



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
1955 Fremont Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

SUBJECT: Conclusions of the 2005 Supplement Analysis of the DOE Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and INEL Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0203-F) – (EM-CGD-05-009)

Dear Citizen:

In April 1995, the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of the Navy, as a cooperating agency, issued the Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement (1995 EIS). Volume 1 of the EIS analyzed alternatives for managing existing and reasonably foreseeable inventories of the Department's spent nuclear fuel through the year 2035. Volume 2 included a detailed analysis of environmental restoration and waste management activities at the INL Site. The analysis supported facility-specific decisions regarding new, continued, or discontinued environmental restoration and waste management operations.

In September 2004 a team of NE-ID program representatives and subject area technical specialists as well as a representative from Naval Reactors/Idaho Branch Office (NR/IBO) convened to determine if the 1995 EIS was still adequate for making decisions within the scope of the 1995 EIS and for ongoing environmental restoration and waste management activities.

A prior Supplement Analysis was issued in November 2002 (2002 SA). This new Supplement Analysis (2005 SA) examined the changes to activities at the INL Site since the period covered by the 2002 SA. The 2005 SA reviewed all NEPA documentation prepared since the 2002 Supplement Analysis to determine what operations have already received NEPA analysis and where previously existing analysis had been supplemented. It also examined INL Site operations program by program to determine what changes had taken place and whether they were within the analyzed scope of the 1995 EIS. Changes in each environmental discipline that was analyzed in the 1995 EIS were also reviewed.

The cover letter of the 1995 ROD makes the following statement: "The Record of Decision also documents the Department's decisions regarding environmental restoration and waste management operations at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory through the year 2005". The 2005 SA also considered the context of that statement.

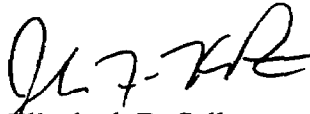
Based on the analysis that was performed, the 2005 SA conclusions are as follows:

1. The 1995 EIS is still adequate for informing the DOE decision makers and the public of the environmental risks and impacts of actions taken within the scope of the 1995 EIS and for existing Environmental Restoration and Waste Management operations at the INL Site.
2. There are no new significant circumstances, information, or changes identified within this analysis of the EIS that would compel preparation of a new EIS or Supplemental EIS for the current INL Site Environmental Restoration and Waste Management activities.
3. Future DOE decisions on major federal actions at the INL Site including those supporting the new laboratory mission or decisions on projects that were deferred or cancelled in the ROD will require further analysis through the NEPA process.
4. The 1995 EIS analysis may be used as a baseline for cumulative impacts. Future DOE decision makers should ensure that any data referenced from the 1995 EIS included in future NEPA analysis is still current and valid.
5. The 1995 EIS Volume 2 analysis for decisions extends beyond 2005. The Ten-year plan was used as a planning horizon to identify reasonably foreseeable activities that could be analyzed to meet a continuing environmental restoration and waste management mission at the INL Site.

The program and technical subject area reviews supporting these conclusions are compiled in the attached 2005 Supplement Analysis (DOE/EIS-0203F-SA-02).

If you have any questions concerning this document, please contact Mark Arenaz at (208) 526-1510 or our NEPA Compliance Office, Jack Depperschmidt (208) 526-5053.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth D. Sellers
Manager, Idaho Operations Office

Enclosure