

ICP

IDAHO CLEANUP PROJECT

Communicating Effectively at ICP

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SAFELY PLAN • MOTIVATE • DELIVER

Contractors at the Idaho National Laboratory Site



DOE Idaho National Laboratory Site



INL - Developing scientific and engineering solutions to critical energy, national security and environmental challenges.



⇒ Research and mission development



ICP - Remediating contamination and waste management legacies to make way for future missions.



⇒ Risk reduction, cleanup, and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer



AMWTP - Processing waste including characterizing, packaging and shipping it out of Idaho.



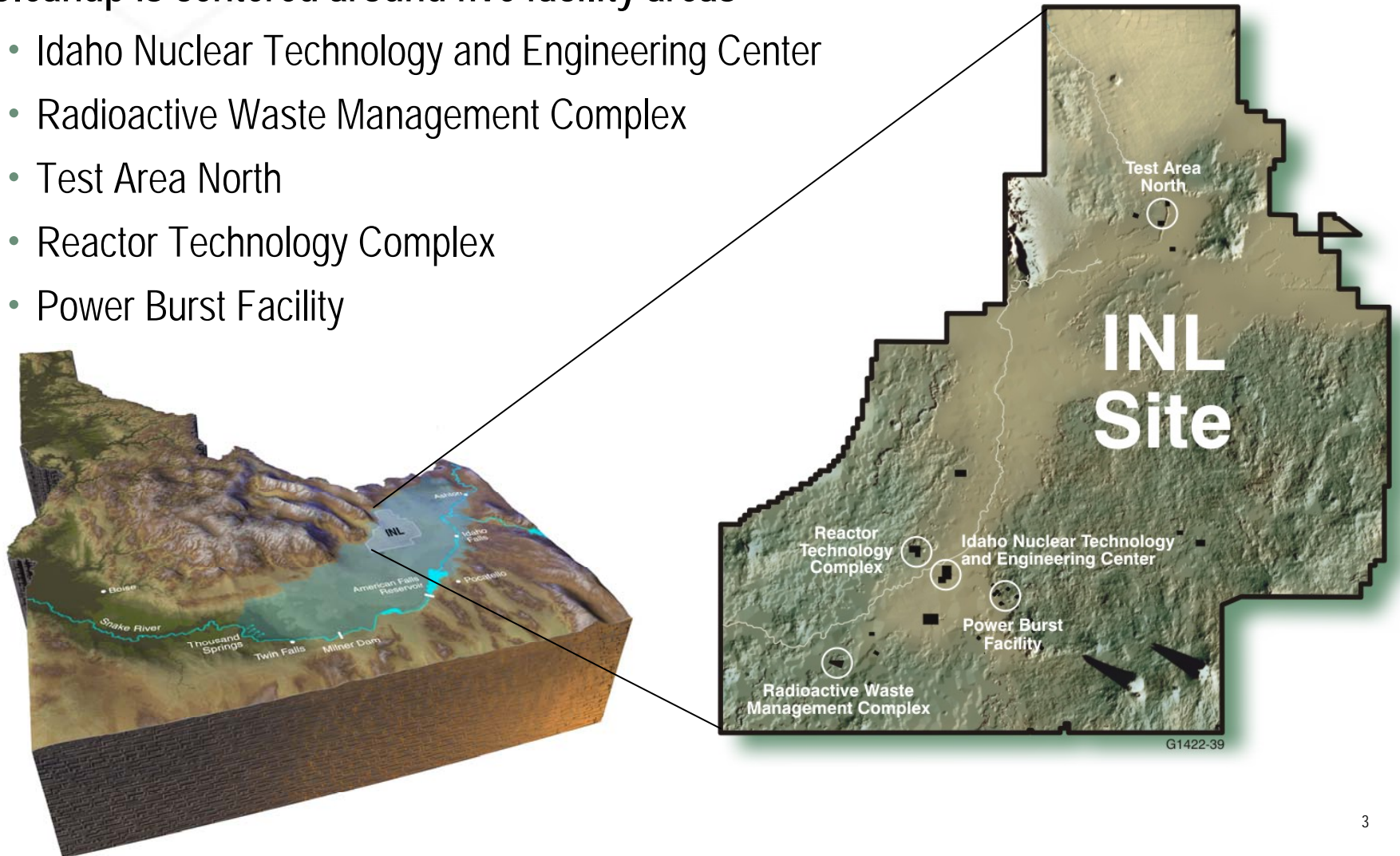
⇒ Retrieval, packaging and transport of stored transuranic waste



Idaho Cleanup Project



- ◆ Cleanup is centered around five facility areas
 - Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center
 - Radioactive Waste Management Complex
 - Test Area North
 - Reactor Technology Complex
 - Power Burst Facility



Overview of the Idaho Cleanup Project Contract



- ◆ Approximately \$3B Cleanup-type contract with period of performance until 2012
- ◆ Scope:
 - Treat and dispose of* transuranic waste, and treat sodium-bearing waste and determine appropriate disposal
 - Transfer all Environmental Management (EM) spent nuclear fuel to interim dry storage
 - Meet all CERCLA, Site Treatment Plan, Voluntary Consent Order milestones
 - Disposition several high-risk facilities and reactors
- ◆ Beyond FY12
 - Treat and dispose of* high-level waste calcine
 - Package and ship* EM spent nuclear fuel
 - Complete EM mission by 2035 or sooner



Level of Controversy



- ◆ Overall – Public input ranges from supportive to cautious to disinterested
 - A Generally Supportive Public: High Level Waste - the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
 - A Generally Neutral Public: D&D
 - An Overly Cautious Public: Waste Area Group 7 – Buried Waste
 - A “Currently” Disinterested Public: Legacy management, long-term decisions and beyond 2012 waste disposal decisions



Type and Frequency of Communications



- ◆ **High Level Waste - the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit**
 - Regulatory Drivers: NEPA and RCRA
 - 7 years of public involvement include: briefings to elected officials and stakeholders, participation with regulators at public meetings and events, involve special interest groups in treatment option decisions
- ◆ **D&D**
 - *Regulatory Drivers: Moved D&D into CERCLA -provides more options for waste disposal*
 - *Public Involvement with D&D is relatively new but frequent: D&D makes for interesting news releases with historical information, briefings to stakeholders, public meetings, tours, and partnerships with State Historic Preservation Office and Museums*



Type and Frequency of Communications



◆ Waste Area Group 7 – Buried Waste

- Regulatory Drivers: CERCLA with other impacts and considerations
- What we are doing: timely information when new decision documents become available, relationship building with elected officials and public interest groups, meeting milestones and continuing with waste exhumation
- What special interest groups are doing on the “buried waste campaign”: Web outreach and blogs, applying for technical assistance grants, hiring more people, increasing FOIA requests, partnering with other special interest group, providing early input on public meeting format



Non-Issues and Challenges



- ◆ **Non-issues: legacy management, historic preservation, regulatory interactions**
- ◆ **Challenges**
 - Integration with the Idaho National Laboratory
 - ◆ We must maintain and build trust with the public that new lab missions will not happen at the expense of reducing cleanup efforts
 - ◆ Outreach must be coordinate, so not to confuse
 - Funding
 - ◆ Putting visible cleanup lower risk projects on pause disrupts schedule; reduces moral; costs more to the public in the end; and weakens our relations with regulators, elected officials, and communities
 - Getting Input from the Silent, General Public Majority
 - ◆ Through non-public meeting format obtain input from general public to gain better understanding on how cleanup decisions are really viewed. This can be done through “briefing” chambers, rotary clubs, economic development organizations, etc., during public comment periods and hand out public comment cards at the meetings

Summary

- ◆ Actions Speak Louder than Words. Public trust goes along ways when more than paper work is accomplished but real visible cleanup occurs.
- ◆ Share the good with the bad
- ◆ Do not isolate the general public majority by bending to the demands of special interest groups
- ◆ A public that is informed early, frequently, and clearly through a number of methods results in meaningful and helpful input that can shape final decisions. If you are not getting this input, then find new ways to obtain public opinion.

