



December 2, 2009

Recovery Act Funds Accelerating Cleanup at the Idaho Site

Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) is not only sustaining employment at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho Site – it is accelerating cleanup.

The Idaho Site received \$468 million of Recovery Act funding from the Office of Environmental Management.

The funding is being used at DOE's Idaho Site to:

- Decontaminate and Decommission buildings that no longer have a useful mission.
- Accelerate removal of buried radioactive waste which will be packaged and sent to appropriate offsite disposal sites.
- Accelerate removal and disposal of remote-handled transuranic waste.
- Speed packaging, removal and offsite disposal of mixed low-level waste currently stored on site.



D&D of an Idaho Site building

"The stimulus money is in addition to our base cleanup budget," said Rick Provencher, DOE-Idaho Deputy Manager for Environmental Management. "So it is allowing us to speed up the cleanup work we were planning to do in future years, while continuing to meet our near-term cleanup milestones. It is preserving jobs and creating new ones in the near-term, and allowing us to save money over the long-term because we'll be doing work now that would cost more to complete in the future."



First ARRA funded shipment of remote-handled transuranic waste

Idaho Site ARRA Accomplishments

Since the funding was released just five months ago, the Idaho Site has been able to:

- Create over 320 new jobs and save 240 existing jobs.
- Decontaminate and Decommission over 300,000 square feet of legacy structures including a waste water disposal pond, a transuranic waste storage facility, and a waste reduction complex.
- Certify and ship out-of-state over 1,300 cubic meters of waste, as well as retrieve an additional 1,200 cubic meters of stored waste located at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project.
- Modify an existing hot cell at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center in preparation for repackaging and disposal of 133 containers of transuranic waste. To date, over 85 of those containers have been transferred to INTEC where they will be processed and prepared for off site disposal.
- Retrieve over 300 cubic meters of targeted waste at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP), and complete exhumations inside the third retrieval enclosure.

More information regarding cleanup at the Idaho Site is available at <http://www.id.doe.gov/>



Background on the Idaho Site

Established by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1949, the Idaho Site covers 890 square miles in the high desert region of eastern Idaho. Its mission involves the safe, environmental cleanup of the Department's Idaho Site which has been contaminated with waste from World War II-era conventional weapons testing, government-owned research and defense reactors, laboratory research, and defense missions at other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites.

