



Idaho Cleanup Project

Fact Sheet / October 2023



DOE to Release Draft 3116 Basis Document for Calcined Solids Storage Facility

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared the *Draft Basis for Section 3116 Determination for Closure of the Calcined Solids Storage Facility at the Idaho National Laboratory Site* (hereafter referred to as Draft CSSF 3116 Basis Document). The Draft CSSF 3116 Basis Document demonstrates that the Calcined Solids Storage Facility (CSSF) bins (transport lines, and any residual calcine therein (following the removal of the calcine and stabilization with grout) will meet the criteria in Section 3116 of the “Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005” are not high-level radioactive waste and may be closed as low-level radioactive waste (LLW).

DOE is consulting with the NRC and making the Draft CSSF 3116 Basis Document available for comments by states, Tribal Nations, stakeholders, and the public. DOE will carefully consider comments received and NRC’s consultation comments and perform any necessary revisions of analyses and technical documents, to prepare a Final CSSF 3116 Basis Document.

The DOE and NRC consultation process will be an open public process. Learn [How DOE Makes Reprocessing Waste Determinations](#) and about the [NRC Consultation and Public Input Process](#) and [High-Level Radioactive Waste Interpretation](#)

Thereafter, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the NRC, may determine whether the CSSF bins and any residual calcine therein, meet the criteria in NDAA Section 3116, are not HLW and may be disposed of (closed) in place as LLW.

Public Involvement Opportunities

The Draft CSSF 3116 Basis Document will be available for comments during a 45-day public comment period starting on October 28, 2023. DOE will consider comments received after the public comment period to the extent practical. During the public comment period, DOE will conduct a virtual public meeting on November 16, 2023, to provide a short presentation and answer questions. The public also will be invited to observe subsequent U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and DOE technical review meetings which are expected to occur in late 2023/early 2024.

Public comments will be addressed in the Final CSSF 3116 Basis Document.

What is Calcine?

Calcine is a solid, granular waste form produced through the calcination of liquid radioactive waste resulting, in part, from spent nuclear fuel (SNF) reprocessing at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC), on the Idaho National Laboratory Site. There are approximately 4,400 m³ of granulated calcine stored in six discrete bin sets at INTEC. One additional bin set was built to store future calcined waste but was never placed in service, it remains empty.

Why are the CSSF Bin Sets Being Closed?

DOE is working to clean, stabilize, and close radioactive waste facilities, as well as supporting equipment, that were used to treat and store waste generated, in part, by reprocessing SNF at INTEC. For additional information, the 1995 Settlement Agreement with the State of Idaho provides that “DOE shall treat all high-level waste currently at INEL so that it is ready to be moved out of Idaho for disposal by a target date of 2035.” Regardless of the treatment of the retrieved calcine, all applicable treatment options would require removal of the calcine from the CSSF.

An integrated closure approach applicable to all the CSSF bin sets is being pursued that will meet multiple regulatory authorities’ requirements.

What is NDAA Section 3116?

NDAA Section 3116 provides that waste from SNF reprocessing in Idaho and South Carolina is not HLW if it meets specific criteria set forth in the statute, as determined by the Secretary of Energy in consultation with the NRC.

What is NRC’s Role?

Section 3116(a) of the NDAA 2005 provides for NRC consultation. Specifically, Section 3116(a) provides that “high-level radioactive waste” does not include waste from reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel in Idaho or South Carolina (covered states) that the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with NRC, determines meets the criteria in Section 3116(a). In addition, Section 3116(b) provides for monitoring by the NRC, in coordination with the covered State, of DOE disposal actions under Section 3116(a) to assess compliance with the NRC performance objectives in 10 CFR Part 61, Subpart C concerning LLW disposal.

DOE has previously consulted with the NRC concerning the waste determination for closure of the liquid waste tanks at INTEC. [*Section 3116 Determination for the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center Tank Farm Facility at the Idaho National Laboratory*](#) was signed by the Secretary of Energy in November 2006.

Timeframe

DOE anticipates publishing a Federal Register Notice of the final CSSF 3116 Basis Document and signed determination in within the next 18 to 24 months. Additional stakeholder notifications will be made at that time.

Other Resources

DOE Idaho Operations Office

[Department of Energy Idaho - Homepage](#)

[Department of Energy Idaho-Public involvement Opportunities](#)

Idaho Environmental Coalition

[Home - Idaho Environmental Coalition \(idaho-environmental.com\)](#)

Calcine Disposition Project

[Calcine Disposition Project - Idaho Environmental Coalition \(idaho-environmental.com\)](#)