

memorandum

Idaho Operations Office

Date: December 16, 2005

Subject: Approval to Proceed with Preparation of Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) for the Final Decommissioning and Dismantlement of both the Engineering Test Reactor (ETR) and the Materials Test Reactor (MTR) at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site (FMDP-RFDP-05-138)

To: Idaho Cleanup Project CERCLA Administrative Record File

Background:

The Reactor Technology Complex (RTC) is located in the southwest portion of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) site, 4.9 miles northwest of the Central Facilities Area. The major mission of the RTC, formerly known as the Test Reactor Area (TRA), is to conduct scientific and engineering experiments for the Department of Energy (DOE) and to support various nuclear and nonnuclear programs.

The RTC has served to house high-neutron flux nuclear reactors and to test the effect of irradiation upon materials, fuels, and equipment. The complex was established in the early 1950s with the development of the Materials Testing Reactor (MTR), located in building TRA-603. The Materials Testing Reactor became operational in 1952 and was shut down in 1970. Two other major reactors followed: the Engineering Test Reactor (ETR), located in building TRA-642, and the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR), located in TRA-670. The Engineering Test Reactor first became operational in 1957 and has been inactive since December 1981. Removal of the fuel rods from MTR and ETR began soon after reactor operations ceased in 1970 and 1981, respectively. Only the Advanced Test Reactor is currently operational.

The DOE, is now ready to move forward with the final decommissioning of the ETR and MTR reactor complexes, including reactor vessels, reactor internals, potentially contaminated soils associated with the complexes, and other systems, components and materials as appropriate. Activities associated with reactor complex decommissioning are proposed to be performed as non-time critical removal actions (NTCRAs) under the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This approval memorandum initiates this process for both the ETR and the MTR and opens an administrative record file for information supporting selection of the removal action approach for each facility.

Proposed Projects:


These NTCRAs comprise decommissioning and disposal of the ETR and MTR reactor vessels, core internals, and disposition of residual contamination. Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CAs) will be performed to define the scope of the NTCRAs by evaluating suitable alternatives and to provide cost estimates for the NTCRAs. The selected alternatives to decommission the ETR and MTR reactor vessels will be described in Action Memoranda. The

Action Memoranda will be subject to the CERCLA Community Relations Plan¹ requirements for stakeholder notifications and involvement.

Approval to Conduct Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analyses (EE/CA):

Approval is hereby given by DOE-ID to conduct EE/CAs, one for the decommissioning of the Engineering Test Reactor Complex and one for the decommissioning of the Materials Test Reactor Complex. William Harker is designated as the spokesperson for both NTCRAs. The completed EE/CAs shall be made available for public review and comment.

APPROVED:



Rick B. Provencher, Assistant Manager
Idaho Cleanup Project

12/16/05

Date

³ DOE/NE-ID-11149, February 2004, Community Relations Plan, A Guide to CERCLA Public Involvement in the Cleanup Program at the INEEL.