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Three Cleanup Program Teams in Idaho Recognized by Energy Secretary

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – Three Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) organizations at the Idaho National Laboratory Site were honored recently by Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm for exemplary performance.

The Buried Waste Retrieval, Office of Assistant Manager for Business and Acquisition Management and Naval Reactors and Environmental Management Decontamination and Decommissioning Partnership teams received a 2022 Achievement Award for significant achievements on behalf of DOE, demonstrating cooperation and teamwork in attaining their goals. The awards, given on behalf of DOE and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC) employees alike, are the highest form of employee recognition for excellence and achievement.

Buried Waste Retrieval Team members were honored for their dedication to completing buried transuranic waste retrieval at the Subsurface Disposal Area (SDA). Braving extremely adverse and hazardous conditions, the team exhumed over 10,000 cubic meters of buried transuranic waste from 5.69 acres of the SDA over 17 years. Their novel approach to use large fabric tent enclosures for waste retrieval was integral in protecting the workers and the public from the cleanup hazards.

The Office of Assistant Manager for Business and Acquisition Management team was recognized for successfully implementing a new contracting model between the department and IEC. This novel contracting approach was developed and implemented within EM to provide flexibility to task its contractors for site closure or end states to yield significant reductions in EM's environmental risk and financial liability.

The Naval Reactors and Environmental Management Decontamination and Decommissioning Partnership Team was also honored by the Energy Secretary. In Idaho, EM, the state of Idaho and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a proposal to remove the S1W and A1W reactor prototypes and associated buildings at the Naval Reactors Facility. A decision on that proposal is expected in early 2023. IEC crews have already demolished two S1W ancillary buildings.

"Congratulations to all three teams for this well-deserved recognition," said Connie Flohr, EM manager in Idaho. "Your commitment to executing our important work safely, compliantly, and cost-effectively is well appreciated in both Idaho and Washington, D.C."

Flohr said the state of Idaho and EPA, partners with the DOE in executing work outlined in the 1991 *Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order*, also deserve credit.

"Our relationship with the state and EPA is built on trust and the safe execution of our cleanup mission," she said. "With this partnership, which extends beyond 30 years, we have delivered on the promises made to the citizens of Idaho."

The Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC), led by Jacobs and North Wind Portage, manages the Idaho Cleanup Project at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site, located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 10-year, \$6.4 billion project, funded through DOE's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on safely dispositioning transuranic waste, managing spent nuclear fuel, treating radioactive liquid waste, removing legacy structures, and closing facilities that have completed their missions. IEC is committed to protecting its employees, the public, and environment while meeting all existing and future milestones necessary to further the INL's mission.

For more information visit the Idaho Cleanup Project on the Web at <https://idahoenvironmental.com/>

Suggested Captions

DOE-Environmental Management and Idaho Environmental Coalition leadership pose in front of the Willowcreek Building after signing a partnership agreement in 2022.

Crews survey a drum of repackaged targeted waste at the Accelerated Retrieval Project IX facility.

IEC crews demolish two ancillary buildings at the Naval Reactors Facility.

NOTE: Videos are available for use by television media at the web address listed above.