

For Immediate Release

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Sludge Drum Project Progresses at Idaho Site Facility

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – Fluor Idaho crews have treated and repackaged 100 drums of radioactive sludge waste to date at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) VII facility at the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site.

The contents of approximately 2,400 drums will be treated in the ARP VII facility, raked thoroughly, thermally monitored and repackaged prior to out-of-state disposal. The ARP VII facility, equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, was most recently used to reduce the size of large, contaminated legacy waste boxes and debris prior to repackaging them for shipment to permanent disposal facilities.

The waste treated at ARP VII was generated during the Cold War, primarily at the Rocky Flats Plant near Denver, and was sent to the INL Site until the 1980s.

New processes will minimize the chance of an event similar to a breach of four drums following waste treatment and repackaging at the ARP V facility in April 2018. No external contamination was detected from that event and there were no injuries.

"Our crews have improved the processes for safely treating and packaging sludge wastes," said Jason Chapple, a manager at Fluor Idaho, INL Site cleanup contractor.

The DOE Environmental Management Program and Fluor Idaho are currently involved in the closure of the ARP V facility in compliance with federal regulations.

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 safely remediating the Idaho National Laboratory site including dispositioning transuranic waste, managing spent nuclear fuel, and treating high-level radioactive waste.

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

Suggested Caption

An excavator empties the contents of a sludge drum into a sorting tray at the Accelerated Retrieval Project VII facility. Sludge includes transuranic metals, oils, and other liquids sent to DOE's Idaho National Laboratory Site from the former Rocky Flats Plant, an EM closure site.