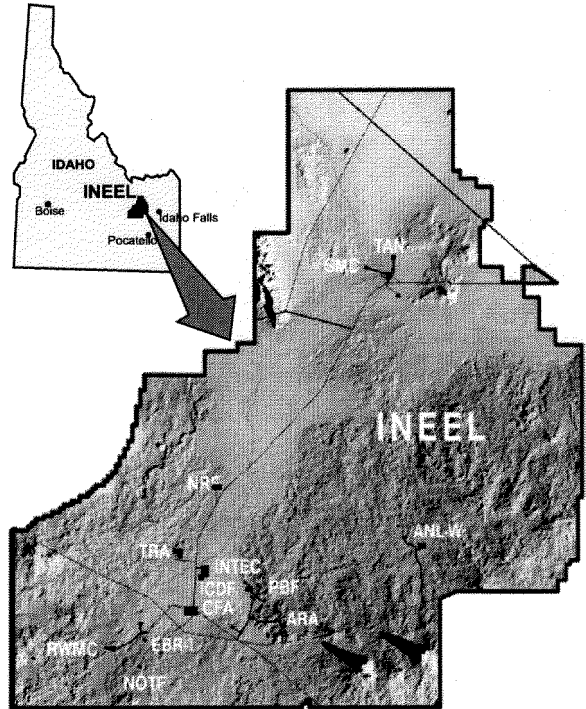




Risk-Based End States Vision

What are risk-based end states?

Risk-based end states are the envisioned final conditions or standards to which specific areas of the INEEL site will be cleaned up or remediated. They are goals that will provide a focused direction for cleanup activities and will be protective of human health and the environment consistent with projected future land use. The standards will be determined by the potential risks associated with future land use of the areas in question.



Why develop risk-based end states?

Risk-based end states will help DOE focus its cleanup work to protect human health and the environment for each area at the INEEL based on the projected future land use of those areas. By providing this focus, risk-based end states mean DOE can get cleanup work done sooner and more efficiently by having realistic cleanup criteria to follow. Risk-based end states will describe those criteria.

Based on the February 2002 *Top-to-Bottom Review for the Environmental Management Program (DOE 2002a)*, DOE determined that the department needed to refocus its cleanup work toward reducing or eliminating environmental risk as quickly as possible without compromising protection of human health and the environment. The review found that cleanup work is often hindered by a lack of realistic future land-use assumptions and driven by overly-conservative scenarios that don't reflect likely future uses of the contaminated areas.

In July 2003, DOE issued a policy on "Use of Risk-Based End States" (DOE P 455.1, 2003) that requires each site, including the INEEL, to prepare a risk-based end state vision document that describes the anticipated conditions of the site at the end of the EM cleanup mission. The INEEL End State Vision document is not a decision document, and it is not a license to do less cleanup. It will serve as a means to communicate the vision and initiate dialog with stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and the public.

Unlike some other DOE sites, INEEL is expected to have a long-term future mission that includes nuclear energy research and development. In light of this fact, some previous cleanup scenarios that included residential land use in the future should be examined.

There are cleanup agreements and consent orders already in the process of being implemented at INEEL. If DOE determines that it is appropriate to propose changes to current cleanup plans and agreements in light of the risk-based end state vision, such changes would have to be approved through the appropriate legal and regulatory channels, with the required input from stakeholders. DOE is committed to full compliance with all applicable regulatory and legal requirements.

DOE to discuss risk-based end state vision for the INEEL

DOE will hold public meetings to discuss its risk-based end state vision for the INEEL. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the current status of environmental cleanup at the INEEL, and what the final end state is expected to be when the cleanup mission is complete. Additionally, the public is being asked to provide comments on the draft risk-based end states vision document, which was published in January. Public comments will be incorporated into the final document scheduled for release in March 2004.

Please attend one of the following meetings:

Idaho Falls, Idaho

Tuesday, January 20
7 p.m.
Eastern Idaho Technical College
Cafeteria
1600 South 25th East

Boise, Idaho

Wednesday, January 28
6:30 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel, Riverside
Emerald Room
2900 Chinden Boulevard

Twin Falls, Idaho *

Thursday, January 29
6:30 p.m.
College of Southern Idaho
Taylor Building, Room #256
315 Falls Avenue

Twin Falls, Idaho

Tuesday, January 27
6:30 p.m.
College of Southern Idaho
Taylor Building, Room #256
315 Falls Avenue

** This meeting will be translated into Spanish.*

For more information, to request a document, or to schedule an advance briefing, please visit <http://cleanup.inel.gov/endstate/> or contact Alan Jines, Public Involvement Coordinator, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, at (208) 526-7524.

*The public
comment
period will
continue until
March 1,
2004.*



G1075-01

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Risk-Based End States
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