Nuclear

Client
US Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office

Location
Idaho Falls, Idaho, USA

Cleanup efforts include decommissioning and dismantlement of 215 excess Environmental Management facilities including three reactors, management of spent nuclear fuel, treatment and disposal of sodium-bearing waste for disposal, emptying and disposal of all tank farm facility waste tanks and remediation of the Subsurface Disposal Area at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

Idaho Cleanup

Project Description

CH2M HILL is the managing partner of CH2M -WG Idaho (CWI) directing the environmental clean-up of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) site located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 7-year project, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Environmental Management, targets legacy waste and facilities generated from government-owned research and defense reactors, laboratory research, munitions testing, and defense missions at other DOE sites.

DOE selected CWI in March 2005 to lead the cleanup effort. Our scope of work includes:

- Decommissioning more than 200 facilities, including six high-risk structures and three high-risk reactors
- Remediation of 118 environmental release sites
- Closure of 68 contaminated tank systems
- Disposition of 8,800 cubic meters of transuranic waste, 27,000 cubic meters of low-level mixed waste, and more than 260,000 cubic meters of hazardous industrial waste
- Stabilization of 1 million gallons of high-level waste
- Shipment of 15 tons of nuclear material
- Consolidation and storage of spent nuclear fuel
- Closure and capping of 15 high-level waste tanks
- Retrieval, packaging, and disposal of buried transuranic waste
- Disposition of sodium-bearing waste

The Idaho Cleanup Project spans 890 square miles and includes five geographic areas: Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC), Test Area North (TAN), Reactors Technology Complex (RTC, formerly Test Reactor Area), and the Power Burst Facility. The project also includes several laboratories 50 miles east of Idaho Falls.

INTEC includes 15 underground tanks that have been used to store spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The scope of work at INTEC includes transferring spent nuclear fuel from wet to dry storage, receiving and storing fuel from the Advanced Test Reactor, and removing legacy nuclear material for final disposition. The project also includes consolidation and treatment of 880,000 gallons of sodium bearing liquid waste, and closure of the tank farm tanks and vaults. Decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) activities at INTEC involves demolition of 109 excess facilities - including demolition of two high-risk facilities - and making three other high-risk facilities ready for demolition.

The RWMC is a landfill disposal and waste storage site located on 177 acres. The area is used for interim storage of transuranic waste, shipment of stored transuranic waste for permanent disposal, and low-level waste disposal. Cleanup of buried waste at this site is key to protection of the Snake River aquifer.

Test Area North activities include decommissioning and demolition of high risk facilities and environmental cleanup. Some buildings may be decontaminated and used to support new missions. RTC scope of work includes cleanup of the Warm Waste Pond, which was one of three release sites that resulted in the complex being listed in 1989 on the National Priorities List.

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