December 8: During an inspection of high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter bank isolation dampers personnel at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) discovered a damaged/deteriorated damper seal. [EM-ID--FID-IWTU-2016-0003]

December 12: A training coordinator at the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) discovered that an employee performing Lockout/Tagout (LO/TO) activities did not have current training. [EM-ID-FID-FUELRCSTR-2016-0003]

December 15: Employees working at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center determined that a piece of fall protection equipment used the day before to conduct maintenance work did not have a current inspection. [EM-ID--FID-LANDLORD-2016-0001]

December 19: An employee slipped and fell on the ice outside of a building at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, resulting in a left tibia and fibula fracture. Substantial snow accumulation compounded with sub-zero temperatures created very slippery conditions outside the building which ultimately resulted in the fall. [EM-ID--FID-AMWTF-2016-0010]

Notable Accomplishments: See Below INL: Site contractors contribute over $615,000 to United Way and nonprofit organizations in eastern Idaho

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

December 7: Idaho National Laboratory mechanics working to repair a piece of equipment located at the Idaho Nuclear Technology Center removed mechanical parts from a radiologically controlled area prior to the parts being approved for release. Radiological surveys were conducted at all affected locations. No removable contamination was located on the component or within the affected facilities. [NE-ID--BEA-CFA-2016-0006]

December 13: Personnel at the Advanced Test Reactor notified management that the air supply to an inflatable seal on a bulkhead door had failed. The door was being closed and operators were valving in the air to the seal at the time of the failure. Work to inflate the door seal was stopped and placed in a safe condition. The ATR was in a scheduled shutdown at the time of the failure, and the confinement was not required to be operable. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2016-0041]
December 13: A hoisting and rigging insert (anchor) attached to a pre-cast concrete vault at the Remote Handled Low Level Waste (RHLLW) Facility located at the Idaho National Laboratory, was slightly bent, and spalling of the concrete around the anchor point occurred when a crane operator was attempting to lift the vault. The crane operator experienced adhesion (ice build-up) in the removal of the vault barrel. When the load broke free it caused the upper portion of the vault barrel to move rapidly upward and oscillate, dynamically loading the crane and the rigging, which caused damage to the rigging equipment and the vault at the anchor point. [NE-ID--BEA-CFA-2016-0007]

December 16: A Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) employee fell while walking across a parking lot at the Engineering Research Office Building, injuring his knee. The employee was transported by ambulance to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. Appropriately 7" of snow had fallen throughout the day making it difficult to see the icy conditions under the snow. [NE-ID--BEA-STC-2016-0009]

December 27: While performing a weekly battery surveillance, electricians at the Advanced Test Reactor discovered that the specific gravity for one of the Instrument Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) battery banks was found to be low and out of specification. The Instrument UPS was not required to be operable when the discovery was made. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0001]

January 3: While performing a weekly battery surveillance, electricians at the Advanced Test Reactor discovered that the specific gravity for the Diesel Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) battery bank was low and out of specification. Limiting conditions for Operation allows for a diesel generator to be started and placed on line as an alternate equipment lineup for the ATR electrical distribution system. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0002]

January 18: The Advanced Test Reactor was shut down by manual SCRAM in response to an elevated Primary Coolant System (PCS) leak rate. During the initial steps of the reactor outage the #1 Log Count Rate Meter (LCRM) showed indications of failure as the instrument was indicating full scale. One LCRM is required to be operable when the core is fueled, and #2 LCRM did not fail. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0003] While performing immediate actions for the reactor SCRAM, it was also discovered that the south Safety Rod failed to fully insert. Immediate actions for a stuck Safety Rod were performed and the reactor was verified to be in a safe condition. Five Safety Rods inserted fully in response to the SCRAM. At no time was reactor safety or personnel safety in question. [NE-ID--BEA-ATR-2017-0004]

January 17: While core drilling a concrete floor for a facility modification at the Materials and Fuels Complex a shunt equipped drill encountered PVC conduit. The drill automatically shut down. A breached PVC conduit with a conductor was observed in the drill hole location. [NE-ID--BEA-MFC-2017-0001]

January 25: While performing demolition work on concrete to remove a storm drain located at the Materials and Fuels Complex, personnel inadvertently made contact with an electrical conduit severing a wire. Work was immediately stopped and the area was placed in a safe condition. The worker performing the demolition work did not report feeling any shock or seeing any visual indication (arc) of an electrical short. [NE-ID--BEA-MFC-2017-0003]
Notable Accomplishments: Site contractors contribute over $615,000 to United Way and nonprofit organizations in eastern Idaho

Employees of the U.S. Department of Energy’s two largest contractors in Idaho provided more than $615,000 in contributions to three regional United Way offices for the coming year. United Way organizations and nonprofit agencies throughout eastern Idaho will receive the donations. Battelle Energy Alliance, which manages and operates Idaho National Laboratory, and many of its nearly 4,100 employees have pledged $393,034 to United Way offices and agencies. Employees contributed an additional $13,000 to other area nonprofits as part of a new write-in option in the campaign. This year’s total includes a BEA $55,000 donation, which will be shared among United Way offices in Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Twin Falls based on the percentage of INL employees residing in each United Way region.

“This year, we brought in directors from many of the agencies, along with recipients of the services, to share with our management teams and employees the impact their donations make in the lives of those in our community,” said Ron Crone, INL associate laboratory director and United Way campaign champion. “We are very passionate about United Way and the important services they provide to communities. It was a very successful campaign. Our employees are very generous; they stepped up and helped us not only meet our goal of $376,000, but beat it by nearly $30,000.”

In its first United Way campaign, Fluor Idaho, which manages the environmental cleanup work at DOE’s Idaho site, and its employees contributed more than $209,000.

“Like our employees, Fluor is committed to supporting United Way, and it’s more than just words,” said Fred Hughes, Fluor Idaho Program Manager. “Fluor matched our employee contributions by 50 cents on the dollar that added nearly $50,000 more for our campaign. Fluor Idaho appreciates the warm welcome we have received and looks forward to demonstrating what it means to be a good corporate citizen involved in improving the quality of life in our communities.”