

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

June 4, 2021

TO: Christopher J. Roscetti, Technical Director
FROM: Timothy L. Hunt, Cognizant Engineer
SUBJECT: Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Report for May 2021

DNFSB Staff Activity. Two of the Board's staff members were on site during the week of May 17, 2021, reviewing the storage and handling of transuranic waste at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. One of the staff members, the Board's INL cognizant engineer, also performed routine oversight duties during the week of May 10, 2021.

COVID-19 Update. On May 17, 2021, INL, consistent with state and local guidance, announced that fully vaccinated federal employees, on-site contractors, and visitors to federal buildings were no longer required to wear masks when indoors or outside. As a good practice, management still strongly encouraged everyone to wear a mask, as appropriate.

Certificates of Compliance (CoC) Not Met for Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). On May 4, 2021, an analysis was started by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to verify how the total payload assembly weights for certified contact-handled TRU waste payloads were being calculated. The NRC issued CoCs for the TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT, respectively, which require that the actual payload weights, including dunnage, be verified using a calibrated scale. During the analysis, it was discovered that shipping sites, including INL, were using a drop down menu in the Waste Data System software to pick the nominal weight of dunnage drums and adding five percent. This condition is not in compliance with the NRC-issued CoCs. WIPP has halted acceptance of payloads with dunnage drums. The impact on INL is that, until the issue is resolved, it will ship full payloads (i.e., no dunnage). Fluor Idaho estimates that it currently has 4-6 weeks worth of shippable payloads.

Loss of Automatic Standby Power at Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC). On May 18, 2021, due to an ongoing upgrade to the INTEC power distribution utility control system (UCS), the ability of the INTEC standby power system to automatically start and load on loss of commercial power was inadvertently compromised when electricians removed a communications cable from a load center. If the UCS fails to recognize any element of the startup sequence following a loss of commercial power, the standby diesel generators will not start or load. The standby power system is not credited as a safety-related system. Fluor Idaho engineers were aware that interruption of certain communications would compromise the standby power system, however, the problem was not described in the work order nor were mitigations included as a prerequisite to removal of the cable.

DOE Awards Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) Contract to Idaho Environmental Coalition, LLC (IEC). The Office of Environmental Management announced on May 27, 2021, that it had awarded the ICP end state contract to the IEC team comprised of the Jacobs Technology Inc., North Wind Portage, and three small business subcontractors. The 10-year contract is estimated to be worth up to \$6.4 billion with a potential 15-year period of performance. Key activities to be performed include operation of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, spent nuclear fuel management, transuranic and low-level waste disposition and management, and facility decontamination and decommissioning. The Fluor Idaho contract expires September 30, 2021.