



FCAB UPDATE

Week of August 5, 2002
(Last update was July 1, 2002)

MEETING SCHEDULE

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Stewardship Committee Meeting Monday, September 9, 2002 6:30 p.m. | Trailer T-1 On-site |
| Silo 3 Technical Roundtable Tuesday, September 10, 2002 6:30 p.m. | Trailer T-1 On-site |
| Fernald Citizens Advisory Board Annual Retreat Saturday, September 28, 2002 | Location To Be Determined |

ATTACHMENTS

- 7/11/02 Draft FCAB Meeting Minutes
- 7/18/02 Response Letter from Ms. Roberson
- DOE Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan (Stewardship Committee members please review in preparation for 9/9 meeting.)
- INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan (Draft)
- 6/25/02 SSAB Chairs Bimonthly Conference Call Minutes
- DOE letter regarding 2001 Site Environmental Report
- Articles & News Clippings

NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Weldon Spring trip has been scheduled for September 5-6, 2002. Please contact Sue Walpole at 513-648-4026 for further information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Doug Sarno or David Bidwell at The Perspectives Group
Phone: 513-648-6478 or 703-837-9269 Fax: 513-648-4141 or 703-837-9662
E-Mail: djsarno@theperspectivesgroup.com or dbidwell@theperspectivesgroup.com
www.fernald.org, or www.theperspectivesgroup.com



FULL BOARD MEETING
Public Environmental Center

Thursday, July 11, 2002

DRAFT MINUTES

The Fernald Citizens Advisory Board met from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, at the Public Information Center

Members Present:

French Bell
 Jim Bierer
 Lisa Blair
 Kathryn Brown
 Sandy Butterfield
 Marvin Clawson
 Steve DePoe
 Lisa Crawford
 Lou Doll
 Pam Dunn
 Jane Harper
 Steve McCracken
 Graham Mitchell
 Gene Willeke

Members Absent:

Blain Burton
 Gene Jablonowski
 Bob Tabor
 Tom Wagner

Designated Federal Official:

Gary Stegner

The Perspectives Group Staff:

Douglas Sarno
 Crystal Sarno

Fluor Fernald Staff:

Sue Walpole

Approximately 15 spectators also attended the meeting, including members of the public and representatives of from the Department of Energy and Fluor Fernald.

4431

Call to Order

Jim Bierer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Minutes from the June 16, 2002 Board meeting were approved.

General Remarks and Announcements

Jim thanked Tom Wagner for presiding over the Steering Committee meeting in June. As a result of that meeting, a roundtable discussion was held among stakeholders, DOE, EPA, OEPA and Fluor on July 9 to address some concerns regarding communication. Lisa Crawford was asked to provide the FCAB with an update. Lisa reported that about 20 individuals participated and each identified his or her top three concerns. The main issues were communication, silos, On-Site Disposal Facility, and safety. DOE promised to improve communications and will begin implementing new procedures. Lisa thought it was a good meeting. It had been five years since a similar meeting was held.

CAB members agreed that they should also try to improve communication and that they should advertise CAB meetings more in the future, to encourage greater attendance by members of the public. With site activities moving so fast, members believe that there is a need to keep up with all of the important issues. Some frustration was expressed that DOE Headquarters was not responsive and was making decisions without a lot of feedback.

Members also discussed the desire to hold technical workshops focused on silos and other issues. Jim said it had been one of the goals of the retreat last year to communicate better and the FCAB needed to keep this focus. Doug Sarno noted that a lot of people were having trouble keeping track of issues because there were so many of them and that a tracking system needed to be developed. Doug asked for feedback on the status sheets developed by the site this spring. Work is underway to develop similar materials to track emerging issues and changes.

Jim then turned the meeting to updates from ex-officio members. Anne Wickham from the DOE Ohio Field Office noted that they now have a direct liaison with EM31 that they haven't had that before and believe it will facilitate communication with headquarters.

She also said that DOE's draft Long-term Stewardship Strategic Plan has been redrafted. She anticipated that this revised draft would be available for public comment in August. Jim asked Ann to send a copy to Gary or Sue when the draft was available, so that it could be included in a FCAB mailing.

A Site Acceptance Criteria document is also being developed, at the request of Assistant Secretary Roberson. Doug reviewed a memo stating that a DOE Environmental Management policy on records management is anticipated in August. This policy will not be available for public comment.

Steve McCracken reviewed a press release noting that Congress appropriated an additional \$300 million to the DOE cleanup account, bringing the total

additional funding available to \$1.1 billion. DOE and Fluor will hold the first silos technical roundtable on silo 3 on September 10. Steve also asked the FCAB to review a table presenting upcoming stewardship planning actions. This table was developed to provide the FCAB with general expectations for the stewardship planning process. FCAB members provided some brief comments, and Steve noted that this was a first draft that would change over time. Steve asked the FCAB members to provide additional feedback to him.

Tom Schneider noted that the group received a copy of the letter of commitment from U.S. EPA, Ohio EPA, and DOE for an accelerated cleanup.

After a brief discussion, the FCAB agreed to plan a tour of the Weldon Springs site's new interpretive center on Friday, September 6.

The FCAB members also received a memo from Martha Crosland explaining why Roberson did not respond to the accelerated cleanup letter from the FCAB. Headquarters does not have a record of receiving the letter. The follow-up letter was received, and Roberson is working on a response.

The Utah waste tax issue is not going to be on the fall ballot. The petition signatures did not have an adequate distribution across counties. They can re-petition in 2 years, so the tax could appear on the ballot again in November of 2004.

Sue Walpole explained that the site's envoy program was begun in 1993. The envoys are well known in the community. The envoys received training and now receive monthly updates which they distribute throughout the community.

Conceptual Design for the Education Center

David Scheer reviewed the results of the design charrette. He reminded FCAB members that they wanted a relationship to exist between the site and the proposed education facility rather than between the building and the road. Because large earth moving machines will be used on site, there is an unusual opportunity to save excavation costs. David proposed using the metaphors of "digging" and "excavation" to describe this building. He explained that these words are used in everyday language to describe a process of discovery, exploration, and the search for knowledge.

David walked the group through a computer design of what the building might look like. Doug explained that the next step is to develop a more detailed drawing so that the FCAB will have something to begin showing people and generating interest.

The FCAB discussed the drawings and asked questions of David. The major discussion topics are listed below:

- An auditorium with fixed seating would limit the functionality of the space.
- The building should address Native Americans and local folklore, in addition to the environmental cleanup.

- Efforts should be made to capture as much natural light as possible.
- The Cold War Garden should appear in one space, as the workers requested.
- A cafeteria has not been included in the design.
- Some members of the community would like to incorporate the water tower into the design of the facility.

Report on Public Records Feasibility Study

The final report for the public records feasibility study is due to EM 51 at the end of September. Doug provided an overview of the report and asked for comments back by August 1

Doug explained that the report is going to be an interesting work for the complex as a whole. What came out of the public workshop in March was the concept of telling the story: How do we tell the Fernald story? How does it get preserved? The report will stress that telling the story is a necessity, and there are long-term commitments to which DOE must agree. The report will also include specific recommendations for what needs to be addressed at Fernald. Jim Bierer, Marvin Clawson, Steve DePoe, and Pam Dunn volunteered to review the draft report when it is available.

Cultural Resources Program

Joe Schomaker conducted a building to building search in order to create a registry of site artifacts. Larger items have been tagged, and will be moved later.

Two excavations are planned for this summer. One is a gravesite that includes 10-12 separate graves. Also, the reinterment report has been completed and is now in Washington. After it is reviewed, it will be distributed to the tribes and then to the public. Joe expects this to take 4-5 weeks. Then, the area for reinterment will be prepared. Steve DePoe suggested that one or two members of the public should be on the evaluation teams.

Doug stated that he had met with Ric Stroble about the photo archive. It does appear that resources are being made available so that site photos can be screened and cataloged.

Fernald Performance Management Plan

Doug explained that in order to receive monies from the accelerated cleanup funds, the site is required to produce a Performance Management Plan. The plan is due at headquarters by August 1. Steve McCracken reviewed the Fernald plan for the FCAB and requested comments from the FCAB members.

Discussions regarding the plan focused on an absence of information regarding long-term stewardship and the site's commitment to safety and quality control. Steve stated that this document was to let Congress know how the site would manage performance and should not contain a lot of details. In addition, Steve agreed that the FCAB's letter of support for accelerated cleanup would not be included in the report unless a response was received from Roberson.

Lisa Crawford expressed concern that a Congressman's response to an FCAB letter seemed to be just to Jim as a constituent. She suggested that all members sign the letter. Doug said he would bring a signature page to the retreat that everyone could sign, and that could be used for future letters.

Lisa also stated that she received an email from a reporter in the Belgian Congo regarding waste with the Fernald site label on it. There is confusion about whether the materials were sent from Fernald or to Fernald. Gary Stegner will check into this.

Lisa stated that FRESH received a copy of the safety charter and she would give a copy to Doug to distribute.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Jim reminded the group that there is no board meeting in August. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the July 11, 2002 meeting of the Fernald Citizens Advisory Board.

James Bierer, Chair Date
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Gary Stegner Date
Deputy Designated Federal Official



4431

Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 18, 2002

Mr. James C. Bierer
Chair
Fernald Citizens Advisory Board
MS 76, Post Office Box 538704
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253-8704

Dear Mr. Bierer:

This is in response to your June 24, 2002, letter endorsing the accelerated cleanup of Fernald. Since I did not directly receive your April 2, 2002, letter, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for not responding to you.

On the subject of public involvement, let me emphasize that I appreciate the efforts and dedication exhibited by the members of the FCAB. Your commitment to staying involved and your willingness to devote the time and energy required to understand the complex issues associated with Fernald's remediation have been major contributors to the success of the Fernald cleanup. I believe public involvement has been and will continue to be critical to the success of the Environmental Management (EM) program. As evidence of my commitment to the FCAB and the rest of the Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSAB) that support the EM sites throughout the complex, I recently authorized the extension of the national EM SSAB charter for an additional two years. At your local level, Fernald's baseline calls for continuing support of the FCAB and other public involvement activities through site closure in 2006.

On the topic of long-term stewardship (LTS), I fully understand that the end of cleanup does not mean the end to the Federal Government's responsibilities at Fernald. There are a number of ongoing and pending actions here at DOE-Headquarters that will impact LTS planning at our EM sites. We plan to issue guidance to Fernald and the other closure sites that directs the preparation of site-specific LTS plans. We also plan to issue the Department's second draft of the LTS Strategic Plan for public review and comment. The draft LTS Strategic Plan will outline DOE's approach for managing LTS responsibility at our sites. In summary, I am committed to supporting LTS and involving the Department's stakeholders in decisions that will determine the future of their respective sites.



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I believe that the Department's Top-to-Bottom Review provides a clear and achievable path for accomplishing the accelerated remediation of Fernald and the rest of our sites. The Fernald cleanup is well underway and making significant progress. I am pleased with the overall progress of the Fernald cleanup and feel confident that DOE and Fluor Fernald can provide a safe, high quality cleanup for the Fernald community.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Mark Frei, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Closure, at (202) 586-6331.

Sincerely,



Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan

Note to Reader

Thank you for reviewing this second draft of the Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan. This plan was revised in consideration of comments provided by over 37 sources on the December 7, 2001 draft plan. A comment resolution table is available upon request.

This draft differs from the December 7, 2001 draft plan in several ways.

- The performance measures under each goal are reduced in number and more focused on currently measured activities or activities that will be measurable in the near future.
- The "Comments" sections have been removed. The issues raised in each of the comment sections were generally incorporated into the second draft or presented to senior DOE management for resolution. In addition, the introduction of the second draft contains further discussion of the issues and how they are to be resolved generally.
- Essentially the thrust of the three major goals remains the same. In many cases, duplicative objectives and strategies were combined under one or more of the three goals to clarify and simplify the plan.
- In addition, this draft plan increases the emphasis (by the creation of a stand-alone objective from at least three varying objectives and strategies) on the Department's responsibilities as land manager as it relates to the Department's responsibility for maintaining and monitoring environmental remedies in coordination with other federal, state, local, or tribal government entities.
- New objective 1.2, "Minimize the Department of Energy Environmental Liability for Long-Term Stewardship Consistent with Laws and Regulations," captures the stewardship minimization concept through (a) limiting the potential influx of additional sites requiring DOE to maintain long-term stewardship from federal (including DOE programs) or private entities; (b) working with appropriate other federal, state, and local government entities to develop land management and/or remedy maintenance and monitoring options; and (c) identifying alternative funding mechanisms and other potential liability-reducing strategies.
- The discussion of the current context for long-term stewardship has been increased to include, for example, a brief discussion of the various legal and regulatory frameworks and related issues and the Department's potential future scope of long-term stewardship responsibilities (including the potential changes in the Department's long-term stewardship responsibilities due to mandatory or discretionary transfers of sites into federal ownership or between federal owners).
- The potential performance measures are now presented in Appendix A of the draft plan as "Implementation Actions for the Department of Energy Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan." These action items will form the basis for, and be integrated into, a follow on implementation plan.
- Appendix B of the draft plan is added to reference many of the key reports, studies, or other material that serve as the foundation for the Department's long-term stewardship effort.

The second draft of the plan continues to focus on a five-year implementation time frame to ensure that current long-term stewardship obligations continue to be met and that the creation of future liabilities is minimized. The emphasis on near-term activities, such as integrating long-term stewardship into existing Departmental systems and processes, will enable the Department us to address those longer-term issues effectively. Because this will be a Department-wide plan, we recognize the need to eventually identify roles and responsibilities. Upon completion of the plan (i.e., after all Departmental elements have agreed to the strategies contained in this plan), the Department as a whole will need to develop an implementation strategy as a companion or other follow-on document.

Finally, considering the interest and the number of comments provided on the first draft, we anticipate a large volume of comments on this draft. Therefore, please provide comments with the following considerations:

- Electronic versions of comments are preferred. If this is not possible, please provide comments via fax to ensure timely receipt.
- Please identify the issue or concern; cite to the goal, objective, or strategy of concern; and then provide suggested or alternative language to address the concern.
- Finally, please recognize that "strategic planning" generally, and particularly within the long-term stewardship context, is an iterative process. Therefore, we anticipate that, even when "finalized" the plan will be revisited over time, and it will be changed to accommodate new developments in, or knowledge about, long-term stewardship. For now, this draft plan identifies many near-term (and some longer-term) activities that will be necessary to undertake to ensure success.

Please forward all comments to:

Mr. Gregory Sullivan, EM-51
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585
Tel 202-586-0771, Fax 202-586-1241
Greg.Sullivan@em.doe.gov

This draft (Version 2.0) will be circulated within the Department (Field Offices are encouraged to provide it to their local site-specific advisory boards for review and comment) and to interested national intergovernmental and stakeholder groups for comment. Comments on this version are due by C.O.B. September 6, 2002. We intend to incorporate/resolve the comments on this version and to release the "final" draft of the plan by October 2002.

Thank you again, in advance for your time, attention and comments on this draft. Please do not hesitate to contact me on (202) 586-9280, if you have any questions.

Dave Geiser
Director, Office of Long-Term Stewardship

000012

Message from the Secretary of Energy (proposed)

The Department of Energy continues to be a leader in meeting this country's needs in the areas of energy, national security, science, and environmental protection. Our accomplishments in ensuring our national defense and in providing more, and better, energy alternatives are undeniable.

The Department also continues to make progress in addressing the challenges of reducing the environmental consequences of our actions and expediting the cleanup of our sites. The accelerated cleanup effort clarifies the need for a comprehensive Department-wide approach to ensuring that our investment in hundreds of sites across the country remains viable and that the environmental remedies put in place remain protective of current and future generations.

Through this long-term stewardship strategic planning process, we are able to focus the enormous scientific and technical capacity of the Department on achieving the goal of sustained environmental protection. The issues addressed in this plan relate not only to the challenges facing the Department, but also to the challenges facing other governmental and private entities engaged in cleanup and reuse of environmentally impacted properties.

Although the goals contained in this plan cut across programs, core competencies, and technical disciplines, I am confident the Department, in coordination with our federal, state, local and tribal government partners and stakeholders, can achieve them. To this end we will continue to work with these interested entities to develop new, innovative, and workable assurances to long-term environmental protectiveness.

This plan is the initial step in an ongoing and iterative effort to define and integrate long-term stewardship into the business activities of the Department of Energy. The plan helps to shape the development of the fiscal year 2004 budget and will be integrated into future Departmental budgets.

The goals, strategies, and performance measures presented in this plan enable us to better understand the indicators of progress toward our vision of providing continuing leadership in addressing some of this country's most important environmental and long-term stewardship needs. I look forward to working with you to realize the goals and objectives of this long-term stewardship strategic plan.

Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy

000013

Executive Summary (to follow)

000014

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Message from the Secretary of Energy (proposed)..... | iii |
| Executive Summary (to follow) | iv |
| Part I. Background and Structure | 1 |
| <i>Understanding the Structure of this Plan</i> | 1 |
| <i>Seven Draft Principles Used to Develop This Plan</i> | 1 |
| Part II. Situational Analysis | 3 |
| <i>Setting the Stage: Current Context</i> | 3 |
| <i>A Strategy for Coordinating Long-Term Stewardship Activities to Ensure Timely and Cost-Effective Cleanup</i> | 3 |
| <i>The Potential Impact of Changing Factors</i> | 7 |
| Part III. Mission, Vision, and Goals..... | 9 |
| <i>Goal I. Post-Remediation Responsibility and Liability Are Effectively Managed</i> | 10 |
| <i>Goal II. Long-Term Stewardship Responsibilities Are Understood and Built into the Way the Department Does Business</i> | 12 |
| <i>Goal III. The Capability and Tools Are in Place to Ensure the Effectiveness of Long-Term Stewardship for Current and Future Generations</i> | 14 |
| Appendix A. Implementation Actions for the Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan | 16 |
| Appendix B. Long-Term Stewardship References..... | 20 |

Part I. Background and Structure

Understanding the Structure of this Plan

This Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan is designed to be similar in structure to, and consistent with, the Department of Energy's Strategic Plan, which is based on the requirements and definitions in the Government Performance and Results Act (Public Law 103-62). This Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan supports the core values, vision, and objectives of the Department's mission and should be considered a lower-level component of the Department's overall strategic plan. Ultimately, the elements of the Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan should be incorporated into all relevant Departmental management initiatives and strategic planning.

The three general goals identified in the Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan are outcome oriented and are presented in a manner that allows for assessment of progress in the future. Performance measures specify the basis by which the Department will ascertain its progress toward achieving these goals. Objectives define the major accomplishments that contribute to achieving each general goal. The objectives are measurable, achievable, and have reasonable targets with deadlines. Finally, each objective has a set of strategies, which are the activities that will lead to its accomplishment.

Seven Draft Principles Used to Develop This Plan

The Long-Term Stewardship Executive Steering Committee (representatives from Field Office and Headquarters Program Secretarial Offices) played a key role in the development of this plan and in the implementation of the Department's long-term stewardship effort. The Executive Steering Committee has developed draft long-term stewardship principles to guide the development and implementation of this plan. The draft principles, to be finalized as this strategic plan is finalized, are as follows:

1. **Long-term stewardship is a Department-wide responsibility.**

As a whole, the Department is committed to the protection of human health and the environment in all of its actions. To ensure success, all Departmental elements must consider long-term stewardship as an integral part of the Department's mission.

2. **Long-term stewardship is a component of all aspects of Departmental decision making.**

It is the responsibility of sites and Headquarters offices to ensure that long-term stewardship is considered in each decision that impacts DOE cleanup. This responsibility extends from the identification of remediation alternatives, remedial design, construction, and operation and through all relevant decisions made over the lifetime of the hazards.

3. **The Department is a trustee of natural and cultural resources.**

Residual hazards should be managed within the larger context of federal land management, which includes trusteeship for ecologically and culturally important areas. The Department will manage these hazards in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

4. **Long-term stewardship should be incorporated into relevant Departmental policies, practices, and systems.**

Long-term stewardship will be most effective when integrated into existing Departmental processes and management systems. As these DOE policies, practices, and systems (such as Life-Cycle Asset Management, Integrated Safety Management, and Environmental Management Systems) are reviewed and/or implemented, a broad range of long-term stewardship activities and needs may be incorporated. This approach will facilitate the establishment of long-term stewardship as an essential element of all facets of Departmental missions.

5. An intergenerational approach is needed for long-term stewardship.

Long-term stewardship is an enduring commitment by the federal government. Due to the longevity of hazards, the ramifications and costs of current and future decisions and missions will be experienced by generations to come. As these generations' land use practices and local community structures change over time, current assumptions that guide Departmental policy may require reevaluation and modification.

6. Long-term stewardship policy must provide a consistent framework and acknowledge sites' need for flexibility.

Although a consistent framework for long-term stewardship is required for complex-wide management, Headquarters and sites must be responsive to site-specific

requirements (local, tribal, state, regional, and federal). Therefore, Departmental long-term stewardship policy must be sufficiently flexible to enable sites to perform necessary long-term stewardship functions within their individual regulatory frameworks and communities.

7. The involvement of stakeholders and state, local, and tribal governments is critical to long-term stewardship.

The Department has the responsibility to consult with these affected parties on long-term stewardship issues. Ongoing interaction and exchange increases public awareness. In turn, heightened public awareness facilitates informed decision making and increases the likelihood of successful implementation of long-term stewardship.

Part II. Situational Analysis

Setting the Stage: Current Context

The activities of the Department of Energy and predecessor agencies, particularly during World War II and the Cold War, have left a legacy of radioactive and chemical waste, environmental contamination, contaminated facilities, and hazardous materials at more than 100 sites across the United States. During the past decade, the Department has made significant progress in addressing this environmental legacy and has reduced the risks and costs associated with maintaining safe conditions across the Department's complex.

However, many sites cannot be remediated to levels that would allow for unrestricted use due to technical or economic limitations, worker health and safety challenges, or collateral ecological damage caused by remediation. These sites are, or will be, required to meet regulatory requirements to ensure that engineered and institutional controls employed as part of the remedy remain effective. Given the long-lived nature of radionuclides and other residual hazards, it is reasonable to assume that, at some sites, long-term stewardship will be required for centuries or millennia. A discussion of the scope of long-term stewardship activities is provided in Box 1.

The *Report to Congress on Long-Term Stewardship* (January 2001) was the Department's first assessment of the scope of long-term stewardship and associated costs through 2006. The report identified long-term stewardship activities at as many as 129 sites, including 34 sites currently managing long-term stewardship. Additional sites beyond those discussed in the report may transfer to the Department for long-term stewardship. For example, the Department is authorized, but not currently required, to assume long-term stewardship responsibility at several sites under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Furthermore, additional sites are periodically added to the Formerly Utilized Site Remedial Action Program. These sites are then eligible for remediation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and may potentially require long-term stewardship by the Department. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) may license additional sites that may ultimately transfer to the Department

under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act Title II. Considering these sources and other potential sources of sites the Department may need to conduct long term stewardship at over 200 sites.

In addition, there will be transfers of long-term stewardship responsibilities internal to the Department. For example, current Departmental policy is for the landlord Program Secretarial Office to assume long-term stewardship responsibilities at sites with continuing national security, energy security, and science missions.

The Department's *Final Long-Term Stewardship Study* (October 2001) identified key programmatic challenges facing the Department's long-term stewardship effort. This report provides the underlying information on the complexity of, and the relationship between, long-term stewardship and cleanup activities. In addition, analysis and recommendations developed by the National Research Council, the State and Tribal Government Working Group, the Energy Communities Alliance, site-specific advisory boards, and others have significantly contributed to the Department's understanding of these issues from multiple perspectives (see Appendix B for a bibliography). Box 2 summarizes these challenges.

A Strategy for Coordinating Long-Term Stewardship Activities to Ensure Timely and Cost-Effective Cleanup

The Department has made significant progress in identifying and undertaking many key long-term stewardship activities. However, because multiple Departmental entities have an interest in, or responsibility for, aspects of long-term stewardship, a coordinated approach is needed. This plan and the coordination of conducting long-term stewardship activities across programs are necessary to ensure the continued progress in the cleanup of sites and the protectiveness and cost-effective maintenance of environmental remedies.

In addition, some long-term stewardship management, definitional, and scope issues

000018

have yet to be resolved by the Department. This strategic plan provides an outline for an initial path forward to address these issues. The issues and challenges that the plan addresses are outlined below.

Varying Types of Sites, Current and Future Land Ownership, and Long-Term Stewardship Responsibilities

The current scope of long-term stewardship responsibilities is determined by, among other things, the diversity in the types of sites that the Department manages. The potential future scope of the Department's long-term stewardship responsibilities is unclear. The number and types of sites the Department has responsibility for may change through executive, congressional, or regulatory decisions. In addition, federal and state efforts to address the broader national problem of contaminated sites may affect the Department's responsibilities. Although the ultimate scope of these responsibilities is unclear, the Department will continue to meet its obligation to maintain the remedies at these sites.

The following are examples of types of sites where the Department is currently performing or planning to perform long-term stewardship:

- **Continuing Departmental Mission Sites**—Approximately 21 sites have continuing ongoing energy, science, or national security missions. The cleanup of these sites will be completed over the next 10 years, and the current (and likely future) landowner is the Department or the federal government generally. The anticipated long-term stewardship activities will be managed by each site "landlord" as part of the day-to-day activities at the site.
- **Long-Term Cleanup Sites**—Three sites will continue cleanup activities for more than 15 years. For these sites, the land is owned and managed by the Department or other federal land management agency, and the potential future uses vary from continued federal ownership to private industrial use.
- **Office of Environmental Management Closure Sites**—This category includes the Weldon Spring, Fernald, Mound, and Rocky Flats sites. For these sites, generally, the land is owned and managed by the

Department or other federal land management agency, and the future uses vary from continued federal ownership to private industrial use.

- **Uranium Mining and Mill Tailings Sites**—These former uranium mining and milling sites are remediated by DOE or in some cases by the private licensee and transferred to DOE after remediation. As part of this process, DOE becomes the owner and custodian of the material and responsible for the land management and the remedy surveillance and maintenance.
- **Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program Sites**—This category includes the early Atomic Energy Commission activity sites (predominantly privately owned sites that require DOE to conduct record keeping or in some cases remedy maintenance and monitoring).
- **Nuclear Waste Policy Act Sites**—Section 151(c) of this statute requires the Department to take ownership of the land and material at certain rare-earth processing sites. Currently, the Department maintains the land and the remedy at one site, but as many as four sites may be eligible for required transfer to the Department.

For purposes of this analysis, it may be helpful to place the Department's activities in the context of the federal government's potential land management and long-term stewardship activities. For example:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, states, and local governments are grappling with issues related to the cleanup and application of institutional/land-use controls at over 400,000 sites to ensure that underutilized or abandoned property may be reused despite the associated environmental liabilities.
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing activities could ultimately impact the total number of sites requiring federal long-term land management and remedy monitoring and maintenance.
- The Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure program has remediated or will remediate and transfer

excess military land, including land that may require long-term stewardship, to private redevelopment organizations or local governments for reuse.

- The Department of the Interior coordinates cleanup and conducts long-term stewardship activities at Formerly Used Defense Sites on Bureau of Land Management land.

Currently, the Department is working with these other federal agencies and affected state, local, and tribal governments to develop options for a coordinated approach to land and remedy management issues. These efforts may influence the number of sites, how much land, and the associated remedy maintenance and monitoring the Department will ultimately manage. The potential options range from a scenario where the Department manages the currently identified 21 sites with continuing national security, nuclear energy, or science missions to a scenario where the Department manages the land and long-term stewardship responsibilities at over 200 sites. However, despite these discussions and their impact on the number of sites the Department will manage, the long-term remedy maintenance for these sites is a federal responsibility. As such, the goal of the Department and the federal government as a whole is to ensure that these land and remedy management responsibilities are conducted in a coordinated, cost-effective, and effective manner.

Within the Department of Energy, Multiple Entities May Be Responsible for Land Management and/or Long-Term Remedy Maintenance and Monitoring

In many cases, current DOE long-term stewardship responsibilities are shared among multiple programs, with multiple levels of Field and Headquarters management. Multiple Headquarters programs may have joint or overlapping responsibility for, or authority for implementing, portions of the long-term stewardship effort. The DOE Office of Environment Safety and Health, for example, is responsible for development and compliance assurance of Departmental orders and guidance regarding the protection of workers, communities, and the environment. The Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation manages the Department's real property (including

property requiring long-term stewardship) and develops and supports the Department's budget requests to Congress. These activities are directly relevant to long-term stewardship requirements and implementation.

At the site level, the long-term stewardship-related activities may be managed by different programs within the Department. For example, at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the National Nuclear Security Administration manages mission-related activities and performs landlord functions, whereas the Office of Environmental Management conducts cleanup activities. Although current Departmental policy is to transfer the long-term stewardship responsibility to the "landlord" program upon completion of the environmental management cleanup mission, ensuring that remedies remain protective may still involve multiple Departmental elements.

Coordination with Multiple Federal Agencies That Have Land Management and/or Long-Term Remedy Maintenance and Monitoring Responsibilities

At most sites, it is possible to identify and distinguish the land management and land ownership responsibilities from the environmental remedy maintenance and monitoring responsibilities. In these cases, there may be at least two federal agencies assigned management responsibility for ensuring either the land and natural resource management or the long-term remedy maintenance and monitoring management. For example, at the future Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge in Colorado, the management of the land and natural resources at the site will be conducted by the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, whereas the maintenance and monitoring of the environmental remedy will remain with DOE.

The land management responsibilities, including meeting cultural, historical, and natural resource management requirements, should be maintained in a manner that is consistent with or complementary to the environmental remedy in place. Because the land management and remedy management efforts are interrelated and interdependent, a clear articulation and assignment of roles and responsibilities is necessary to ensure the success of both efforts.

New Approaches to the Management of Land Ownership and Long-Term Stewardship Responsibilities Are Evolving

The process of identifying and conducting the necessary long-term stewardship activities is benefited from the involvement of and coordination with other federal, state, local, and tribal government entities. The Department will continue to support the development of management options for long-term stewardship involving these entities. However, because the Department maintains the responsibility and liability for the remedies in place, any potential options must be carefully evaluated for their protectiveness, as well as cost-effectiveness.

Potential management options could include the disposition of the underlying property interest to other federal, tribal, or local governments or private parties while DOE retains the remedy monitoring and maintenance responsibilities at sites. In other cases, and within the applicable legal and regulatory framework, through the development of funding assurances, trust, or other insurance mechanisms, the Department may be able to share some of the remedy maintenance responsibilities with other parties.

DOE currently partners with local government or private parties in many ways. For example, the Department's Grand Junction Field Office maintains over 30 closed sites requiring long-term surveillance and maintenance (i.e., no more active cleanup mission at the site). Generally, the land management as well as the remedy maintenance and monitoring responsibilities for these sites are the responsibility of the Department. But, in some cases, the Grand Junction Office works with local governments, companies, or private landowners to assist the Department in implementing and monitoring the remedies.

In other cases, the Department may work with local governments and private parties to place land (including land with long-term stewardship requirements) into productive reuse. These arrangements may assist the local economy and tax base as well as encourage multiple parties to maintain an interest in the protectiveness of the remedies, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful long-term stewardship through these types of partnerships.

A Diverse Set of Values Affects Cleanup and Long-Term Stewardship Decisions

The types of sites and land ownership responsibilities for sites requiring long-term stewardship vary greatly among the over 40 sites currently being addressed by the Department's Environmental Management program and the over 200 sites that potentially may be managed by the Department. In many cases the "future use" decision is made by the federal, state, and local entities that conduct, regulate, or have an interest in determining the site end state. These determinations are made within a regulatory process and generally reflect a compromise among multiple sets of values.

Multiple and Sometimes Overlapping Federal, State, and Local Regulatory Authorities and Requirements Impact Long-Term Stewardship Activities

Program activities and cleanup activities are performed under and regulated by different federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations. These different authorities may ultimately require different sets of (potentially interrelated or overlapping) activities at a site after it has entered long-term stewardship.

Typically, the Department conducts cleanup operations and long-term stewardship activities under essentially four different classes of regulatory authorities. The processes and outcomes of these various cleanup and long-term stewardship legal and regulatory frameworks determine, to a large extent, the type and scope of activities required to maintain and protect the remedy. Generally, these categories of authorities and environmental remedy decision processes that define the long-term stewardship requirements include the following:

- The Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act (CERCLA) and regulations
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and regulations
- The Atomic Energy Act (AEA) and regulations
- State environmental laws and regulations

An example of how long-term stewardship requirements differ according to the applicable regulatory framework occurs in the variety of

reporting requirements under each of the authorities. Generally, under CERCLA, the minimum requirement is to report to the regulator on the performance and continued protectiveness of the remedy every five years. Under the AEA and NRC regulation, the Department is required to report on the performance of maintenance and monitoring activities annually. These differing and site-specific requirements must be considered when developing the Department's strategy for conducting long-term stewardship.

In addition to these external sources of oversight and regulation, the Department maintains internal oversight and ensures compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and DOE orders. By building long-term stewardship into the way the Department does business, these existing requirements can be evaluated and implemented in ways that are consistent with and complementary to the required long-term stewardship activities. Furthermore, the Department will continue to work within the framework of federal, state, and local laws and requirements and tribal treaties and obligations. As the Department works to clarify roles and responsibilities internally, it will also work with affected governmental organizations to develop arrangements that provide clarity in both authority and responsibility.

Funding for Long-Term Stewardship Activities

Currently, the annual appropriations process is the relied-upon method for ensuring funding to carry out long-term stewardship activities. Funding for sites in the long-term surveillance and maintenance program is maintained in a separate line item in the Grand Junction Office budget. For continuing mission sites, funding is built (or will be built) into the landlord program budgets. This process has proven adequate to date, and will remain, for the foreseeable future, the predominant method of funding long-term stewardship activities.

However, the Department will continue to investigate and pursue other funding and management options. For example, the Department is working to ensure that, if sites are required to be transferred into Departmental ownership, those transfers occur at no cost to the federal government and the taxpayer. In these cases, ensuring a no-cost transfer may

involve the development of, or changes to existing, applications of funding and management tools. As these tools are developed and tested, they may become available for the Department to use for the management of its current long-term responsibilities at sites.

The Potential Impact of Changing Factors

Successful implementation of long-term stewardship will require the flexibility to react to the inevitable changes that will occur over decades or centuries. Although the Department may be able to anticipate and influence some changes (e.g., that the physical integrity or effectiveness of markers or other physical controls like fences may be reduced over time and therefore need monitoring and replacement), other factors may be outside the control of the Department. Some of these potential factors are outlined below.

- **Physical Properties of Contaminants**—After very long periods of time, the residual radionuclides and hazardous organic chemicals that are contained or monitored as part of the environmental remedy will eventually decay/degrade to levels that are safe for unrestricted use.
- **Regulatory Structures**—Applicable laws, regulations, and standards may change over time, affecting what is considered "safe" and whether remedies in place are considered "protective."
- **Demographic and Political Changes**—Shifts in populations or values around sites may change exposure pathways and affect the viability of remedial assumptions. For example, over the past 50 years, urban development around some sites has dramatically increased, and ecological conditions at others have changed significantly. Long-term stewardship strategies that are effective today may no longer be protective in the future. For example, the needs for buffer zones and other restricted use areas at sites are likely to change over time as population patterns in the vicinities of the sites evolve.

000022

- **Climate or Geological Changes**—Climate change, including changes in assumed annual temperature or rainfall, and other geological events, are likely because long-term stewardship may be needed for hundreds or thousands of years. These changes may alter the underlying remedial assumptions.
- **Future Advances in Science and Technology**—Increases in knowledge could reduce long-term stewardship needs and/or make it possible to clean up existing residual contamination to less-restrictive levels. Advances in robotics, for example, might enable future generations to excavate areas

that currently pose unacceptable risks to remediation workers.

- **National Priorities, Cultural, and Economic Changes**—Values and national priorities change over time.

These changes may encourage reevaluations of long-term stewardship strategies in the future. For example, today, the presence of residual contamination generally reduces property values. In the future, limited land availability or concerns over urban sprawl could increase the relative value and uses of property with low levels of residual contamination.

000023

Part III. Mission, Vision, and Goals

Part III of this plan discusses the mission, vision, and goals of the Department's long term stewardship effort. Each of the three goals has performance measures, objectives and strategies that identify both the approach we will take and how we will evaluate our progress.

Mission

To protect human health and the environment from the risks that remain following cleanup.

Vision

Environmental and public health liabilities are reduced, and land is returned to beneficial use consistent with the Department's mission requirements. This long-term stewardship vision will be demonstrated when

- the effects of residual contamination are minimized by effective monitoring and maintenance measures;
- the Department has achieved public trust through cooperative partnerships with stakeholders and state, local, and tribal governments;
- long-term stewardship principles are fully integrated into the Department's planning and operations; and
- the vitality of human, natural, and cultural resources for current and future generations is sustained.

Goals

I. Post-remediation responsibility and liability are effectively managed.

This goal recognizes that the Department is already conducting long-term stewardship at many sites across the nation and focuses on supporting the continued execution of these responsibilities.

II. Long-term stewardship responsibilities are understood and built into the way the Department does business.

This second goal ties the success of the Department's long-term stewardship effort to its ability to improve existing planning and management processes.

III. The capability and tools are in place to ensure the effectiveness of long-term stewardship for current and future generations.

This goal articulates the Department's intergenerational approach to ensuring the continuing protectiveness of environmental remedies, ensuring the availability of adequate resources, and utilizing developments in information management and advances in science and technology. Understanding of the continuing and iterative nature of long-term stewardship and the promotion of the Department's partnerships with state, local, and tribal governments and stakeholders is fundamental to the success of this effort.

000024

Goal I. Post-Remediation Responsibility and Liability Are Effectively Managed

The Department currently maintains approximately 30 sites and multiple portions of sites in long-term stewardship. For these sites, the Department is focused on ensuring the continuing protection of human health and the environment, while reducing the need for (and scope of) long-term stewardship liabilities in the future. This liability-reduction effort includes the management of, and responsible and cost-effective monitoring and maintenance for, current environmental remedies. In addition, this goal encompasses the Department's efforts to reduce the need for long-term stewardship in the future by incorporating long-term stewardship into current remedy decisions.

Consistent with the development of this Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan, the Department is developing a framework to support the transition of sites from remediation into long-term stewardship. This site transition

framework will be used to support the goal of effectively managing post-remediation responsibility and liability by ensuring the smooth "handoff" of site long-term stewardship responsibilities between entities responsible for undertaking long-term stewardship activities at sites. Affected parties will use the framework as a checklist to ensure that all critical elements are addressed prior to transition. Therefore, the early integration of the framework into site activities and planning ensures that each of the elements can be satisfied upon the completion of cleanup activities and that the remedies in place can remain protective over the long term. Therefore, success in applying the framework to transitions of long-term stewardship responsibility intradepartmentally, and to transfers of sites into or out of Department of Energy responsibility, including privately owned, FUSRAP, and other potential sites, will be a key indicator of progress toward meeting Goal I.

Performance Measures for Goal 1

LTS1: The percentage of periodic reviews completed on time with regulator concurrence or acceptance of "remedy protectiveness" (the goal is 100%).

LTS2: The reduction in costs associated with the Department's long-term environmental liabilities (the goal is TBD).

LTS3: The percentage of Site Transition Framework evaluations completed in accordance with requirements (the goal is 100%).

LTS4: The number of mission-excess acres transferred (the goal is TBD).

Objective 1.1 Ensure that Environmental Remedies at Sites and Portions of Sites Requiring Post-Remediation Surveillance and Maintenance Remain Protective of Human Health and the Environment

Strategies:

- Work effectively to meet current environmental, health, and safety requirements.
- Coordinate the implementation and development of existing and future environment, health, and safety requirements to ensure adequate protection of human health and environment.

- Ensure that the remedy remains protective and that appropriate contingency planning is in place.
- Collect, maintain, and make available appropriate information regarding long-term stewardship information.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of long-term stewardship strategies and activities.

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Objective 1.2 Minimize the Department's Environmental Liability for Long-Term Stewardship Consistent with Laws and Regulations**Strategies:**

- Improve and make visible annual and life-cycle cost estimates for long-term stewardship activities.
- Identify and minimize long-term liabilities (e.g., deferred maintenance and environmental, natural resources, and other costs).
- Continuously improve the remedy decision making process by integrating long-term stewardship knowledge.
- Pursue alternative long-term funding, liability, and management mechanisms for long-term stewardship, as appropriate.

Objective 1.3 Accelerate the Cleanup and Transfer of Mission-Excess Land and/or Environmental Remedy Management**Strategies:**

- Coordinate the development and implementation of a uniform site transition framework to enable accelerated cleanup and transition long-term stewardship.
- Identify and accelerate the implementation of the Department's current land use planning and land use goals.
- Work effectively with other federal agencies to optimize federal land management options.
- Work with state, local, and tribal governments and private and nonprofit entities (and others) to examine options regarding the transfer and management of land, including land with long-term stewardship responsibilities.

000026

Goal II. Long-Term Stewardship Responsibilities Are Understood and Built into the Way the Department Does Business

The Department recognizes that it has increased long-term stewardship responsibilities resulting from current cleanup efforts. The ongoing Departmental missions and business lines also affect the need for and requirements of long-term stewardship. Considering these interdependencies, it is necessary for the Department to incorporate long-term

stewardship into the way it does business. Goal II details and provides a path forward for achieving an integration of long-term stewardship into the Department's existing planning and management systems, and provides an outline of steps necessary to clarify federal and contractor management roles.

Performance Measures for Goal 2

LTS5: The percentage of sites requiring long-term stewardship plans that have developed and implemented them (the goal is 100%).

LTS6: The percentage of relevant DOE orders and planning and management systems that have incorporated critical long-term stewardship elements (the goal increases from 25% in FY04 to 100% in FY07).

Objective 2.1 Define the Long-Term Stewardship Baseline and Understand and Communicate the Scope of Associated Activities

Strategies:

- Develop an accepted Department-wide definition of and baseline for long-term stewardship.
- Improve the Department's understanding of long-term stewardship, including clarification of requirements.
- Identify and utilize existing Departmental communication, education, and training services to inform DOE and contractor employees about long-term stewardship issues, principles, responsibilities, and new developments.

Objective 2.2 Build Long-Term Stewardship into the Department's Management and Planning Systems and Policies and Orders

Strategies:

- Coordinate the development of Department of Energy-wide agreement on the scope of long-term stewardship activities, and resolve relevant issues through the Field

Management Council or other relevant process.

- Determine and prioritize planning processes and management systems (e.g., Integrated Planning Accountability and Budgeting System, Facility Information Management System, Functions Responsibilities and Authorities Manuals, Project Definition Rating Index, Environmental Management Systems, and Integrated Safety Management Systems) for incorporation of long-term stewardship principles.
- Determine, prioritize, and integrate long-term stewardship into planning processes and systems (e.g., strategic, 10-year, and land use plans).
- Establish a collaborative, streamlined approach to incorporate/advance long-term stewardship.
- Identify, request, and defend resources necessary to execute long-term stewardship responsibilities.

Objective 2.3 Clarify Authority and Accountability for Management of Long-Term Stewardship Activities for the Federal Government, Employees, and Contractors

Strategies:

- Clarify and implement landlord Program Secretarial Officer (HQ) policy regarding responsibility for long-term stewardship.
- Clarify field organization responsibility for sites in long-term stewardship (e.g., the long-term surveillance and maintenance program).
- Push long-term stewardship principles "down into the ranks" in a manner similar to Integrated Safety Management.
- Ensure that the implementation of effective and efficient long-term stewardship strategies are rewarded.
- Ensure that progress toward meeting critical long-term stewardship requirements is evaluated and improved.

000028

Goal III. The Capability and Tools Are in Place to Ensure the Effectiveness of Long-Term Stewardship for Current and Future Generations

The Department understands the need to address the many institutional issues and challenges facing a multigenerational long-term stewardship effort. Many of these issues cannot be solved, if at all, for years to come. Given this practical reality, the Department's goal is to ensure that we develop the tools and information today that are necessary to prepare future generations to undertake these responsibilities.

To achieve this goal, the Department will work to develop and maintain the core capabilities

necessary to conduct long-term stewardship. These include ensuring that long-term stewardship is supported in annual budget requests and that outreach and education to affected and interested entities inside/outside the Department are provided. The Department will also work to ensure the investment in and utilization of advances in science and technology that can improve sustainability, reduce costs, or increase effectiveness of long-term stewardship.

Performance Measures for Goal III

LTS7: The cost of operating, monitoring, and maintaining remedies through the introduction of new technology (the goal is a TBD reduction in cost).

LTS8: Public evaluations of the accessibility and completeness of long-term stewardship information on the Internet, public reading rooms, or other repositories (the goal is a rating of "excellent" or higher).

Objective 3.1 Achieve Sustainable Management of Sites in Long-Term Stewardship

Strategies:

- Develop sustained capability for public access, retrieval, and comprehension of the long-term stewardship information that is necessary to ensure the long-term protectiveness of the remedy.
- Develop a Department-wide approach to records management and to the development of additional necessary long-term stewardship information.
- Identify, assess, and ensure that DOE capabilities and resources to conduct long-term stewardship are sufficient.
- Understand alternative funding mechanisms that may allow for federal, state, tribal, and local assurance that necessary long-term stewardship activities are or will be maintained.

- Coordinate the management of the Department's natural and cultural resources with long-term stewardship needs.

Objective 3.2 Ensure that a Process Is in Place for Education, Outreach, and Engagement

Strategies:

- Identify roles that various parties (Department of Energy, state, tribal, local government) may play for sustained capability and engage those interested parties.
- Baseline the knowledge and skills required for sustained capability.
- Develop the training for and qualifications of the stewards.
- Develop an effective information management strategy to ensure public accessibility.

Objective 3.3 Effectively Utilize Advances in Science and Technology to Improve Sustainability

Strategies:

- Perform gap analysis to identify long-term stewardship science and technology needs and construct a "roadmap" to address those needs.
- Replace existing long-term stewardship systems with new technologies when cost-effective.
- Improve scientific basis for understanding the impacts on human health and the environment from residual contaminants.

Appendix A. Implementation Actions for the Department of Energy's Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan

The Department has compiled a list of actions necessary to achieve the three goals of the Department of Energy Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan.

Goal 1. Post-Remediation Responsibility and Liability Are Effectively Managed

Objective 1.1 Ensure that Environmental Remedies at Sites and Portions of Sites Requiring Post-Remediation Surveillance and Maintenance Remain Protective of Human Health and the Environment

- Legal and other documents transferring Department of Energy lands to nonfederal owners contain appropriate enforceable use restrictions and right of access clauses beginning in FY02.
- 100% of closure sites' annual preventative maintenance of protective systems is completed on time.
- All applicable environmental, health, and safety requirements are met.
- The Department's long-term stewardship budget remains adequate to protect human health and the environment from residual hazards.
- Core capabilities to monitor and maintain engineered and institutional controls, commensurate with risk, are in place by FY03.
- Measures to be incorporated into site remedial and post-closure decisions are defined by FY03.
- Budget for monitoring engineered and institutional controls for property retained by the Department is commensurate with residual risks by FY03.

Objective 1.2 Minimize the Department's Environmental Liability for Long-Term Stewardship Consistent with Laws and Regulations

- Sites can clearly identify actual (or estimated, as appropriate) cost of long-term stewardship by FY03.
- Long-term stewardship activities and costs are identifiable in Field Office budget requests to Program Secretarial Officers by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship activities and costs are identifiable in Program Secretarial Officers' budget requests forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship activities and costs are identifiable in Department's budget request submitted to Office of Management and Budget by FY04 (and thereafter).
- The vulnerabilities associated with long-term stewardship are quantified in Department's liability report beginning FY02.
- Department's long-term stewardship liabilities are appropriately identified and reported to the Secretary beginning FY05.
- The Department identifies viable alternative funding paths by FY03.
- Negotiations on alternative funding paths are initiated with congressional appropriators by FY04.
- Department, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress legislative options to enable alternative long-term stewardship funding and management options are presented by FY05.

Objective 1.3 Accelerate the Cleanup and Transfer of Mission-Excess Land and/or Environmental Remedy Management

- Site land use plans include measures to reduce Department of Energy footprint, as appropriate, by FY04.
- General Department of Energy-wide criteria for determining best use of Department's land are established by FY04.
- Site land use plans identify the best use for Department of Energy property, using Departmental criteria but accounting for site-specific circumstances, by FY05.

000031

- For 100% of lands with a "Determination of Excess," the Department's land transfer report requirements, notation requirements, and announcements (except quitclaim deed) are met (or drafted) within 18 months of the declaration.
- Long-term stewardship is accounted for in new remedial action closure documents by FY03.
- Maintain a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy/Defense/Interior interagency regulatory workgroup by FY02.

Goal II. Long-Term Stewardship Responsibilities Are Understood and Built into the Way the Department Does Business

Objective 2.1 Define the Long-Term Stewardship Baseline and Understand and Communicate the Scope of Associated Activities

- Core capabilities are identified in the Department's annual resource allocation planning.
- The Department's natural and cultural resources are inventoried, and at-risk resources are targeted for special protective measures beginning in FY03.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into relevant Program Secretarial Officers' program planning guidance by FY03.
- Long-term stewardship is accounted for in new remedial action closure documents by FY03.
- Define measures to be incorporated into Integrated Safety Management/Environmental Management Systems beginning FY05.
- A Field Management Council-approved, Department-wide definition of long-term stewardship (including the scope of activities) by end FY02.
- Appropriate skills training programs are in place by FY05.

Objective 2.2 Build Long-Term Stewardship into the Department's Management and Planning Systems, and Policies and Orders

- Long-term stewardship is accurately captured in the Integrated Planning, Accountability and Budgeting System baseline, and the costs are visible.
- The Office of Management and Budget supports the Department's long-term stewardship budget requests beginning in FY03.
- Natural and cultural resource management and protection are integrated into new remedial and post-closure decisions by FY03.
- Each site has a natural and cultural resource management plan, or has documented and reported to the appropriate Program Secretarial Officer on the lack of a need to have one.
- Natural and cultural resource protection measures are incorporated into site Integrated Safety Management/Environmental Management Systems beginning FY05.
- Appropriate guidance to incorporate long-term stewardship into site Environmental Management Systems/Integrated Safety Management Systems is issued by FY03.
- Appropriate long-term stewardship information is incorporated into data calls for Department of Energy management systems by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into site Environmental Management Systems/Integrated Safety Management Systems by FY05.
- Management systems have capabilities to identify long-term stewardship costs and project long-term stewardship liabilities by FY05.
- The schedule for maintenance of records is modified by FY04.
- The Department's budget explicitly incorporates long-term stewardship activities by FY05.
- Responsibility for long-term stewardship is incorporated into Department of Energy's mission statement by FY03.
- The number of full-time equivalents by job classification needed for long-term stewardship is determined by FY05.
- Strategies for utilizing existing full-time equivalents slots, commensurate with need, are determined by FY06 and thereafter as appropriate.

000032

- Changes to internal Departmental funding processes are agreed to for implementation in the FY06 budget request.
- Appropriate [long-term stewardship] management information systems are defined by FY04.
- 50% of records of contamination, closure, and post-closure plans and monitoring and maintenance plans are managed in an appropriate management information system by FY10.
- 100% of records of contamination, closure, and post-closure plans and monitoring and maintenance plans are managed in an appropriate management information system by FY15.
- Long-term stewardship is accounted for in new Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act guidance documents by FY03.
- Long-term stewardship is accounted for in new Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act documents by FY04.
- Relevant chapters of Departmental corporate plans integrate a discussion of long-term stewardship by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship is accounted for in new major project design documents by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship specifically cited in site/institutional 10-year plans.
- Long-term stewardship accounted for in site land-use planning and programs and procedures by FY05.
- Long-term stewardship included in Integrated Safety Management activities and considerations by FY05.
- Department of Energy institutional controls policy is issued by FY02.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into Departmental Order 450.1, "General Environmental Protection Program," by FY03.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into Integrated Safety Management guidance by FY04.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into Life Cycle Asset Management Order by FY03.
- Long-term stewardship is incorporated into other relevant policies/orders by FY05.
- New orders that are relevant contain references to applicable long-term stewardship principles.
- The schedule for maintenance of records is modified by FY04.
- Data necessary to develop the quantitative portion of the annual long-term stewardship report are provided by querying existing national databases.

Objective 2.3 Clarify Authority and Accountability for Management of Long-Term Stewardship Activities for the Federal Government, Employees, and Contractors

- Landlord sites identify long-term stewardship roles and responsibilities for all managers and implement appropriate training beginning in FY03, as appropriate.
- Long-term stewardship roles and responsibilities are communicated to employees (HQ and Field) through appropriate training by end of FY03.
- HQ/Field roles and responsibilities for long-term stewardship budgeting and activity implementation are clearly established and documented by FY03, as appropriate.
- The Department of Energy long-term stewardship training program is developed by FY02.
- Education and training opportunities are provided and attended by appropriate personnel by FY03.
- Program Secretarial Officers' roles and responsibilities for long-term stewardship are identified by FY02.
- The Secretary's performance agreements with Program Secretarial Officers reflect long-term stewardship by FY04.
- Program Secretarial Officers' performance agreements with Field Office Managers reflect long-term stewardship by FY04, for appropriate sites.
- Long-term stewardship roles and responsibilities are incorporated into relevant orders and budget and contracting guidance by FY05.
- Department of Energy contracts contain consistent clauses clearly establishing responsibilities for the planning and implementation of long-term stewardship concepts and activities by FY05.
- Each Operations and Field Office has identified the programs and staff responsible for long-term stewardship planning and implementation in its organization.
- Congressional budget committees recognize and support the importance of long-term stewardship beginning in FY04.

000033

Goal III. The Capability and Tools Are in Place to Ensure the Effectiveness of Long-Term Stewardship for Current and Future Generations**Objective 3.1 Achieve Sustainable Management of Sites in Long-Term Stewardship**

- Program oversight and self-assessment by the Field on a continuous basis beginning in FY04.
- Ability to respond to remedy failures is available commensurate with residual risks by FY05.
- The long-term stewardship Web site is moved to, and maintained on, the Department's home page by FY03.
- Closure sites having threatened/endangered species habitats have no irrecoverable declines in associated populations.
- Number of long-term stewardship corrective actions declines annually after FY10.

Objective 3.2 Ensure that a Process Is in Place for Education, Outreach, and Engagement

- Information on residual contamination, its associated risks, and measures in place to protect public health and the environment is available to stakeholders by FY03.
- Remedy review reports are made available to all interested parties.
- A long-term stewardship curriculum for grades K-12 is available to local communities.
- The development of natural and cultural resources management plans are coordinated with long-term stewardship requirements and developed in partnership with stakeholders by FY04.

Objective 3.3 Effectively Utilize Advances in Science and Technology to Improve Sustainability

- Sustainability parameters are defined in completed long-term stewardship science and technology roadmap beginning FY03, and revised as necessary.
- Science and technology budget incorporates long-term stewardship sustainability needs beginning FY04.
- Feedback links between site-specific long-term stewardship technical problems, monitoring and maintenance needs, etc. and overall science and technology program are established beginning FY05.

000034

Appendix B. Long-Term Stewardship References

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000035



INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan (Draft)

Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory

Introduction

As the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) completes remediation at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), the end result will meet regulatory standards but will not return all remediated sites on the INEEL to pre-existing conditions or residential standards. Consequently, those sites with residual contamination require long-term stewardship to ensure that the selected remedies, *institutional controls*, and land use remain protective for future generations. The term "long-term stewardship" refers to all activities necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment following completion of remediation, disposal, or stabilization of a site or a portion of a site (DOE-2001).

The DOE established a National Long-Term Stewardship Program to provide the guiding policy and direction for individual site programs. DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ) recognizes that no single approach for long-term stewardship will work at all sites. The DOE-HQ program allows each site to design a site-specific approach based upon the site's characteristic environment, regulatory requirements, stakeholder interest, and residual contaminants.

To ensure the requisite management takes place at each site following completion of remediation and closure activities, DOE directed each site to prepare a Long-Term Stewardship Plan. A January 19, 2000, memorandum from the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM) directed all DOE sites where EM is the landlord to develop these plans by Fiscal Year 2004. This document represents the first part of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Plan. The second part, an implementation plan, will be developed in Fiscal Year 2003.

Note: When technical or administrative terms are first used, they are printed in bold italics and explained in the margin. Referenced documents are listed at the end of this plan. Additional information is also provided in the margin. Look for this symbol:



Institutional Controls: generally includes all nonengineered restrictions on activities, access or exposure to land, groundwater, surface water, waste and waste disposal areas, and other areas or media. Some common examples of tools to implement institutional controls include restrictions on use or access, zoning, governmental permitting, public advisories, or installation master plans. Institutional control commitments are necessary where hazardous substances will remain on site at levels that prevent unrestricted and unlimited use of the site.

Contents

- Introduction 1
- Acronyms 2
- Purpose of This Plan 2
- Background 2
- Definition of Long-Term Stewardship 4
- Our Commitment 5
- INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Vision And Mission 6
- Goals And Implementing Objectives for Long-Term Stewardship of the INEEL 7
- Future Steps In INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program Development 13
- References 14

Public Comment Period • July 15 – August 15, 2002

How You Can Participate:



Read this proposed plan.

Comment on this proposed plan by using the postage-paid comment form on the back cover.



Call the INEEL or DOE Project Managers for more information or to schedule a briefing.

— See page 13 for more information —

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Acronyms

| | |
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| CERCLA | <i>Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act</i> |
| DOE | <i>U.S. Department of Energy</i> |
| DOE-HQ | <i>U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters</i> |
| DOE-ID | <i>U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office</i> |
| EM | <i>Environmental Management</i> |
| INEEL | <i>Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory</i> |
| RCRA | <i>Resource Conservation and Recovery Act</i> |
| WAG | <i>Waste Area Group</i> |



Our Vision:

Safe and informed use of INEEL by multiple generations following remediation.

Our Mission:

- *Protect*
- *Conserve*
- *Respond*

Groundwater: *water that soaks into the ground and percolates downward through rock or soil pores until it is stopped by an impermeable layer. Natural sources are rain fall, snowmelt, and water that seeps into the ground beneath streams, rivers, and lakes. Other sources can include irrigated fields, canals, wastewater drain fields, injection wells, leaking pipes, and industrial cooling ponds.*

In early 2002, INEEL solicited ideas from members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the INEEL Citizens Advisory Board, federal and state agencies, regulatory organizations, environmental advocacy groups, a Resource Conservation Development Council, local municipal governments, INEEL employees, and the general public about proposed vision and mission statements, and implementing goals and objectives that formed the basis for this INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan. By asking stakeholders for input during strategic program formulation, the INEEL provided an early opportunity for members of the communities, agencies, and governments most affected by long-term stewardship at the INEEL to influence the structure of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program. For ease of communication throughout this plan, these groups will hereafter be referred to as stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Purpose of This Plan

This strategic plan establishes the vision, mission, implementing goals, and objectives of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program. The Long-Term Stewardship Program must assist in the orderly transition from remediation into post-remediation status and sustain implementation of post-remediation responsibilities. This plan is the foundation of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program and documents the overall expectations and direction for identifying, organizing, and conducting all long-term stewardship activities at the INEEL.

The vision for the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program is the safe and informed use of the INEEL by multiple generations following remediation. The mission of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program is to ensure the safe and informed use of the INEEL following remediation through decisions and actions that:

- Protect human health and the environment from residual contamination
- Conserve ecological and cultural resources
- Respond to regulatory, political, and technological changes.

Further discussion of the vision and mission is found in the section titled: "INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Vision and Mission."

Background

In the 1940s, the United States Navy used a portion of the land that has since become the INEEL site for a bombing and artillery range. In 1949, the site became the National Reactor Testing Station for testing reactor concepts. Between 1953 and 1992, the site reprocessed spent nuclear fuel for both peaceful and defense-related missions. From the mid-1970s to the 1990s, INEEL's mission expanded to include waste management, environmental engineering, energy efficiency, renewable energy, national security and defense, nuclear technology, and biotechnology (DOE 2001).

Past generation, treatment, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste, hazardous waste, and mixed waste from INEEL and other DOE sites such as Rocky Flats, resulted in contamination of structures, surrounding soils, and **groundwater** at the INEEL. Even after remediation activities are complete,

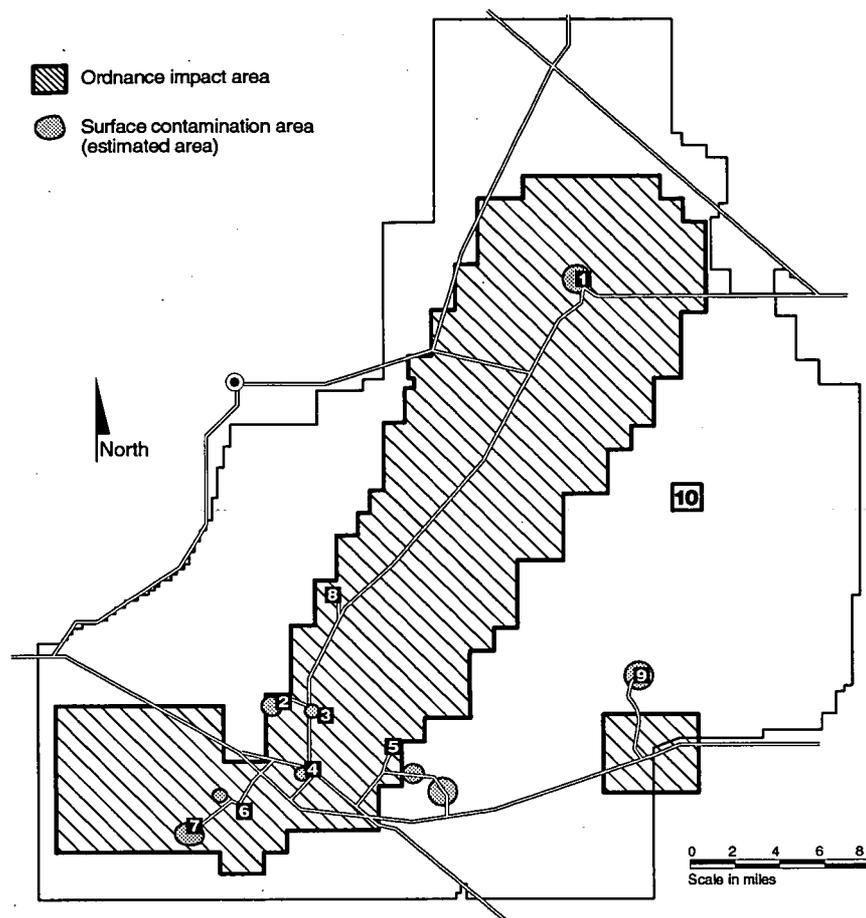


Figure 1. Map of the INEEL Site showing location of major facilities and contaminated areas.

limited amounts of organic, metal, and radioactive contaminants will remain in the soil, *aquifer*, and *perched water* zone (see Figure 1) (DOE-2001). Some closed and capped disposal sites and structures will also remain and require that the DOE control access and monitor impacts in these areas. Examples of long-term stewardship activities occurring today at the INEEL include on-going operations of groundwater treatment and *vadose zone vapor extraction* units, long-term monitoring and maintaining engineered barriers, such as the one at the Stationary Low-Power Reactor-1 burial ground, enforcing institutional controls, and restricting access.

Today, INEEL conducts environmental restoration of the site and continues to be a national multiprogram research and development center supporting the DOE's four main business lines of environmental quality, energy resources, science and technology, and national security. The laboratory is also a National Environmental Research Park, one of only seven in the nation. All lands within its boundaries constitute a protected outdoor laboratory for conducting ecological studies.

Nationally, stakeholders are concerned about what becomes of DOE lands after the DOE finishes its cleanup mission. Local stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes expressed similar concerns about the

Legend to INEEL facilities (WAGs)

1. Test Area North
2. Test Reactor Area
3. Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center
4. Central Facilities Area
5. Power Burst Facility/ Auxiliary Reactor Area
6. Experimental Breeder Reactor-1/ Boiling Water Reactor Experiment
7. Radioactive Waste Management Complex
8. Naval Reactors Facility
9. Argonne National Laboratory-West
10. Snake River Plain Aquifer and Miscellaneous Sites

Aquifer: a layer of water-saturated rock or soil through which water flows in a quantity useful to people. The rate of flow depends upon porosity and permeability, and the slope of the water table.

Perched Water: ground water that collects above a layer of relatively impermeable material, such as clay, and then slowly moves downward to the aquifer. Perched water zones are often present beneath reservoirs and industrial facilities, but disappear when the surface water source is eliminated.

Vadose Zone: the unsaturated layers of rock and soil extending from the ground surface down to the water table, or aquifer. Contaminants move at different rates through the vadose zone depending on how they react with the rock and sedimentary material.

Vapor Vacuum Extraction: a technology developed to extract vapor from beneath the ground by inducing a vacuum in wells located at specific depths. The vacuum forces underground vapors to flow toward the well and up into an aboveground treatment system.

Unexploded Ordnance: *military munitions that have been primed, armed, or fused and fired, dropped, or launched but have failed to explode through malfunction or design. Unexploded ordnance poses a physical risk to human safety through the danger of explosion when it is handled or contacted, especially by machinery.*

INEEL. Following completion of remediation, DOE intends to retain management of the INEEL lands as currently configured. The INEEL lands were acquired through a combination of Public Land Orders (PLO-318, PLO-545, PLO-637, PLO-1770) and purchases, specifically to support the mission of the DOE. The withdrawal of these lands from the public domain for DOE's use has no time limitation or expiration and authority for such use is currently expected to remain with DOE. Any decisions about changing the land use or ownership would have to be made through the established process for federal land transfer. The DOE also recognizes that land use can be affected by the presence of residual contamination under long-term stewardship responsibility. Due to the presence of residual contaminants from previous missions and the possible presence of **unexploded ordnance**, future use restrictions are required for several facilities and areas. Further, the federal government will continue to restrict access to contaminated areas that pose a significant risk to the public for as long as necessary.

Finally, the DOE also recognizes that a trust relationship exists between federally recognized tribes and the DOE. DOE has in place an Agreement-In-Principle with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation (DOE 2000). The Agreement-In-Principle establishes the protocols and expectations for interacting with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes about the INEEL. DOE will continue to abide by that agreement when making land-use decisions for the INEEL.

Definition of Long-Term Stewardship

This strategic plan adopts the basic definition of long-term stewardship presented in "A Report to Congress on Long-Term Stewardship" (DOE 2001):

"... long-term stewardship refers to all activities necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment following completion of remediation, disposal, or stabilization of a site or a portion of a site. Long-term stewardship includes all engineered and institutional controls designed to contain or to prevent exposures to residual contamination and waste, such as surveillance activities, record-keeping activities, inspections, groundwater monitoring, ongoing pump and treat activities, cap repair, maintenance of entombed buildings or facilities, maintenance of other barriers and containment structures, access control, and posting signs."

Protection of human health and the environment includes the cultural, historical, and natural resources that exist within the areas of residual contamination or areas that may be disturbed by ongoing activities and programs at the INEEL. Therefore, the INEEL adds to the basic definition of long-term stewardship by including the concepts of ecosystem conservation and protection of cultural/historical resources.

Many stakeholders and Shoshone-Bannock tribal members asked when long-term stewardship begins. DOE recommends that sites begin considering the costs of long-term stewardship as early as possible in the remediation process because the true risk and cost associated with stewardship responsibilities remaining after remediation may influence the

remedy selection process. While the Long-Term Stewardship Program will provide these long-term stewardship considerations to other programs for use in selecting remedial alternatives, Long-Term Stewardship Program responsibilities do not include the following processes:

- **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) remedy investigation, feasibility studies, and remedy selection**
- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective actions**
- RCRA closure processes
- RCRA post-closure permitting
- Remedial design/remedial action
- Ecological and cultural assessments required for remedy feasibility studies and implementation.

Other INEEL programs are currently responsible to perform these activities and document them so transition to stewardship is both seamless and protective of the public, workers, and the environment. Prior to transition to the Long-Term Stewardship Program, these other program or project managers are responsible for preparing and providing the information that allows the Long-Term Stewardship Program to continue remedy maintenance and monitoring, continue long-term pump and treat operations, repair engineered barriers, or respond to Freedom of Information Act requests or litigation.

Our Commitment to Institutionalize Long-term Stewardship at the INEEL

The INEEL is actively conducting early planning and development activities for its Long-Term Stewardship Program. The following examples demonstrate this commitment:

- The INEEL established the Environmental Stewardship Initiative as one of five laboratory initiatives to increase knowledge of fate and transport mechanisms, improve predictive capabilities, and develop more cost-effective methods for long-term monitoring and surveillance (INEEL 2002).
- The INEEL identified discrete INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program development tasks in Fiscal Year 2001 that included preliminary scope, schedule, and budget that would lead to an INEEL Project Baseline Summary submittal by October 1, 2004.
- The INEEL provided an early opportunity for stakeholders and the Shoshone-Bannock tribal members to influence the development of this INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan. INEEL will also provide similar involvement opportunities during the development of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Implementation Plan.

CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act): the federal law that establishes a program to identify, evaluate, and remediate sites where hazardous substances may have been released (leaked, spilled, or dumped) to the environment.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (RI/FS): a study that identifies which contaminants are present in an area, assesses the risk they pose to human health and the environment, and evaluates remedial options.

RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act): a federal waste management law. Its guidelines regulate transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of waste. RCRA waste includes material that is listed on one of EPA's hazardous waste lists or meets one or more of EPA's four characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.



INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Vision and Mission

Vision

The vision for the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program is the safe and informed use of the INEEL by multiple generations following remediation.

Mission

The mission of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program is to ensure the safe and informed use of INEEL facilities and land following remediation through decisions and actions that:

- Protect human health and the environment from residual contamination
- Conserve ecological and cultural resources
- Respond to regulatory, political, and technological changes.

This program mission includes protection of workers, the public, and the environment from residual contamination via access control, engineered barriers, continued remedy implementation, institutional controls, and media specific monitoring. Monitoring includes the INEEL boundary or beyond as necessary to encompass real or potential threats to human health and the environment (INEL 1991).

While several areas at the INEEL have undergone remedial action pursuant to agreements between the DOE, State of Idaho, and the Environmental Protection Agency, these areas will still be subject to institutional controls and limited access for approximately 100 years. Yet, planning land use for periods in excess of 100 years is highly uncertain. DOE recognizes that over time, Congress, DOE or the public may propose new uses for facilities or land at the INEEL. Before INEEL takes action to pursue new land uses, DOE will identify specific facility and land-use impacts and consult with stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribal governments to ensure they consider stakeholder concerns and tribal rights in their final decisions. Regardless of future land-use decisions, the federal government has a legal obligation to maintain control and limit access to those areas that continue to pose a significant risk to human health and the environment. In addition, the government has the responsibility to maintain records of past actions so that future generations will be able to understand the risk posed by the controlled areas.

This Long-Term Stewardship Program mission also includes conserving ecological and cultural resources at the INEEL. As stewards of federal lands, DOE will consult with stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to manage the natural and cultural resources at INEEL consistent with the principles of ecosystem management and resource protection and with applicable federal laws regulations, policies, and executive orders.

Finally, this Long-Term Stewardship Program mission includes the evaluation and response to regulatory, political, and technological changes. Specifically, the INEEL will evaluate new or revised regulations, statutes,

federal facility agreements, records of decisions, and post-closure permits, to identify any necessary changes to our stewardship approach. The INEEL will also review other requirements such as agreements with third parties (e.g., land use or access agreements) for consistency with stewardship objectives. By evaluating new or improved technologies, the INEEL may also identify opportunities to enhance long-term stewardship operations by reducing risk, improving reliability of monitoring or other equipment, or reducing cost.

Goals and Implementing Objectives for Long-Term Stewardship at the INEEL

The implementing objectives associated with each goal listed below include a brief description of example activities that the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program will perform to implement each objective. They are not all-inclusive or static in nature. As the Long-Term Stewardship Program refines its planning for long-term stewardship activities, INEEL may decide to revisit the goals and objectives.

Goal: Understand the full scope and implications of INEEL's long-term stewardship responsibilities

Strategic Objective #1

Develop a comprehensive approach to identify, understand, and comply with applicable laws and regulations, legal agreements, policies, orders, and INEEL procedures, that drive the conduct of long-term stewardship activities.

The primary focus of this activity is to ensure that the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program is complying with all relevant requirements. Because of the diversity of regulatory requirements governing the sites transitioning into the Long-Term Stewardship Program, (e.g., the **Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, Records of Decisions**, and post-closure permits) the Long-Term Stewardship Program must have a comprehensive understanding of how these requirements must be applied. Other national statutes that may have direct impact on long-term stewardship at the INEEL include the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. This approach may also include regular reviews of new requirements and regulations to ensure compliance.

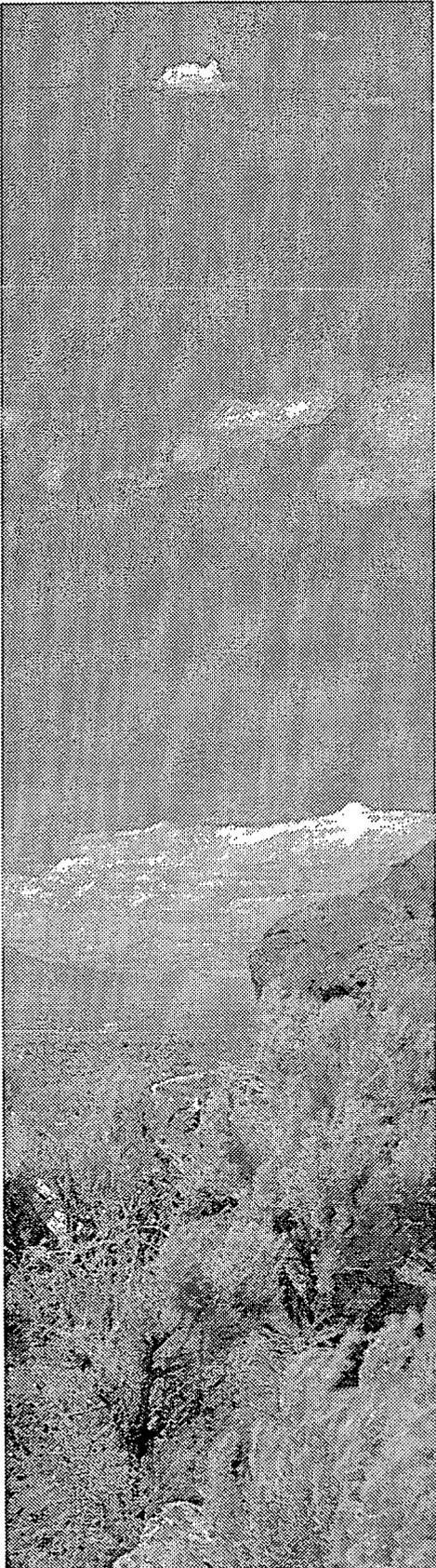
Strategic Objective #2

Develop a comprehensive approach to identify, understand, and manage the contamination left in place after remediation of the INEEL.

The Long-Term Stewardship Program recognizes that a more integrated and better coordinated approach to conducting these activities may be necessary. The primary focus of this objective is to ensure the Long-Term Stewardship Program knows the locations of all residual contamination and understands the activities necessary to manage them.

Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (FFA/CO): *an agreement among the DOE, the EPA, and the State of Idaho to evaluate potentially contaminated sites at the INEEL, determine if remediation is warranted, and select and perform remediation, if necessary.*

Record of Decision (ROD): *a public document that explains which remedies will be used at a site and why. The Responsiveness Summary contains the public comments received on the proposed actions and the agencies' responses.*



Such information may be found in:

- GIS-linked maps and databases used to identify the location and type of contamination remaining on the INEEL site under long-term stewardship responsibility
- Institutional control plans to control access to contaminated areas
- Monitoring plans that identify the contaminants, locations, and sampling schedule for monitoring soil, air, and groundwater.

Strategic Objectives #3

Develop an integrated approach to identify, understand, and manage the ecological and cultural resources occurring on the INEEL.

The primary focus of this objective is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the ecological and cultural resources at the INEEL and influence decisions related to their stewardship. Protection of the environment is a requirement for long-term stewardship sites and protection of human populations from exposure does not necessarily demonstrate that the ecological resources are protected. The Long-Term Stewardship Program will protect ecological resources at the INEEL by maintaining the diverse complement of native vegetation, keeping perturbation of undisturbed areas to a minimum, and considering and mitigating, as necessary, the impacts of DOE actions on local fauna. Conservation management in this area includes preservation of the Sagebrush Steppe Reserve as an undisturbed sagebrush ecosystem and studies of biotic receptors (plants or animals) that may act as early indicators of breaches in remedy integrity.

The program mission protects cultural resources by identifying, protecting, and managing "historic properties" as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act, "archaeological resources" as defined in the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and "cultural items" as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Such protection may include securing information about their location or designing mitigative measures where the resources may be impacted by DOE activities.

Goal: Maintain acceptable levels of risk established by remedies

Strategic Objective #1

Maintain remedies as required in plans and agreements to ensure continued protectiveness of these remedies.

This objective focuses on maintaining the integrity of engineered barriers, continued monitoring and surveillance, continued operation of pump-and-treat facilities, and implementation of institutional controls. Activities will also include specified, periodic reviews of remedy performance and implementation of corrective actions in the case of remedy degradation.

Strategic Objective #2

Develop or revise the procedures for implementing emergency response to failures of remedies or long-term stewardship institutional controls.

A program of regular surveillance and maintenance of a remedy should identify and correct routine degradations in that remedy's integrity, as well as provide opportunities for making improvements in the maintenance process itself. But, the INEEL recognizes that nonroutine events, such as severe wildland fires, can occur. It is imperative that the INEEL be able to immediately and safely respond to such nonroutine events and take action to prevent any critical failures in the remedies. Therefore, the focus of this objective is to ensure that long-term stewardship considerations are part of the INEEL's overall emergency response planning and procedures.

Goal: Sustain knowledge of residual contamination in a manner that retains the relevance, accessibility, and integrity of the information for stewards, decision-makers, and affected parties

Strategic Objective #1

Develop a comprehensive system to identify and manage the data and information essential for the implementation of long-term stewardship.

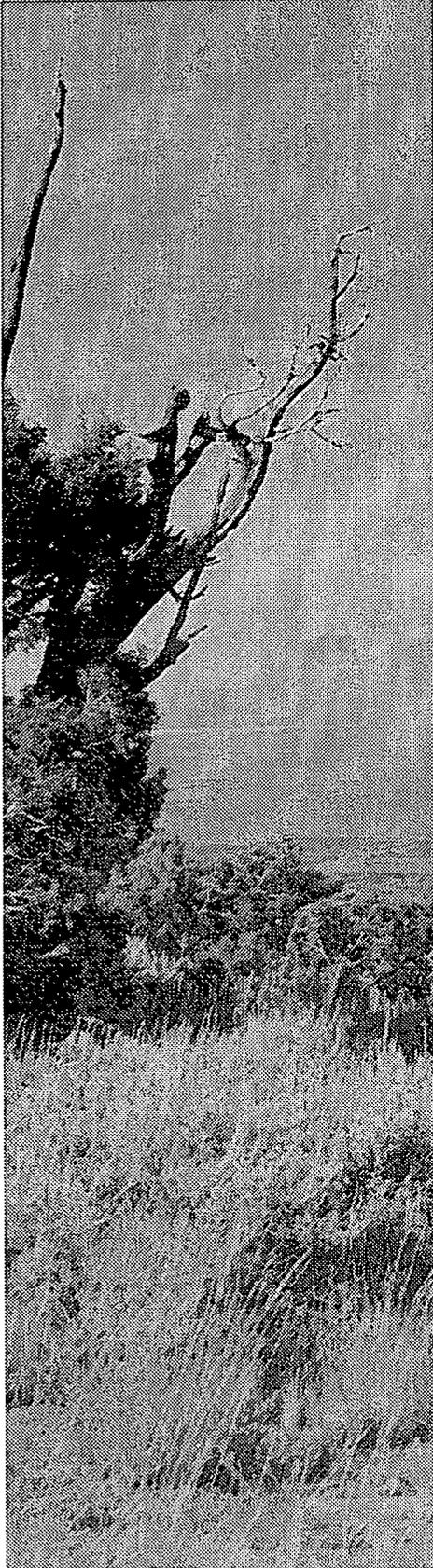
The INEEL manages a vast amount of data and information, not all of which may be related to long-term stewardship. It is cost-prohibitive to maintain all this information forever. The challenge lies in identifying and managing only that information necessary for conducting long-term stewardship such as the identity and location of contaminants or monitoring and maintenance records and ensuring it can be maintained as long as necessary to support the conduct of long-term stewardship activities. As information management technologies develop or improve it will be necessary to upgrade existing systems and software, maintain capability to read and understand archived data, and migrate data to new systems.

Strategic Objective #2

Develop an approach to provide access to long-term stewardship essential information for members of the stakeholders and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

It is important to INEEL that the Long-Term Stewardship Program has credibility with the public. One way to ensure this credibility is to provide access to stewardship information such as sampling and monitoring results, historical data, and locations of contamination. By providing access to this data, the public can be confident that INEEL is carrying out its long-term stewardship responsibilities. Modes of access will need to consider stakeholder and tribal communication needs, styles, and capabilities. In addition, accessibility to information will be affected by the type of long-term stewardship information and applicable security requirements.





Goal: Support stakeholder and Shoshone-Bannock tribal understanding of and involvement in long-term stewardship

Strategic Objective #1

Identify the appropriate levels of stakeholder and tribal involvement in INEEL long-term stewardship decisions and actions.

Different levels of public involvement (e.g., informing, consulting, involving, or collaborating) may be more appropriate for different long-term stewardship activities (INEEL 2001). Additionally, different stakeholders may need to become involved in different ways for any given long-term stewardship activity. For example, regulators may need to become more involved than other stakeholders in reviewing data. For each activity, the INEEL will work with stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to determine the level of involvement in long-term stewardship planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Strategic Objective #2

Work directly with the public throughout the long-term stewardship implementation process to ensure that DOE consistently understands and considers stakeholder and the Shoshone-Bannock tribal issues and concerns.

While it is important that stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes understand why and how the INEEL will conduct long-term stewardship, it is equally important that the INEEL understand stakeholder and tribal concerns and interests as the Long-Term Stewardship Program operates. By asking the stakeholders and tribal members for input through public comments, surveys, facilitated discussions, and open meetings, the Long-Term Stewardship Program can maintain a connection with evolving stakeholder and tribal interests and values. The INEEL will also conduct formal communication with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation in accordance with the Agreement in Principle.

Goal: Incorporate long-term stewardship into the INEEL's decision-making processes

Strategic Objective #1

Evaluate and revise, as necessary, existing INEEL policies and procedures to ensure consistent integration of long-term stewardship considerations in site decisions.

Policies are the highest level of direction, and set the overarching expectations for how work is performed. Procedures and guidance flow from policies, and describe specifically how those expectations are met. By reviewing and, if necessary, revising existing and future policies and procedures, the Long-Term Stewardship Program can help ensure that investigation and analyses of potential remedies include the feasibility, cost, and effectiveness for conducting long-term stewardship of the selected remedy. The Long-Term Stewardship Program can also ensure that new programs and projects consider the implications for long-term stewardship resulting from the new activity.

Strategic Objective #2

Incorporate long-term stewardship considerations into budget and work planning guidance documents.

Incorporation of long-term stewardship considerations into work planning guidance ensures that each responsible program or project manager identifies the costs, scope, and schedule for the transition of any post-remediation or post-closure responsibilities to the Long-Term Stewardship Program. These costs can include items such as identification and disposition of essential long-term stewardship information, preparation and consolidation of project records that document contaminant characterization and location, ongoing commitments for institutional controls and monitoring, and the cost and schedule for regular maintenance of engineered barriers.

Goal: Sustain the ability to conduct long-term stewardship activities***Strategic Objective #1***

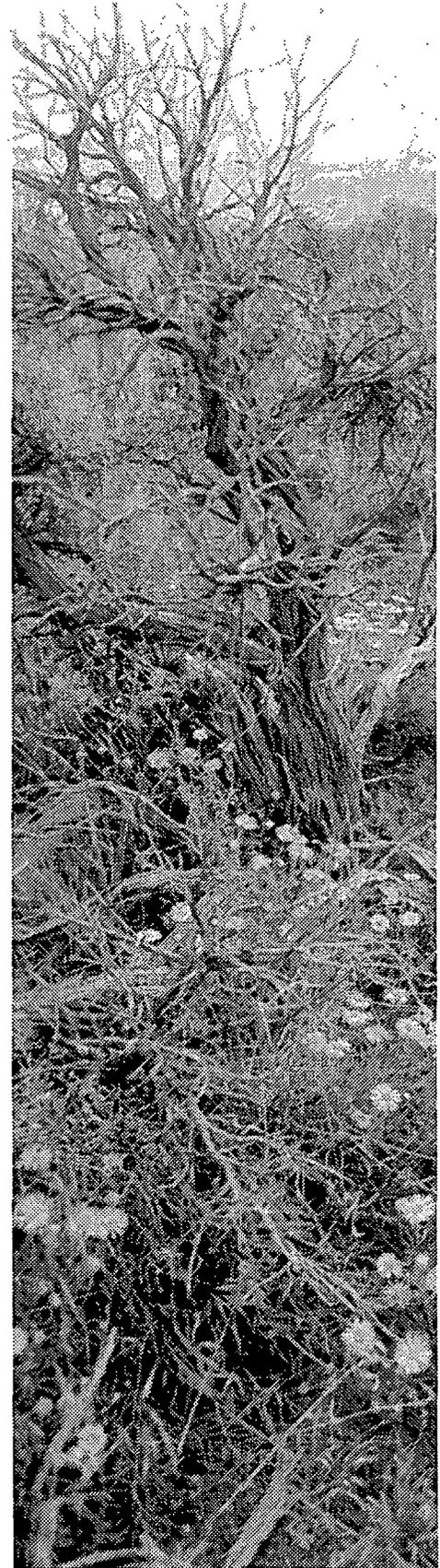
Identify, acquire, and manage the economic, physical, and human resources necessary to conduct long-term stewardship of the INEEL.

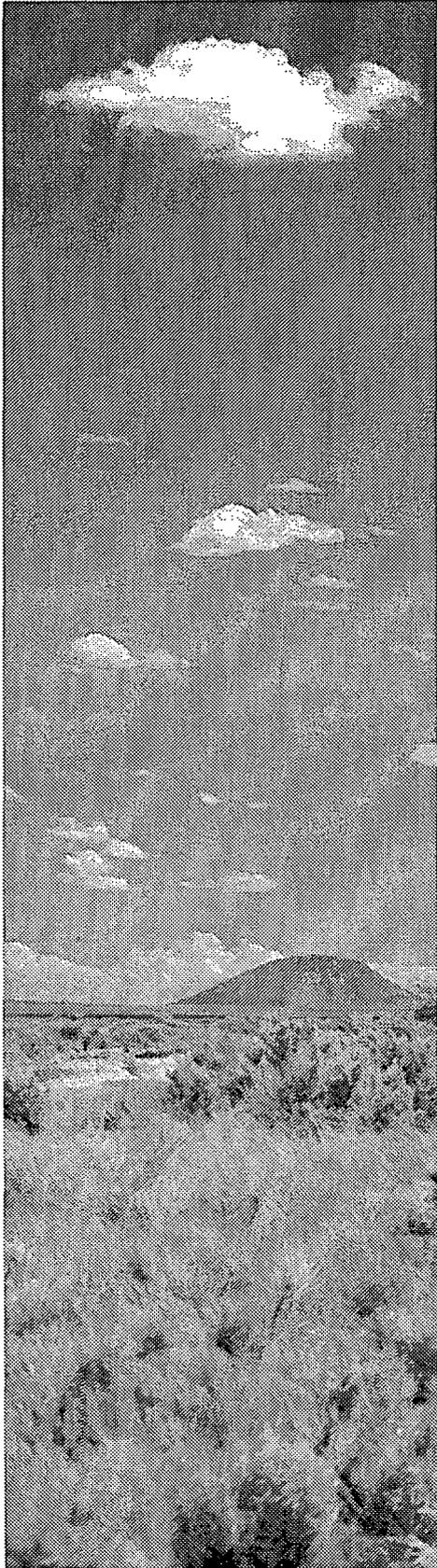
The INEEL will identify the resources (including financial, facilities and hardware, and technical expertise) necessary to plan and implement all long-term stewardship activities at the INEEL. Of particular importance is the need to provide adequate and sustained funding for long-term stewardship to support compliance obligations and credibility with stakeholders and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. It is also critical to ensure that personnel have the necessary skills, knowledge, and technologies (systems and machines) to conduct long-term stewardship work. Over time, personnel with significant long-term stewardship experience will retire or leave. The INEEL plans to train remaining personnel, or acquire new personnel, to ensure an uninterrupted supply of staff members with long-term stewardship skills and abilities.

Strategic Objective #2

Maintain close relationships and communication with programs, agencies, stakeholders, and members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

As the INEEL moves into the future, the characteristics of the communities around the site are likely to change. It is important that the Long-Term Stewardship Program remain connected to these communities and aware of the changes in such things as population growth and development, transportation corridor changes, and other factors which may impact or be impacted by the INEEL. Additionally, the communities, stakeholders, and tribes are resources for knowledge and perspectives that may assist the INEEL in carrying out long-term stewardship responsibilities. This objective focuses on ensuring this connection is maintained.





Goal: Reduce uncertainty and cost related to long-term stewardship activities

Strategic Objective #1

Identify and implement opportunities for continued improvement of long-term stewardship activities.

The INEEL's role as steward includes stewardship of taxpayer dollars. INEEL will always face the challenge of reducing the costs of conducting long-term stewardship activities without compromising the protectiveness of the remedies. This objective focuses on looking internally to identify ways to reduce those costs and increase the efficiency of stewardship operations through activities such as, reducing the administrative costs for managing the Long-Term Stewardship Program, reducing the costs of maintaining remedies by improving maintenance operations, improving the coordination of sampling activities, and streamlining information management.

Strategic Objective #2

Apply lessons learned from the conduct of local and national long-term stewardship activities to improve long-term stewardship at the INEEL.

Other sites in long-term stewardship within the DOE Complex as well as other federal agencies (e.g., Department of Defense) conducting long-term stewardship activities, represent a significant source of experience upon which the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program can draw to improve long-term stewardship implementation. This objective focuses on looking externally and recognizes that the Long-Term Stewardship Program will continually and consistently seek to learn from the operational experience of fellow stewards to avoid potential mistakes and incorporate improvements in similar areas or activities.

Strategic Objective #3

Identify and implement new technologies and communicate technology needs to research and development for further improvement or development.

A significant element in reducing long-term stewardship costs will come from advancements in the fields of science and technology related to such things as materials engineering, remote sensors, computing technology, and geochemistry. The Long-Term Stewardship Program will continually work to identify where new developments could be applied to long-term stewardship activities, or where advancements are desired. This objective focuses on the process of maintaining awareness of both the state of the art and the state of the need in long-term stewardship science and technologies.

Strategic Objective #4

Develop a process for transitioning sites out of long-term stewardship.

While some residually contaminated sites on the INEEL will be in long-term stewardship for perpetuity, many others will require stewardship for a limited time. Over time, the risk at some sites with residual contamination will decline and long-term stewardship will no longer be necessary.

Requirements for ending the stewardship of sites that were remediated under the authority of CERCLA already exist. However, the Long-Term Stewardship Program must develop a comprehensive long-term stewardship exit process that meets those and other regulated "exit" or "ramp down" requirements.

Future Steps in INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program Development

While developing the Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan, the INEEL spent considerable time first reviewing comments and input already received from stakeholders and tribal members during previous public involvement activities conducted for other projects and programs. For example, the INEEL studied comments in Environmental Impact Statements, reviews of draft CERCLA proposed plans, and from the review of the draft "Long-Term Stewardship Study" produced by DOE-HQ. Those comments, and the comments received from stakeholders, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and INEEL personnel during the public review of the draft "INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Overview" are reflected in this long-term stewardship strategic plan. Many comments emphasized the need to:

- Institutionalize an INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program within the INEEL organization
- Ensure a corporate and government focus on a defined long-term stewardship vision and mission
- Ensure continued, protected funding for long-term stewardship activities.

This long-term stewardship strategic plan embodies the response to these comments. The INEEL will use this plan to structure and institutionalize the Long-Term Stewardship Program within the established architecture of the INEEL Environmental Management Program. Focus on long-term stewardship will be maintained by housing the work within the formal INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Program. The INEEL will obtain funding for the Long-Term Stewardship Program through established mechanisms for federal program management.

Concurrent to program budget development is completion of this strategic plan in Fiscal Year 2002 and development of the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Implementation Plan in Fiscal Year 2003. The INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Implementation Plan identifies the discrete program activities, schedules, and performance measures for implementation in the three to five-year timeframe. The INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Strategic Plan combined with the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Implementation Plan constitute the INEEL Long-Term Stewardship Plan.



DOE/ID-11008
Rev. D

**INEEL Long-Term Stewardship
Strategic Plan (Draft)**

Published July 2002

Prepared for the

U.S. Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office

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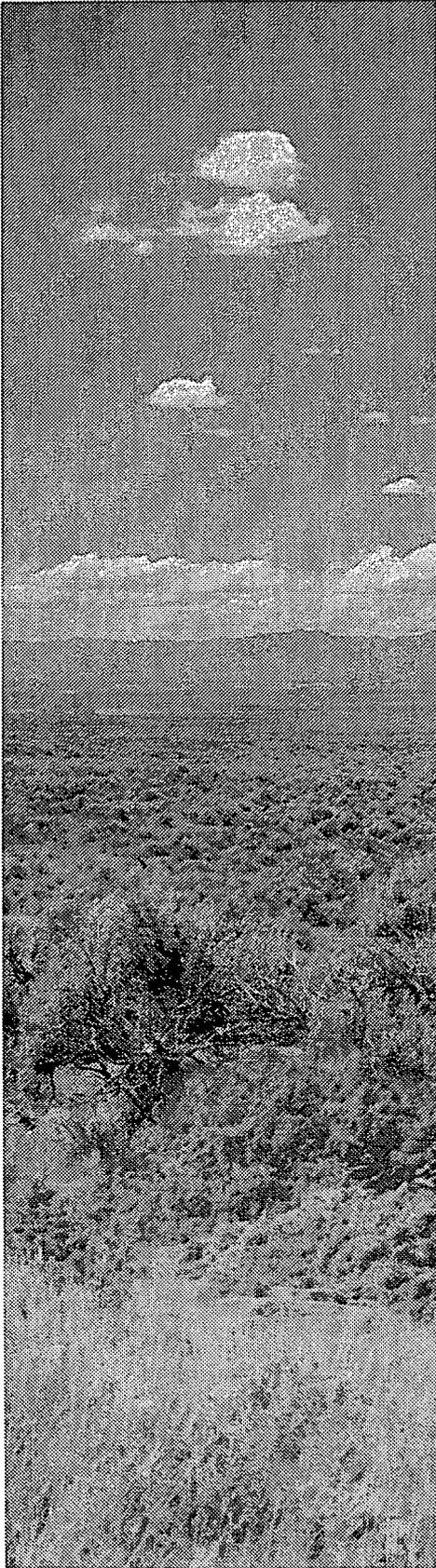
The INEEL's address is:

<http://www.inel.gov>

select Long-Term Stewardship

*The INEEL's Long-Term Stewardship
address is:*

<http://www.inel.gov/environment/ineel-ts.shtml>



As the INEEL accelerates the completion of the Environmental Management organization's mission to cleanup DOE-EM sites, thus reducing the overall risk, so will the transition of sites into long-term stewardship accelerate. The Long-Term Stewardship Program must be prepared to receive those sites without compromising safety of the workers, the public, or the environment. Starting with a solid strategic foundation is critical to progressing to a smooth and focused programmatic operation, particularly for an unusually long-lived program such as long-term stewardship. This program, however, must also be flexible enough to respond with adjustments as required in the future. Given the long time frames and the types of risk issues that long-term stewardship must address, uncertainty is inevitably an important issue in the decision-making process. As the program gains experience, INEEL may revise this strategic plan to reflect the new experience.

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SSAB CHAIRS BIMONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

3:00 – 4:30 PM EDT

Martha Crosland, HQ, welcomed the following participants on the call:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Oak Ridge | Sheree Black, Luther Gibson, |
| | Pat Halsey, Pete Osborne |
| Paducah | Mark Donham, Steve Kay, |
| | Lynn Link |
| Nevada | Kelly Kozeliski, Ted McAdam, |
| | Carla Sanda |
| Los Alamos | Jim Brannon, Menice Manzanares, |
| | Ted Taylor |
| Rocky Flats | Jeff Eggleston |
| Fernald | Doug Sarno |
| Idaho | Wendy Lowe, Monte Wilson |
| Savannah River | Gerri Flemming, Dawn Haygood, |
| | Jean Sulc, Mike Shoener |
| Headquarters | Martha Crosland, Fred Dowd, |
| | Betty Nolan, Megan Rudolph |

1. SSAB CHAIRS MEETING IN OAK RIDGE

- The best dates for the Autumn Chairs meeting are October 17-19, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. A site tour will be held on October 17, with the business meeting occurring on the 18-19. Ted McAdam will be the lead facilitator for the meeting. He is available on (702) 682-8296 or at tdmccadam@aol.com.
- As has been done at previous Chairs meetings, all of the Chairs' issues will be compiled into "briefing books" of sorts.
- Agenda items discussed included scheduling and topics for discussion:
 - Possible Speakers of Note – Jessie Roberson of EM-1, James Ajello of EMAB, Blaine Rowley of EM-20, and/or others
 - Site tour of all three Oak Ridge Facilities
 - 8:30 AM commencement on 10/18, ending around 5 PM with a dinner to follow
 - 8:30 AM commencement on 10/19, ending around 1 PM
 - Assistant Secretary for EM Jessie Roberson address live or via video conference – discuss the accelerating cleanup program
 - Topics – accelerating cleanup program at various sites, Carlsbad workshop preview, transportation especially regarding accelerated cleanup, update on groundwater, EMAB activities, Alternative Technologies to Incineration update, privatization, and site issues of concern
 - Federal Coordinators/Public Participation Coordinators to meet early morning on 10/17

000052

2. SSAB WORKSHOP IN CARLSBAD

- Planning is continuing on the WIPP Transportation Workshop in Carlsbad.
- The workshop will be held January 29 – February 1, 2003 at the Pecos River Conference Center in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Tours of WIPP will be arranged on January 29 –30. The business portion of the meeting will commence on January 31 and continue to February 1. It is highly recommended that participants arrive early to take the tour of WIPP.
- Points of contact: Greg Sahd of the Carlsbad Field Office, Jessica Hoag of Westinghouse, Ted Taylor of the Department of Energy, and Menice Manzanares of the Citizens Advisory Board.
- Chairs are requested to send in questions and/or agenda items, as well as a tentative idea of how many of their CAB members will attend the workshop.
- Ted McAdam and Mike Shoener will facilitate the workshop. A draft agenda will be available by the next SSAB Chairs conference call.
- Mark Donham, Paducah CAB, requested that someone from the “opposition” be placed on the agenda. He requested a fair hearing for those who are opposed to WIPP at the meeting in order to balance the workshop.

3. LOCAL SSAB PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ISSUES/UPDATES

Oak Ridge

- Oak Ridge SSAB continues to meet monthly second Wednesdays, except in August.
- The annual planning retreat and annual meeting will be August 2-3, when new officers will be elected for 2002-2003. DOE, EPA, and Tennessee officials have also been invited to discuss specific input they would like to receive over the next year.
- There are no membership vacancies presently, and two new high school participants were recently seated.
- All committees will be completing an annual evaluation at their July meetings to prepare for the retreat and start workplan preparation for next year.
- The Stewardship Committee has reviewed stewardship language, including land use controls, in recent records of decision and is planning to develop and implement a test case for the Melton Valley area of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Stewardship Committee is also working on several education resource materials.
- The Waste Management Committee toured the Melton Valley TRU Waste Treatment Project. A facility is being built by Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation under a privatization contract to process a low-level waste (LLW) stream, LLW & TRU contact handled (CH) solids, and remote handled (RH) TRU solids and sludges. Access delays at WIPP for RH TRU waste will become an increasing concern.
- The Environmental Restoration Committee is focal point of accelerated cleanup plan issues.

- Oak Ridge submitted a proposal in March in response to the Top-to-Bottom Review. A Letter of Intent was signed in May. For DOE, EPA, and Tennessee regulators to concur on the accelerated clean up and to resolve disputes on existing FFA Appendix E milestones, an Oak Ridge Accelerated Clean Up Plan Agreement was signed on June 18. Public input is being sought by DOE on the Performance Management Plan (implementation plan for the accelerated cleanup approach). Oak Ridge SSAB members continue to express concerns about their ability to impact decisions during this process and the specific issues they can most effectively address.

Paducah

- DOE has had "no comment" for three months on any activities relating to the site because they have been in negotiations regarding the accelerated cleanup program. No agreement has been reached yet between DOE, the State of Kentucky and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- A public meeting was held where Bill Murphie introduced the new Office of Portsmouth and Paducah. The public/CAB received three days notice, which they felt was not sufficient. The public/CAB was not allowed to speak with Mr. Murphie or the other presenters – they were allowed to write questions from which DOE chose to answer. The EPA also gave a statement.
- The site is back to the beginning of the groundwater feasibility study due to some issues with the groundwater permeable treatment zone.
- One issue the CAB is looking at is how waste was mislabeled and erroneously sent to the Nevada Test Site and Envirocare and what can be done to correct the error.

Nevada

- The entire CAB will meet again in October.
- The Underground Test Area (UGTA) Committee has been finalizing its comments and recommendations on the UGTA peer review report and should release them in early July.
- An Ad Hoc Committee formed to assess the Top-to-Bottom Review recommendations held a Risk Workshop on June 5, and is making recommendations to the site based on the accelerated cleanup program.
- The Administrative Committee will meet in late June to finish up the CAB Annual Report.

Los Alamos

- The CAB held its annual retreat at the end of May, which Martha Crosland from Headquarters attended.
- The next CAB meeting will be in the end of July.
- Four committees have been active lately, including a new outreach committee. The committees are now working on their annual workplans.
- The publication of a corrective action order (State of New Mexico vs. University of California) has been cause for concern in the CAB.
- Jim Brannon needs to know which CABs have approved the letter to Jessie Roberson. He will email the letter to everyone again for clarification.

000054

Rocky Flats

- There has been a delay in setting the Radioactive Soil Action Levels, which are integral to the RF End-State discussion. This is first on the agenda for the next CAB meeting.
- A Technical Review Group has been formed to look into the newly formed Wildlife Area.
- The Recruitment and Participation Committee has been active in seeking new CAB members.

Fernald

- Long-term stewardship is still the premier issue for the CAB. The CAB is looking at long-term preservation of site records onsite (i.e., an educational facility). A number of public workshops have been held on the topic, including a recent one on the design of the facility.
- The CAB is studying acceleration of cleanup at the site. The challenge is to get "back on track" for closure in 2006.
- Communication has been a problem with the site and CAB, and there will be a round-table in July to mend the communications issues.

Idaho

- The CAB seated five new members at the meeting in May. They appreciate Martha Crosland's help getting their membership package approved quickly.
- Monte Wilson was elected as the Chair of the CAB, with Bob Kaestner as the Vice-Chair.
- At the meeting, the Board went over their self-evaluation. They decided to alter their agenda prioritization process and will now gather opinions of the *ex officio* members before setting the meeting agenda.
- The Board approved a recommendation on the plan to involve stakeholders on the water integration project.
- The Board will hold a special conference call on July 8 to discuss the Idaho Accelerated Cleanup Performance Management Plan, since DOE gave them only a month for comment.
- The Board will tour the site at their meeting July 15-17. They will discuss the wildfire management plan, next year's workplan, and will host several members from the Paducah CAB.
- The Board is arranging to take tours to WIPP and the Nevada Test Site/Yucca Mountain site.
- INEEL is still awaiting a new manager.

Savannah River

- The CAB is awaiting the confirmation letter for the funding for the Performance Management Plan.
- They are also awaiting a letter from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board regarding wastes in the F Canyon.

- The Governor of South Carolina has now been legally prohibited from blocking waste shipments from Rocky Flats to SRS.
- The Board's next meeting will be a two-day retreat in Charleston.

4. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- Congressional Update—Congress is now in session discussing the budget bills (FY02 supplemental funding and the FY03 budget bills). Congress is in recess July 1-5. There are general budget issues in both the House and Senate. A long continuing resolution is possible.

5. GENERAL UPDATE

- The SSAB Charter has been signed and ratified with a few minor changes, such as now mentioning the Site Manager as the primary advisee. A memorandum from Jessie Roberson to the Site Managers accompanied the Charter, advising the Managers to work with the CABs in planning their work and plans a meeting agenda to enable the boards to provide DOE with timely and relevant advice and recommendations on issues of importance to accelerating cleanup. Martha Crosland, HQ, will e-mail a copy of the Charter and the Jessie Roberson memo to each Board.
- Luther Gibson, OR, reported that he asked Martha about the status of the ATI Forum report by Global Environment & Technology Foundation (GETF), the facilitation contractor. She commented that the GETF summary of the ATI Forum will be sent out before the end of June.
- Mark Donham, Paducah, requested that the record of the call reflect that, in his opinion, it is not "good news" as observed by Jean Sulc of the SRS CAB that SRS will now be receiving plutonium from Rocky Flats.
- Wendy Lowe, Idaho, will help Jim Brannon, LA, get the letter to Jessie Roberson signed electronically.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

- Martha Crosland, HQ, thanked everyone for their participation.

000056



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DOE-0616-02

JUL 29 2002

Dear Fernald Stakeholder:

2001 SITE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Copies of the Fernald Environmental Management Project's 2001 Site Environmental Report (formerly referred to as the Integrated Site Environmental Report in past years) are now available by request. The report presents results from environmental monitoring conducted during calendar year 2001, as well as a summary of progress toward final remediation and regulatory compliance activities at the Fernald site during the year.

Fluor Fernald, Inc., on behalf of the United States Department of Energy (DOE), prepared the 2001 Site Environmental Report. Both organizations have reviewed the report to ensure its accuracy. This report is distributed to local, state, and federal agencies and politicians, the public, and the media. It includes a summary report and a single volume of supporting appendices.

The stand-alone summary report is intended to serve the same wide audience as past annual reports. The detailed appendices are intended to serve a more technical audience, such as the regulatory agencies, and therefore, will receive a limited distribution.

Both the summary report and appendices can be obtained by mailing a written request to the Public Environmental Information Center at 10995 Hamilton-Cleaves Highway, Harrison, OH 45030, or calling the center at (513) 648-7480. The report will also be available soon on the Fernald Web page (www.fernald.gov) under the "Cleanup" heading and the link to "Environmental Monitoring."

Sincerely,


Stephen H. McCracken

Director

FEMP:Nickel

A Look Ahead - August 12, 2002

Soil and Disposal Facility Project update

Construction of the liners for cells 4 and 5 continues. To finish completing the 5-foot thick liners, leak detection and leachate collection systems will be installed along with layers of natural materials (clay and gravel) and man-made materials (plastic liners). The liners for cells 4 and 5 will be finished by the end of this construction season. Workers will continue placing impacted materials in cells 2 and 3, which are 80 and 40 percent complete, respectively. For more information on Soil Projects, visit www.fernald.gov/Cleanup/sdfp.htm, or contact Rob Janke, DOE-Fernald Soil and Disposal Facility project manager, 513-648-3124, email: rob.janke@fernald.gov

Decontamination and Demolition Project update

Decontamination and Demolition (D&D) activities continue in the Plant 2, 3 and 8 complexes and the General Sump. Work includes establishing building enclosures, size reducing debris, removal of equipment, piping and interior transite and siding. Mactec workers continue to mobilize in the Pilot Plant. Work includes installing fencing and a control point trailer, which provides single entry into the work location. Removal of structural steel and concrete masonry continues at Building 53A (Safety & Health Building). Final D&D of the building will be complete by the end of August. For more information on D&D Projects, visit www.fernald.gov/Cleanup/D&D.htm, or contact John Trygier, DOE-Fernald D&D project manager, 513-648-3154, email: john.trygier@fernald.gov

Silos Project update

In August, a subcontract will be awarded for construction of the concrete mat foundation for the Silos 1 and 2 treatment facility. Subcontracts for the final design and subsequent fabrication of the tank agitator and product mixer systems will also be awarded. Also during the month, workers will complete the excavation of contaminated soil from the footprints of the Silos 1 and 2 treatment facility, warehouse, and rail spur. Accelerated Advanced Waste Retrieval (AWR) project personnel will turn over the chiller/dryer and the Radon Control System Air Handling Building to Operations in August and crews continue work on the Silo 4 Reinforcement project, a preliminary mock up activity in preparation for Silo 3 waste retrieval operations. For more information on the Silos Projects, visit www.fernald.gov/Cleanup/Silos1-2.htm, or contact Nina Akgunduz, DOE-Fernald Silos project manager, 513-648-3110, email: nina.akgunduz@fernald.gov

Aquifer Restoration/Wastewater Project update

Development and drilling for new extraction, monitoring, and injection wells continue in the area adjacent to Willey Road. A contract was awarded in July to DeBra-Kimple who will be constructing the infrastructure for three new injection wells. Two of the original five re-injection wells have reached their useful life and are being replaced with new wells. The new injection wells will bring the total to six. All wells will be located along the southern property line. When operational, these wells will re-inject treated groundwater back into the aquifer at the rate of 200 gallons per minute per well. For more information, visit www.fernald.gov/Cleanup/Aquifer.htm, or contact Rob Janke, DOE-Fernald Aquifer Restoration project manager, 513-648-3124, email: rob.janke@fernald.gov

Cleanup Progress Briefing to focus on 2001 environmental monitoring results
The Cleanup Progress Briefing will be held August 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the T-1 Conference Room at the Fernald site. The focus of the meeting will be on monitoring data for air, groundwater, surface water, On-Site Disposal Facility and natural resources as presented in the newly issued 2001 Site Environmental Report. Visitors entering the site must show photo identification at the main entrance where Fernald Security officers will inspect all vehicles. For more information, contact Gary Stegner, DOE-Fernald Public Affairs Officer, 513-648-3153, email: gary.stegner@fernald.gov

Lawmakers question whether speedier nuclear waste cleanups would leave contamination

By H. Josef Hebert, Associated Press

Friday, July 12, 2002

WASHINGTON — Senators and several state officials said Thursday they fear an Energy Department attempt to speed the cleanup of waste from decades of nuclear weapons production may leave the sites still contaminated.

The Bush administration, in an attempt to accelerate and cut the cost of such cleanups, announced earlier this year it would give preference in distributing money to locations that agree to commit to a quicker cleanup.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham wants to use \$800 million of the \$6.7 billion annual cleanup budget as incentive for these accelerated programs. Critics have voiced concern that while some facilities will get more money, others will see money siphoned away.

But at a Senate hearing Thursday, state officials from Washington, New Mexico, and Idaho expressed another worry: The incentive to push for faster cleanup may leave some sites less clean in violation of long-standing agreements with state and local authorities. "It's not cleanup to leave waste behind," Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., told Energy Department officials at a hearing by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the plan.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., the panel's chairman, said the administration approach "could be viewed as an incentive to encourage state regulators to relax site cleanup standards."

Jesse Roberson, the DOE's assistant secretary for environmental management, testified that the new approach is an effort to give priority to the most high-risk environmental problems and deal with them faster and at less cost. "It's not our intent to avoid compliance with any of our regulatory agreements," said Roberson.

Nowhere is the waste problem more challenging than the Energy Department's Hanford reservation in central Washington state, where there are 177 underground tanks — some of them leaking an unknown mix of radioactive material — threatening to contaminate the nearby Columbia River. About half of the special \$800 million fund has been earmarked for Hanford.

But Christine Gregoire, Washington state's attorney general, told the committee she is concerned that along with a speedier cleanup, the Energy Department will renege on past promises to remove from the site at least 99 percent of the tank waste. "We want it all out," she said.

Despite DOE assurances, Gregoire said there have been ominous signs that under the accelerated cleanup plan, the department will reclassify some of the tank waste as something less than "high-level" waste, meaning they will not have to remove it. She said the DOE also has decided to build only one, instead of two, plants to solidify the waste in glass, suggesting the department may now be planning to remove less waste.

Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., tried to press Roberson on the issue, asking that she give assurances that 99 percent of the waste in the Hanford tanks be removed and that wastes not be reclassified.

"We have a commitment to move as much waste as feasible," said Roberson, refusing to be pinned down on a percentage.

Kathleen Trever of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, also expressed concern about whether the program will mean more pollution being left behind at the DOE's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

Peter Maggiore, head of New Mexico's environment department, said the program will mean more money for cleanup at the Sandia and Los Alamos weapons research labs. While he said he doesn't think it will mean less cleanup at those two sites, Maggiore acknowledged some uncertainty. "It is imperative that accelerated cleanup not be interpreted to mean less cleanup," he testified.

An environmental group, the Natural Resources Defense Council, is arguing before a federal court in Idaho that the Energy Department plans to reclassify waste now held in tanks not only at Hanford but also at the Idaho facility and at the Savannah River complex in South Carolina.

Geoff Fettus, an NRDC attorney, said the suit charges that such a reclassification would violate federal law because this waste comes from nuclear reprocessing in past weapons production and therefore must be treated as high-level waste. Under the law, any high-level waste must be put into a deep geological repository, presumably the Yucca Mountain facility in Nevada that has yet to be built.

DOE to convert uranium to cancer-fighting isotope

Washington - Some of the uranium the United States stored during the Cold War to manufacture nuclear weapons soon may be used to treat cancer patients.

As part of the federal government's initiative to clean up former weapon manufacturing facilities, the Department of Energy has invited private companies to submit proposals for turning uranium - 233 into bismuth - 213, an isotope that has shown promise in the treatment of cancer.

"DOE has an important responsibility to clean up the dangerous materials and old contaminated structures left over from the Cold War," Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said. "That we can fulfill this mission while producing valuable new tools in the fight against cancer is an exciting and unique opportunity."

The federal government plans to begin awarding contracts next spring for companies to begin converting uranium from the department's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee into medical isotopes.

"This program truly turns swords into ploughshares," said Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich., who has urged the Department of Energy to make uranium available for medical use.

The program will increase the supply of isotopes to medical researchers by 5,000 percent, Knollenberg said.

"It is all the better that we can take material designed for destruction and possibly use it to bring hope and life to cancer patients," he said.

Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York City has used bismuth-213 in human clinical trials for the treatment of acute myelogenous leukemia. The isotope also is being explored in the treatment of cancer of the lungs, pancreas and kidneys.