groundwater quality at INEEL has been conducted within four**  
13 **categories—drinking water monitoring, compliance monitoring (source oriented),**  
14 **surveillance monitoring (of the groundwater), and special studies. INTEC drinking water**  
15 **wells are hydrologically upgradient of the INTEC facility; they would be used to supply**  
16 **water to the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility. In 2000, the most recent year with**  
17 **published data, all drinking water samples collected at INTEC had concentrations below**  
18 **the maximum contaminant levels specified in federal and state drinking water**  
19 **regulations. Surveillance monitoring of perched and aquifer water underneath and**  
20 **downgradient from INTEC established that concentrations of several inorganics and**  
21 **radionuclides exceed the Safe Drinking Water Act maximum contaminant levels and**  
22 **secondary maximum contaminant levels. An indepth study of soil and groundwater**  
23 **contaminations at INTEC was conducted in 1995. The study indicated that both soil and**  
24 **groundwater contaminations existed relative to several inorganics and radionuclides**  
25 **(details are in Section 3.5.2.4).**

26  
27 **The two primary uses of water withdrawn from the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer are**  
28 **for agricultural irrigation and for INEEL operations. Nearly 1.77 trillion L [0.47 trillion gal]**  
29 **of water is withdrawn for agricultural purposes within the region. Annual water**  
30 **withdrawals by INEEL range from 6.4 to 7.2 billion L [1.7 to 1.9 billion gal]; the water is**  
31 **used for drinking purposes, as process water, and for noncontact cooling. Finally, DOE**  
32 **holds a Federal Reserved Water Right for INEEL, which permits a maximum water**  
33 **consumption of 43.2 billion L [11.4 billion gal] per year.**

34  
35 • **Ecological Resources (Section 3.6)—Ecosystem:** Ecological resources at INEEL include  
36 flora; fauna (terrestrial and aquatic); threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and  
37 wetlands. Vegetation at INEEL is primarily of the shrub-steppe type; the 15 vegetation  
38 associations range from primarily shadescale-steppe vegetation at lower altitudes  
39 through sagebrush- and grass-dominated communities to juniper woodlands along the  
40 foothills of the nearby mountains and buttes. Facility and human-disturbed (grazing not  
41 included) areas include about 2 percent of INEEL, with introduced annuals, including  
42 Russian thistle and cheatgrass, frequently dominating disturbed areas. These species  
43 usually are less desirable to wildlife as food and cover and compete with more desirable  
44 perennial native species. Disturbances to vegetative cover from large wildfires have  
45 been a concern at INEEL in recent years. Previous studies at INEEL indicated that more  
46 than 270 vertebrate species occur, including 46 mammal, 204 bird, 10 reptile,  
47 2 amphibian, and 9 fish. The monitoring of radionuclide levels outside the boundaries of  
48 the various INEEL facilities, and off INEEL, has detected radionuclide concentrations  
49 above background levels in individual plants and animals; however, these limited data

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1 do not suggest that populations of exposed animals (e.g., mice and rabbits) or animals  
2 that feed on these exposed animals (e.g., eagles and hawks) are at risk.

3  
4 Seven bird species, six mammals, one reptile, and six plant species is listed as  
5 threatened or endangered, or species of concern, or other unique species. Details are  
6 contained in Section 3.6. None of these species has been identified at the site for the  
7 proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility; moreover, no critical habitat has been designated at  
8 the proposed site. Finally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands  
9 Inventory identified more than 130 areas inside the boundaries of the INEEL that might  
10 possess some wetlands characteristics. Surveys conducted in the fall of 1992 indicated  
11 that these possible wetlands cover about 1.3 percent {3,323 ha [8,206 acres]} of INEEL.  
12 There are, however, no wetland-like areas within the INTEC boundary, including the site  
13 for the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility.

14  
15 • Air Quality (Section 3.7)—Resources: Monitoring and assessment of radiological air  
16 quality at INEEL and in the surrounding region have demonstrated that exposures  
17 resulting from airborne radionuclide emissions are well within applicable standards and  
18 are a small fraction of the dose from background sources. The National Emission  
19 Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants includes an annual radiation dose limit of  
20 0.1 mSv [10 mrem] to the hypothetical maximally exposed individual (MEI). The  
21 calculated off-site dose to the MEI from INEEL radiation sources is about 0.00031 mSv  
22 [0.031 mrem]; this dose is well below the National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air  
23 Pollutants of 0.1 mSv [10 mrem] and the annual background dose of 3.6 mSv  
24 [360 mrem]. In summary, radioactivity and radiation levels resulting from INEEL site  
25 emissions are low, well within applicable standards, and negligible when compared with  
26 doses received from natural background sources. These summary remarks apply to  
27 on-site conditions to which INEEL workers or visitors may be exposed and to off-site  
28 locations where the general public population resides.

29  
30 Nonradiological air quality includes criteria pollutants regulated by the National and State  
31 of Idaho Ambient Air Quality Standards and other types of pollutants with potentially  
32 toxic properties called toxic or hazardous air pollutants. Criteria pollutants are nitrogen  
33 dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, ozone, and respirable particulate matter  
34 less than or equal to  $2.5 \mu\text{m}$  [ $9.8 \times 10^{-9}$  in] in diameter. Twenty-six toxic air pollutants  
35 are emitted from INEEL facilities. Monitoring and assessment of the nonradiological air  
36 quality on and around INEEL indicate the air quality is good and within applicable  
37 standards and guidelines. The area around INEEL is either in attainment or unclassified  
38 for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Portions of Bannock and Power Counties  
39 in Idaho, near the region of influence, are in a nonattainment area for particulate matter.  
40 For toxic emissions, all INEEL boundary and public road levels have been found to be  
41 well below reference levels appropriate for comparison. Similarly, all toxic pollutant  
42 levels at on-site locations at INEEL are below occupational limits established for the  
43 protection of workers. Detailed information on comparisons to standards is found in  
44 Section 3.7.

45  
46 • Noise (Section 3.8)—Resources: The environmental noise levels at INEEL and the  
47 associated facilities are typical of industrial operations. No cumulative effects concerns  
48 have been identified for noise levels on and around INEEL.

49

- 1 • **Historical, Cultural, and Paleontological (Section 3.9), Human Communities—Prehistoric**  
2 **settlement and use of the area now known as INEEL date back 12,000 years.**  
3 **Numerous archeological surveys have been conducted in recent years, and no known**  
4 **sites have been identified on the 3.2-ha [8-acre] proposed project site nor on the**  
5 **adjoining 4.1-ha [10-acre] construction laydown area. Within INTEC, there are**  
6 **38 buildings and structures that are of historical significance and potentially eligible for**  
7 **listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Special concerns exist relative to**  
8 **early cultures and lifestyles of the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes, and their inability to**  
9 **maintain and revitalize their traditional cultures because of continuing restricted access**  
10 **to aboriginal lands, including some areas on INEEL. Finally, several types of**  
11 **paleontological resources have been identified within INEEL boundaries.**  
12
- 13 • **Visual/Scenic (Section 3.10)—Human Community: Lands within and adjacent to INEEL**  
14 **are subject to the Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Management**  
15 **Guidelines. Adjacent lands are designated as a visual resource Class II area, which**  
16 **allows for moderate industrial growth while preserving and retaining the existing**  
17 **character of the landscape. Lands within the boundaries of INEEL are designated as**  
18 **either Class III or Class IV areas, allowing for partial retention of existing character and**  
19 **major modifications, respectively. The INTEC area is a Class IV area. No major issues**  
20 **exist relative to these classifications and incompatibilities with current land uses**  
21 **within INEEL.**  
22
- 23 • **Socioeconomical (Section 3.11)—Human Community: The total population in 2000 in**  
24 **the seven-county region of influence was 250,365. Population growth in the region of**  
25 **influence paralleled statewide growth from 1960 to 1990, with approximate average**  
26 **annual rates of 1.3 and 1.4 percent. From 1990 to 2000, however, state population**  
27 **growth accelerated to 2.9 percent a year, compared with the region of influence growth**  
28 **of 1.4 percent. Nevertheless, with these trends, the region of influence population would**  
29 **reach almost 269,000 by 2005 and 339,700 by 2025. In the 1990s, employment in the**  
30 **region of influence grew at an average annual rate of nearly 2.6 percent. In 2000,**  
31 **the region of influence experienced the lowest unemployment rate in a**  
32 **decade—4.0 percent. This rate was lower than the 4.9 percent for the state, though**  
33 **rates varied widely in the region of influence from 2.5 percent in Madison County to**  
34 **5.0 percent in Bannock County. The INEEL influence on the regional economy is**  
35 **apparent from the fact that in fiscal year 2001, INEEL accounted for 8,100 jobs, or**  
36 **6 percent of the total workforce in the region of influence. Finally, housing and key**  
37 **community services such as education, law enforcement, fire protection, and medical**  
38 **services do not appear to be overstressed in the region of influence.**  
39
- 40 • **Environmental Justice (Section 3.12)—Human Community: The environmental justice**  
41 **study area was chosen to encompass an 80-km [50-mi] radius around INTEC. This area**  
42 **includes portions of the seven counties that compose the region of influence for**  
43 **socioeconomics. Census data from 2002 were used to identify minority populations.**  
44 **The 2000 population within the 80-km [50-mi] radius was 203,165, including a minority**  
45 **population of 21,898 (11 percent). The low-income population was based on 1990 data**  
46 **because the 2000 data were not available. The 1990 population was 170,989, including**  
47 **20,110 within the definition of low income (12 percent).**  
48

## Appendix C

- 1 • **Public and Occupational Health and Safety (Section 3.13)—Human Community:** The  
2 annual exposure to airborne releases of radioactivity vary from 0.0027 mSv [0.27 mrem]  
3 for an on-site worker, to a range of 0.00008–0.00031 mSv [0.008–0.031 mrem] for the  
4 hypothetical MEI. These doses are well below the 0.1 mSv/yr [10 mrem/yr] National  
5 Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants limit in 40 CFR Part 61. Further, the  
6 annual doses to individuals are well below the natural background level of 3.6 mSv/yr  
7 [360 mrem/yr]. The number of latent cancer fatalities estimated in the surrounding  
8 population for the next 70 years is less than 1. Lifetime health effects from groundwater  
9 pathway exposures were estimated to be 1 in 170 million. Health risks to the public from  
10 nonradiological airborne emissions and groundwater consumption are less than 1 in  
11 1 million, and in some cases, the risks are 0. Radiation workers at INEEL can be  
12 exposed to radiation internally from inhalation and ingestion and externally from direct  
13 exposure. The largest fraction of occupational dose received by INEEL workers is  
14 external radiation from direct exposure. The average annual occupational dose at  
15 INEEL between 1997 and 2000 was 0.84 mSv [84 mrem]. This value is well below the  
16 annual occupational dose limit of 50 mSv [5,000 mrem] in 10 CFR Part 20.  
17
- 18 • **Waste Management (Section 3.14)—Resource:** A variety of radioactive wastes are  
19 stored, generated, or both at INEEL. The current stored inventory includes 2,100 m<sup>3</sup>  
20 [2,750 yd<sup>3</sup>] of mixed low-level waste; 980 m<sup>3</sup> [1,280 yd<sup>3</sup>] of low-level waste; 65,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
21 [85,000 yd<sup>3</sup>] of transuranic waste; 4,400 m<sup>3</sup> [5,750 yd<sup>3</sup>] of HLW; and 3,785,000 L  
22 [1 million gal] of mixed transuranic waste/sodium-bearing waste. The annual generation  
23 of wastes includes 43,000 m<sup>3</sup> [56,250 yd<sup>3</sup>] of industrial solid waste; 120 m<sup>3</sup> [150 yd<sup>3</sup>] of  
24 hazardous waste; 160 m<sup>3</sup> [210 yd<sup>3</sup>] of mixed low-level waste; and 2,900 m<sup>3</sup> [3,800 yd<sup>3</sup>] of  
25 low-level waste. Industrial and commercial solid waste is disposed of at the INEEL  
26 Landfill Complex in the Central Facilities Area. Hazardous waste is minimized and  
27 managed via private sector treatment and disposal. The annual generation of mixed  
28 low-level and low-level radioactive waste is stored at the Radioactive Waste  
29 Management Complex.  
30

31 Table 4-13 provides a synopsis of the effects and concerns and the basis for their classification.  
32

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10. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

11. ABSTRACT (200 words or less)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has contracted with Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) to design, construct, and operate the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Storage Facility that would repackage and store spent nuclear fuel and associated radioactive material from the Peach Bottom Unit 1 High-Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, and various Training, Research, and Isotope reactors built by General Atomics (TRIGA reactors). The proposed facility would be located at the DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The proposed facility is part of a Settlement Agreement, dated October 17, 1995, between the DOE, the U.S. Navy, and the State of Idaho regarding waste removal and environmental cleanup at the INEEL. Additionally, the proposed facility would be licensed as an independent spent fuel storage installation in accordance with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations found at 10 CFR Part 72.

This draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the NRC's regulations for implementing NEPA, and the guidance provided by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA. This DEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and its reasonable alternatives, describes the environment potentially affected by the proposal, presents and compares the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action and its alternatives, and describes mitigation measures.

12. KEY WORDS/DESCRIPTORS (List words or phrases that will assist researchers in locating the report.)

Idaho Spent Fuel Facility  
Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation  
Docket 72-25  
spent nuclear fuel  
Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory  
Peach Bottom  
TRIGA  
Shippingport  
EIS  
Department of Energy

13. AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

unlimited

14. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

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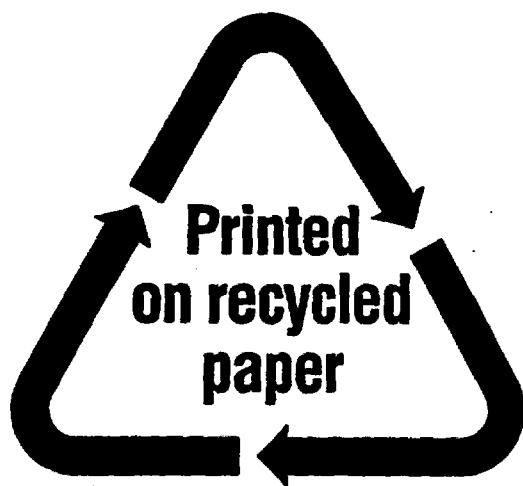
unclassified

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unclassified

15. NUMBER OF PAGES

16. PRICE



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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL  
FACILITY AT THE IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
LABORATORY IN BUTTE COUNTY, IDAHO**

**JUNE 2003**

**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001**

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