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Buried Waste Retrieval Resumes at DOE Idaho Site

IDAHO FALLS, ID – Fluor Idaho, LLC, cleanup contractor at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory Site, has resumed the exhumation of buried Cold War weapons waste following a safety review.

Fluor Idaho temporarily suspended buried waste exhumation at the Accelerated Retrieval Project VIII facility as a precaution following an April 11 drum breach at the nearby Accelerated Retrieval Project V site. Following a review, Fluor Idaho revised the waste exhumation and repackaging process with additional controls to mitigate the risk of a similar event. The controls include raking and thermal monitoring of exhumed sludge waste prior to repackaging.

Four drums breached on the late evening of April 11 at ARP V several hours after being treated and repackaged. No external contamination was detected and there were no personnel injuries. Cleanup of the ARP V building continues.

To date, crews have removed buried waste containing plutonium, solidified solvents and uranium (called roaster oxides) from a combined area of 1.54 acres of ARP VIII. ARP VIII is 89.5 percent complete.

Waste generated during the development of atomic weapons was sent from the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, to Idaho for buried disposal from 1954 until 1970. In 2008, the DOE, Environmental Protection Agency and state of Idaho agreed to remediate a total of 5.69 acres of buried waste and ship the material out of Idaho for permanent disposal. The overall buried waste exhumation effort remains ahead of schedule.

Once exhumation is complete in ARP VIII, work will begin in the nearby ARP IX facility to remove the last of the waste required by the 2008 agreement.

Fluor Idaho, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fluor Corporation with subcontractor partners CH2M, North Wind Inc., Portage, and Waste Control Specialists. Fluor Idaho manages the Idaho Cleanup Project Core contract at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory Site located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 5-year, \$1.4 billion project, funded through the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on early risk reduction and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

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

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