

## Who is the INL Oversight Program?

The INL Oversight Program was established by the Idaho Legislature in 1989 to provide Idaho citizens an independent source of information about U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) operations within Idaho and specifically at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The program is managed by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

### INL Oversight Program Mission

To determine whether activities at the INL are protective of the health and safety of Idaho citizens and the environment in a fiscally responsible and efficient manner.

The program's intent is to equip citizens with the information necessary to come to informed conclusions about the impacts of DOE operations in Idaho. This gives citizens the opportunity to be part of the decision-making process.

To meet this responsibility, the following actions are performed:

- independently monitor the environment in and around the INL
- conduct independent impact assessments of DOE activities
- participate in emergency preparedness and response efforts

The program is staffed by a team of experts in radiation and health physics, geology, structural and nuclear engineering, hydrogeology, ecology, biology, computer science, and other areas.

## For More Information

### Idaho Department of Environmental Quality INL Oversight Program

900 N. Skyline Drive, Suite B  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
ph: (208) 528-2600  
fx: (208) 528-2605

[www.deq.idaho.gov/inl-oversight-program](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/inl-oversight-program)

# INL Oversight Program:

Gathering and sharing  
information on INL activities  
impacting the environment  
and the lives of Idaho  
citizens



Idaho Department of  
Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov)



Printed on recycled paper; DEQ May 2012. PID 0205, CA 30060. Costs associated with this publication are available from the State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in accordance with Section 60-202, Idaho Code.

## What Does the INL Oversight Program Do?

The INL Oversight Program fulfills its mission by independently identifying, quantifying, and communicating potential sources of risk to the environment or people of Idaho from DOE activities at the INL, with particular emphasis on radiological issues and other issues not covered under Idaho's regulatory authority. The mission is accomplished by:

### Monitoring the Environment

The INL Oversight Program independently monitors air, direct radiation, water, and terrestrial (milk and soil) media as part of the Environmental Surveillance Program. These measurements are made for locations on and off the INL site. Program scientists also verify DOE monitoring results and maintain community monitoring stations around the INL in partnership with federal and tribal agencies.



### Assessing Impacts

The INL Oversight Program evaluates current and potential environmental and public health impacts of activities at DOE facilities. Waste inventories, spent nuclear fuel handling, and radiological waste disposition are all subject to program scrutiny.

The program also ensures that DOE complies with the terms of the 1995 court settlement agreement, which outlines the milestones necessary to remove spent nuclear fuel, high level radioactive waste, and transuranic waste from Idaho.

### Preparing for Emergencies

The INL Oversight Program provides technical assistance and training to state, local, and tribal agencies to assist with planning, preparedness, and local emergency response to INL radiological incidents. In this role, the program provides local and state emergency responders with instruments and training to support radioactive waste shipments



to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site in New Mexico. Additionally, the program offers radiological expertise for non-INL radiological emergency response.

## Informing the Public

The INL Oversight Program regularly publishes technical and non-technical reports to communicate findings and activities. Staff are available to speak with the public about their work through schools, fairs, community organizations, and public events. For contact information and links to INL Oversight Program publications on DEQ's Web site, see the back panel of this brochure.



## About the Idaho National Laboratory



For more than half a century, the Idaho National Laboratory has been the primary site for development of peacetime uses of nuclear energy and for development of nuclear reactors to power the U.S. Navy. More recently, the laboratory has focused on environmental cleanup and restoration as well as energy technology development.

Operated by the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors, the INL is located 40 miles west of Idaho Falls and covers almost 900 square miles of the Eastern Snake River Plain.

*Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center at the INL*

