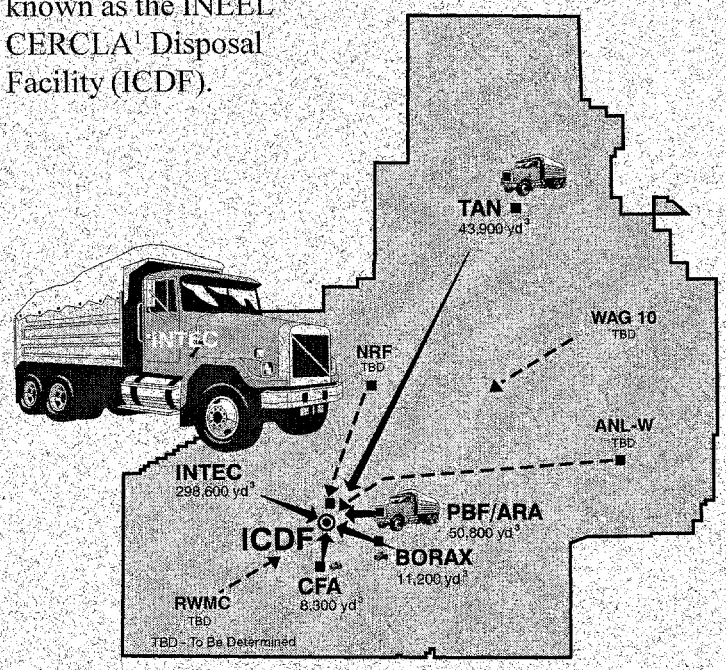
24741

Update Design and Waste Acceptance Criteria for the INEEL CERCLA Disposal Facility

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality are at the 60 percent design stage for a disposal complex to consolidate on-site contaminated soil, debris, and liquids from environmental cleanup activities. The facility will be located at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) and is known as the INEEL CERCLA[1] Disposal Facility (ICDF).

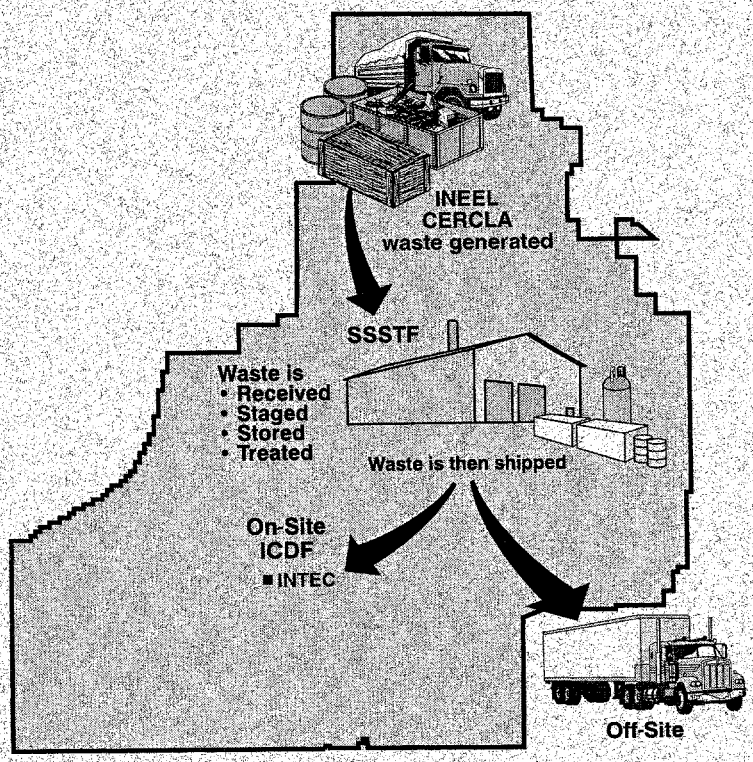


Truck size represents relative volume of waste

INEEL CERCLA waste will be brought to the ICDF, which is located at the facility with the largest volume of contaminated soil.

The agencies plan to hold an information workshop, which is scheduled for November 12, 2001 in Idaho Falls (5 to 8 p.m. at the Shilo Inn). The format will be similar to the last workshop held on July 16, 2001, where the agencies discussed issues concerning the preliminary (30 percent) design. This format allows agency and contractor staff to discuss, in detail, information on the project status, answer questions, and exchange ideas on how they can best proceed with completion of the design. Topics the agencies will cover include:

- Types of waste acceptable for management in the ICDF Complex, which includes the landfill, evaporation ponds, and the Staging, Storage, Sizing, and Treatment Facility (SSSTF)
- Draft Waste Acceptance Criteria for the ICDF Complex
- Generalized process flow and interaction between the SSSTF, landfill, and evaporation ponds.



Background

The agencies signed a Record of Decision in October 1999 for remediation at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). A Record of Decision is a commitment by the agencies to perform selected remedial actions, chosen in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The consolidation and management of INEEL-wide CERCLA wastes scattered around INTEC and other on-site areas at an engineered facility called the ICDF was one of the remedial decisions made by the agencies.

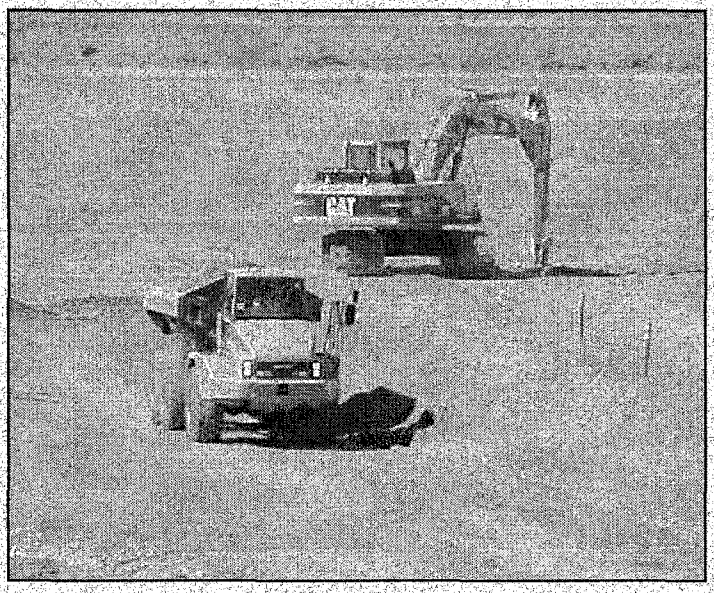
The complex will include waste storage and treatment areas, a landfill, and two evaporation ponds to manage landfill leachate and other liquids. The ICDF landfill (for soils and debris) and evaporation ponds (for liquids only) will be engineered facilities for hazardous and radioactive contaminants. To protect the Snake River Plain Aquifer located 450 feet below, a system of multiple liners and liquid collection and diversion points is incorporated into the design. This will prevent contaminants from migrating below the bottom of the landfill or evaporation ponds and threatening the aquifer. The criteria for accepting or rejecting wastes are an important part of this protection. The workshop will provide the public with an opportunity to understand what the agencies are planning and to discuss public concerns with agency and contractor staff involved in the project.

The ICDF complex is located outside the 100-year floodplain and will be operated to safely dispose of contaminated CERCLA soils from across the INEEL, which are not currently protected from wind, rain, and snowmelt.

The agencies will continue to provide updates on our progress in designing, constructing, and operating an environmentally responsible waste management and consolidation area for INEEL CERCLA wastes. Establishing criteria for accepting or rejecting wastes ensures protection of the aquifer, human health, and the environment. The November 12 workshop will address the waste acceptance criteria and the current design, which is at 60 percent completion. We also plan to provide an update at the 90 percent design stage prior to the start of operations.

---

[1] CERCLA – Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act



The landfill and evaporation ponds are being excavated in the approved location (Final Excavation Title II Design, July 2001). Liners and monitoring systems will be installed after final design is approved.

The following schedule identifies major project milestones:

Project Schedule:

January 2002
60 Percent Design complete and submitted to Information Repositories

- Draft waste acceptance criteria and preliminary subsurface modeling
- Additional design specifications and supporting calculations

May 2002
90 Percent Design complete and submitted to Information Repositories

- Completed Waste Management Plan
- Completed waste acceptance criteria
- Detailed landfill and evaporation pond specifications and design drawings
- Procedures for implementing the ICDF remediation project
- Monitoring strategy

February - July 2003
Construction complete and agencies' inspections

July 2003
Expected start of ICDF operations

The agencies encourage your participation in this workshop and look forward to your suggestions concerning the usefulness of the information and the soundness of our path forward. For more information on this project or further details on the upcoming workshop, please contact the INEEL Community Relations Office at (208) 526-4700 or (800) 708-2680.

Visit our web site at www.inel.gov/environment

01-GA51028-08

INEEL
Home of Science and Engineering Solutions

Environmental Management Program
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3911

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
IDAHO FALLS, ID
PERMIT 73