

For Immediate Release

Date: June 4, 2019

Media Contact: Erik Simpson, (208) 390-9464



Idaho waste treatment facility completes its longest test run

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho – Fluor Idaho crews recently completed a 50-day demonstration of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, treating more than 62,200 gallons of a non-radioactive simulant that mimics waste from an underground tank farm at Department of Energy’s Idaho National Laboratory Site.

The demonstration aimed to achieve long-term, stable operations of the plant designed to treat the tank farm’s 900,000 gallons of radioactive waste. This run also challenged the facility by testing its ability to recover from off-normal events, such as temperature and pressure variations. Additionally, the test run provided data to help finalize remaining environmental permits and confirm the plant’s operating conditions.

Workers conducted a previous IWTU demonstration over 30 days last summer. In that run, the facility successfully converted more than 53,000 gallons of liquid simulant into a dry, granular solid using steam reforming technology.

That test proved that modifications to the primary reaction vessel – called the Denitration Mineralization Reformer (DMR) – were successful. The bottom of the DMR had been modified from a spherical to a conical shape to better promote the fluidization of billions of tiny beads necessary to convert liquid waste to a granular solid.

The IWTU will now go through a several-month outage to make final modifications to prepare the plant for operations.

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>