

**For Immediate Release**

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**Media Contacts: Erik Simpson, (208) 390-9464  
Danielle Miller, DOE, (208) 569-7806**



## **Idaho Facility Now Processing 100% Radioactive Liquid Waste**

**IDAHO FALLS, Idaho** – The Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) has progressed to treating sodium-bearing waste entirely, the next step in efficiently removing remaining liquid radioactive waste from nearby Cold War-era underground tanks and closing them to protect the environment.

To date, IWTU has converted more than 14,700 gallons of tank waste to a more stable, granular solid. Crews have filled 47 stainless-steel canisters with waste and safely stored them in the IWTU's concrete storage vaults.

Advancing to 100% sodium-bearing waste treatment marked another milestone for the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM) at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site after IWTU began radiological operations last month. The facility began treating a blend that was 10% sodium-bearing waste and 90% non-radioactive simulated waste, or simulant. EM then increased the treatment blend to 50% waste and 50% simulant before progressing to 100% sodium-bearing waste based on the plant's operating conditions.

In June, IWTU crews will initiate a system performance test to demonstrate compliance with established performance standards and determine adequate operating conditions under the facility's permit. The INL Site continues to work closely with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to ensure compliance during the initial stages of radiological operations, including IDEQ onsite presence during the performance of the upcoming test.

About 900,000 gallons of liquid waste was generated during decontamination activities following historic spent nuclear fuel reprocessing runs at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center, an activity that ended at the INL Site in 1992.

*The Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC), led by Jacobs and North Wind Portage, manages the Idaho Cleanup Project at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site, located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 10-year, \$6.4 billion project, funded through DOE's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on safely disposing of transuranic waste, managing spent nuclear fuel, treating radioactive liquid waste, removing legacy structures, and closing facilities that have completed their missions. IEC is committed to protecting its employees, the public, and environment while meeting all existing and future milestones necessary to further the INL's mission.*

For more information visit the Idaho Cleanup Project on the Web at <https://idahoenvironmental.com/>

### Caption

*Greg Sosson, at right, EM deputy assistant secretary for safety, security and quality assurance, speaks with an Integrated Waste Treatment Unit operator during the facility's first day of radiological operations last month at the Idaho National Laboratory Site.*