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DOE-ID Operations Summary
For the Period June 11, 2013 through July 8, 2013

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a summary of contractor operations at the Idaho National Laboratory, managed by DOE-Idaho Operations Office. It has been compiled in response to a request from stakeholders for more information on health, safety and environmental incidents at DOE facilities in Idaho. It also includes a brief summary of accomplishments at the Site. POC—Danielle Miller, (208) 526-5709.

Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP)

June 27, 2013: The Idaho Treatment Group discovered that the 10,000 lb. weight capacity of a forklift had been exceeded while transporting a Low Level Waste (LLW) box containing shredder debris and a large metal object not able to be processed in the Treatment Facility. All LLW box retrieval, processing and transport operations from the Treatment Facility were suspended.

July 01, 2013: The Idaho Treatment Group discovered that a diesel fueling system three-way valve did not meet the design feature of the system. The design feature of the three-way valve is to ensure that fuel flow can only exist between either the storage tank and the volume-limiting tank or the volume limiting tank and the fuel dispensing nozzle. The valve could be placed in a position which would allow fuel flow to go directly from the storage tank to the fuel dispensing nozzle thereby bypassing the volume-limiting tank. The diesel fueling system has been placed out of service until the proper valve can be installed. [EM-ID—ITG-AMWTF-2013-0014]

Notable Accomplishments:

Eight of eight planned shipments of contact-handled (CH) transuranic (TRU) waste and two of two planned shipments of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste were made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for the week ending June 29, 2013. Six of six planned shipments of contact-handled (CH) transuranic (TRU) waste and one of one planned shipments of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste were made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for the week ending July 6, 2013.

Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP)

June 11, 2013: CH2M-WG, Idaho (CWI) discovered that a cover had been removed from an electrical control panel containing 480 volt power without a Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) being in place. The LOTO ensures that workers are not potentially exposed to hazardous electrical energy. Upon the discovery, the panel was closed and management was notified. A fact finding meeting was held to establish the facts associated with the event. The fact finding meeting confirmed this was a failure to use the LOTO process as required. Subsequent to the fact finding, a zero energy check confirmed that employees were not exposed to hazardous energy. [EM-ID—CWI-LANDLORD-2013-0002]

June 22, 2013: A CWI employee experienced a possible shock while turning on a light switch. The area containing the light switch was roped off and meter checks were performed on the switch, the door, and other components to identify any stray electrical potentials and grounds. No stray potentials were identified, CWI continues to investigate to try and determine the source of the possible electrical shock. [EM-ID-CWI-LANDLORD-2013-0003]
June 25, 2013: An energized power cord was damaged during an equipment installation. The equipment required the use of wheeled electrical powered lift table. As the equipment was being moved into position via the table, an employee noticed that one of the table wheels had contacted the energized power cord. The work was stopped to clear the power cord; the removal of the power cord from underneath the table damaged the power cord causing a small electrical arc tripping the ground fault circuit breaker. The lift table has been placed out of service.

[EM-ID-CWI-IWTU-2013-0009]

Notable Accomplishments: Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and U.S. Department of Energy announced that a critically important cleanup project will be resuming at the Idaho Site.

The project involves the "legacy" radioactive and hazardous waste generated during Cold War weapons production in the 1950s and 1960s that was buried at the Subsurface Disposal Area. The Department of Energy informed the State last fall that budget restrictions would curtail the cleanup work. In late May, the Department of Energy directed its cleanup contractor to use cost savings to resume the exhumation of buried waste. The CWI expects to hire as many as 50 employees to restart cleanup operations by late summer or early fall.

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

June 13, 2013: During a calibration check, it was determined that the east N-16 tube, used to measure reactor levels, had released some of its contents. The tube will be replaced during the next routine reactor outage scheduled to begin July 13. [NE-ID—BEA-ATR-2013-0022]

Notable Accomplishments: Westinghouse Electric Company LLC has joined Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility (ATR NSUF) as its newest partner facility. The company treads new ground as the first industrial organization to join the ranks of ATR NSUF partners. The addition of Westinghouse, a leading supplier of nuclear plant products and technologies, provides ATR NSUF researchers access to an even wider variety of capabilities for nuclear materials and fuels research.

As an ATR NSUF partner, Westinghouse is offering its Materials Center of Excellence Laboratories (MCOE) Hot Cell Facility and accompanying laboratories to provide experimental support to ATR-related nuclear energy materials research programs. The Westinghouse facilities in Churchill, Pa., are housed in four cells that provide a broad range of testing, evaluation, and characterization capabilities for both unirradiated and irradiated materials. In-place capabilities include the ability to test under a variety of environments, an extensive mechanical testing laboratory, a specialized corrosion and stress corrosion cracking lab, and materials microstructure and chemical characterization instruments.