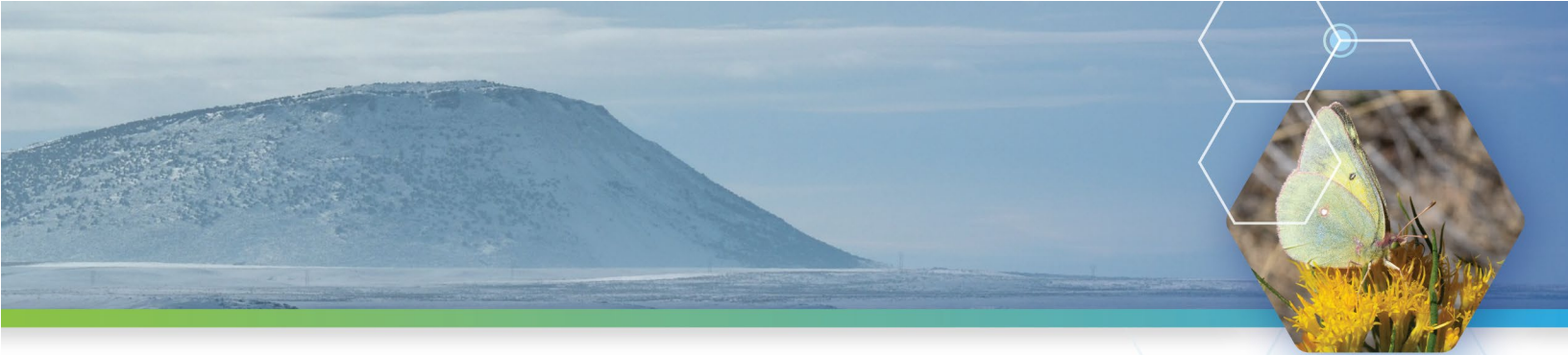




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ANNUAL SITE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Idaho National Laboratory

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Prepared by

**Battelle Energy Alliance
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Pronghorn with Big Southern Butte in background

Executive Summary:



Purpose of the Report

The U.S. Department of Energy - Idaho Operations Office (DOE-ID) oversees the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site. DOE-ID and its contractors remain committed to fulfilling regulatory obligations, protecting the environment, and ensuring the accuracy and integrity of environmental monitoring data. The INL contractor conducts work in accordance with [NE O 458.1A](#), while the Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) contractor operates under [DOE O 458.1](#).

Beginning in 2025, INL operations transitioned to reporting under [NE O 231.1](#), which applies specifically to facilities and activities managed by DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (NE). As a result, the INL contractor prepares an Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) in accordance with NE requirements. In parallel, because the ICP mission remains under DOE-wide oversight, the ICP contractor will prepare a supplemental report (DOE 2026) to accompany this ASER to meet the broader [DOE O 231.1B](#) reporting requirements. This dual-report structure reflects the separation of NE-specific oversight for INL operations from DOE-wide oversight for ICP cleanup activities. The combination of the two reports demonstrates compliance with the requirements for reporting for environmental activities conducted at the INL Site from January 1 through December 31, 2025.

This report describes the impact of INL Site operations on the public and the environment, with emphasis on radioactive contaminants and provides an overview of environmental management activities that:

- Demonstrate INL Site environmental performance by presenting
 - Effluent and environmental surveillance results for air, water, soil, vegetation, wild game, and agricultural products
 - Comparisons of historical data, background levels, and regulatory standards to verify that operations do not adversely impact the public or the environment
- Evaluate potential radiological dose to the public residing near the INL Site
- Document property clearance activities that ensure materials released from radiological areas meet DOE requirements.

Why This Report Matters

The ASER serves as more than a compliance requirement, it is a key transparency tool that provides regulators, stakeholders, and the public with a picture of environmental conditions at the INL Site. By compiling results from thousands of measurements and multiple monitoring programs, the report:

- Confirms that INL operations remain protective of public health and the environment
- Tracks long-term environmental trends and identifies potential issues
- Demonstrates the effectiveness of operational controls and cleanup actions
- Supports informed decision-making by DOE, regulatory agencies, and site managers
- Builds public trust by openly sharing environmental information in a clear and accessible format

A significant portion of the ASER focuses on measured radioactivity in environmental media such as air, water, soil, direct radiation, wildlife, and agricultural products. To support readers who may be less familiar with radiological terms or dose concepts, the report includes a [user guide](#) and [glossary](#). Previous ASERs and reference materials are available under the [Environmental Publications](#) tab of the INL website.

The INL contractor develops and produces the ASER with contributions from the ICP contractor, DOE-ID, NOAA, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The term INL Site contractors, as used throughout the report, refers collectively to the INL and ICP contractors.

Links to contributor websites are as follows:

- [INL](#)
- [ICP](#)
- [DOE-ID](#)
- [NOAA](#)
- [USGS](#)

Environmental activities for the Naval Reactors Facility fall outside the scope of this ASER and are documented separately in the Environmental Monitoring Report issued under the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (FMP 2026).

Organization of the Report

This report is organized into chapters that summarize the environmental monitoring and surveillance activities conducted at the INL Site. Each chapter describes the types of monitoring performed, the methods used, and the detected results for the reporting year, with comparisons to historical trends and regulatory standards as applicable.

Chapter 1 – Overview of the INL Site. Provides an overview of the INL Site's location on the upper Snake River Plain, nearby communities, natural features (such as the Big Lost River and the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer), and the semi-arid sagebrush-steppe environment. The chapter also summarizes the INL Site mission and outlines the roles of the INL and ICP contractors, and USGS in supporting operations and environmental monitoring.

Chapter 2 — Environmental Monitoring of Air. Describes airborne radionuclide emissions from INL Site operations and summarizes ambient air monitoring results. Airborne effluent releases reported under 40 CFR 61, Subpart H are presented along with particulate, charcoal, and atmospheric moisture sampling results. Monitoring data are compared with DOE radiation-protection standards and long-term historical trends.

Chapter 3 — Environmental Monitoring of Liquid Effluents. Summarizes monitoring results for liquid effluents, groundwater, and stormwater associated with wastewater discharges. Monitoring is conducted to meet state reuse permit requirements and DOE environmental protection standards. Results include evaluations of wastewater discharge locations at major facilities; assessments of groundwater quality and radiological conditions near these systems; and summaries of stormwater and surface-water runoff monitoring.

Chapter 4 — Environmental Monitoring of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer. Summarizes groundwater, drinking water, and surface-water monitoring conducted onsite and offsite by the USGS and INL Site contractors. Results include radiological and chemical analyses, trend evaluations, and assessments of known contaminant plumes. The chapter also describes Big Lost River monitoring and compares results to Idaho groundwater standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water maximum contaminant levels, and DOE Derived Concentration Standards (DCSs) (DOE 2022).

Chapter 5 — Environmental Surveillance of Agricultural Products, Wild Game, Soil, and Direct Radiation. Summarizes environmental surveillance conducted to evaluate potential ecological and agricultural pathway impacts. The chapter highlights results for milk, produce, grains, potatoes, alfalfa, big game animals, and waterfowl, along with evaluations of soil trends and environmental radiation levels. Results are compared to historical values and relevant DOE DCSs, with particular focus on identifying potential accumulation of radionuclides in biota and verifying that radiation exposures remain within expected background ranges.

Chapter 6 — Radiation Dose to the Public. Summarizes the estimated radiological dose to members of the public and to nonhuman biota from INL Site operations. Doses are calculated for the maximally exposed individual, the surrounding population, and specific locations where compliance modeling is required. It describes how potential exposures were evaluated using DOE- and EPA-approved models for airborne releases, external radiation, and ingestion pathways, and how results were compared to federal dose limits under NE O 458.1A and 40 CFR 61, Subpart H.

Summary of Results

The following sections summarize key environmental monitoring and surveillance results for 2025, including comparisons to historical conditions and applicable regulatory standards.

Environmental Monitoring of Air (Chapter 2)

Environmental air monitoring in 2025 showed that airborne radionuclide emissions from INL Site operations remained well within federal regulatory limits. Total potential releases to the atmosphere were estimated at 1,792 curies, primarily from the ATR Complex. Effluents included tritium, noble gases, and trace radionuclides, all below regulatory standards. The INL Site contractors' airborne-effluent and ambient air surveillance network verified compliance, documented routine emissions, and provided continuous oversight to detect any unexpected releases.

Ambient air samples contained only naturally occurring radionuclides and levels of uranium consistent with regional background conditions. Human-made radionuclides of concern (including cesium-137, strontium-90, americium-241, and iodine-131) were not detected in routine particulate samples. Tritium was detected in a small number of atmospheric moisture and precipitation samples, but all measured concentrations were far below DOE DCSs and consistent with long-

term background conditions. No unplanned releases or exceedances occurred during the year, and results were consistent with long-term monitoring trends.

Environmental Monitoring of Liquid Effluents (Chapter 3)

Monitoring of liquid effluents, associated groundwater, and surface water runoff in 2025 demonstrated compliance with Idaho reuse permits and DOE environmental protection requirements. All monitored systems operated within permitted hydraulic and constituent limits. Wastewater discharges at the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) Complex Cold Waste Ponds, the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) Percolation Ponds and Sewage Treatment Plant, the Materials and Fuels Complex Industrial Waste Pond, and stormwater-related locations at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex remained consistent with long-term operational and monitoring trends.

At ATR, elevated chromium concentrations in a downgradient monitoring Well USGS-065 exceeded the primary constituent standard and continued to reflect legacy Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-related legacy contamination, not current effluent discharges. Chromium in ATR effluent remained low and stable. At INTEC, chromium results exceeded the PCS in Well ICPP-MON-V-212, and the elevated levels were attributed to well corrosion. Following installation of a new pump, subsequent chromium concentrations returned to expected concentrations.

Radiological surveillance results across all facilities (gross alpha, gross beta, tritium, gamma-emitters, uranium isotopes, americium, and plutonium) remained well below health-based Idaho groundwater standards and DOE DCSSs. Results were consistent with historical conditions, with no indication of impacts from ongoing operations.

Surface water runoff monitoring at RWMC showed radionuclide concentrations well below the DOE DCSSs, and all results were consistent with historical observations.

Environmental Monitoring of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (Chapter 4)

Groundwater, drinking water, and surface water monitoring conducted across the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer in 2025 confirmed that INL Site operations did not adversely affect this critical regional resource. Comprehensive monitoring performed by the USGS and INL Site contractors showed that aquifer constituent concentrations remained consistent with long-term historical trends; however, several monitoring locations exhibited exceedances of applicable Idaho groundwater standards and EPA maximum contaminant levels associated with established CERCLA plumes.

Localized exceedances—such as strontium-90 at select INTEC wells, technetium-99 near the INTEC Tank Farm, and nitrate southeast of INTEC—were consistent with known CERCLA plumes and continued to display stable or declining trends. Chromium at USGS-065 and TRA-07 showed an increase but remains attributable to historical contamination. Tritium, once the most widespread aquifer contaminant at INL, continued its long-term downward trend and remained well below the MCL of 20,000 pCi/L.

Onsite drinking water systems remained in full compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. All radiological, inorganic, organic, and PFAS sample results were below regulatory limits, with many parameters not detected. Offsite drinking water samples contained no detectable tritium and gross alpha/gross beta levels consistent with historical results.

Due to zero surface water flow at all Big Lost River monitoring locations in 2025, no onsite Big Lost River samples were collected. Offsite surface water samples from downgradient springs showed background levels resulting from naturally occurring radionuclides and no detectable tritium.

Environmental Surveillance Monitoring of Agricultural Products, Wild Game, Soil, and Direct Radiation Measurements (Chapter 5)

Environmental surveillance of agricultural products, wild game, and direct radiation in 2025 found no evidence that INL Site operations adversely impacted surrounding food chains, wildlife, or radiation levels.

Agricultural products, including milk, lettuce, grains, potatoes, and alfalfa, collected on and around the INL Site showed no detectable human-made radionuclides except for low concentrations of tritium detected in two milk samples, far below applicable DCS values. A single cesium-137 detection in a waterfowl remainder subsample reflected historical background conditions observed in prior years. Big game animal tissues contained no detectable human-made radionuclides. All results were consistent with long-term patterns dominated by global fallout rather than INL sources.

Direct radiation monitoring showed that measurements from November 2024 to April 2025 were consistent with expected background conditions. However, optically stimulated luminescence dosimeter results for the May–October 2025 sampling period were determined to be invalid due to inadvertent exposure to an x-ray scanner during shipment. As a result, the

2025 external radiation assessment relied on established background estimates rather than a full set of measured values. Neutron dosimeters recorded no measurable neutron dose above detection limits.

Radiation Dose to the Public from INL Site Releases (Chapter 6)

Environmental dose assessments for 2025 show that INL Site operations continued to contribute only negligible radiation exposure to the public, with all estimated doses remaining far below federal and DOE regulatory limits. The maximally exposed individual received an estimated 0.025 mrem in 2025, an increase from the 2024 value of 0.015 mrem yet still only 0.25% of the Clean Air Act 40 CFR 61, Subpart H limit of 10 mrem/yr from airborne emissions. At the INL Research and Education Campus in Idaho Falls, the maximally exposed individual received an estimated 0.0045 mrem/yr, a slight decrease from the 2024 value of 0.0048 mrem/yr, which is less than 0.1% of the 10 mrem/yr federal standard and consistent with historical dose estimates.

The collective population dose within 80 km of the INL Site was calculated as 0.16 person-rem for an estimated population of 363,157 people—equivalent to only 0.0001% of the natural background radiation dose to that same population. This value is slightly higher than previous years due to improvements in atmospheric dispersion modeling (HYSPLIT-ASMD) rather than changes in INL emissions.

Ingestion pathways again contributed no measurable dose, as no human-made radionuclides were detected in edible tissues of waterfowl or big game animals collected in 2025.

Direct radiation monitoring along the INL boundary could not rely on a full-year dataset due to inadvertent x-ray exposure of dosimeters during shipment in the May–October 2025 period. However, valid measurements collected from November 2024 through April 2025 indicated an external dose of 60.4 mrem for that six-month period, consistent with background and historical environmental radiation levels.

Overall, the 2025 total dose from all pathways was 0.025 mrem, demonstrating that INL Site activities continued to pose no significant radiological impact to the public.

Summary of Conclusions

In 2025, surveillance and effluent monitoring, supported by detailed source characterization and comprehensive dose assessments, confirmed that radiological dose to the hypothetical maximally exposed individual remained far below typical background radiation levels. Estimated radiological dose to biota was also well below DOE screening thresholds, demonstrating that INL Site operations posed no measurable ecological risk. Monitoring programs verified full compliance with all permitted air and water discharge requirements, and evaluations of air, groundwater, surface water, agricultural products, wildlife, and direct radiation showed minimal contributions from INL Site activities to regional environmental conditions. Overall, environmental surveillance results indicated that the INL Site continued to operate in a manner that is protective of both human health and the environment. All laboratory data used in this report were reviewed and determined to be valid, reliable, and defensible.

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Acronyms:



ARIR	Administrative Record Information Repository	IRC	INL Research Center
ASER	Annual Site Environmental Report	ISB	in situ bioremediation
ATR	Advanced Test Reactor	IWP	Industrial Waste Pond
BEA	Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC	MCL	maximum contaminant level
CAP88-PC	Clean Air Act Assessment Package-1988 computer model, PC	MEI	maximally exposed individual
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	MFC	Materials and Fuels Complex
CFA	Central Facilities Area	ND	not detected
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NE	Nuclear Energy
CITRC	Critical Infrastructure Test Range Complex	NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
CPS	counts per second	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CTF	Contained Test Facility	NRF	Naval Reactors Facility
CWP	Cold Waste Pond	OSLD	optically stimulated luminescence dosimeter
DCS	Derived Concentration Standard	PCS	primary constituent standard
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality (state of Idaho)	PFAS	per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy	PFHxS	perfluorohexane sulfonic acid
DOE-ID	U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office	PFOA	perfluorooctanoic acid
DOSEMM	dose multi-media	PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfonate
EFS	Experimental Field Station	RHLLW	Remote-Handled Low-level Waste Disposal Facility
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	RWMC	Radioactive Waste Management Complex
ESRPA	Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer	SDA	Subsurface Disposal Area
FY	fiscal year	SORD	Special Operations and Research Division
HYSPLIT	Hybrid Single-particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory	STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
ICDF	Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility	TAN	Test Area North
ICP	Idaho Cleanup Project	TCE	trichloroethylene
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act	TDS	total dissolved solids
INL	Idaho National Laboratory	USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
INL Site Contractors	INL contractor and ICP contractor	UTL	upper tolerance limit
INTEC	Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (formerly Idaho Chemical Processing Plant)	VOC	volatile organic compound
		WAG	waste area group



A Goldenrod Crab Spider.

Units:



Bq	becquerel
C	Celsius
cfm	cubic feet per minute
CFU	colony forming unit
Ci	curie
cm	centimeter
cps	counts per second
d	day
F	Fahrenheit
ft	feet
g	gram
gal	gallon
Gy	gray
ha	hectare
keV	kilo-electron-volts
kg	kilograms (10^3) gram
km	kilometer (10^3) meter
L	liter
lb	pound
m	meter
μ Ci	microcurie (10^{-6}) curies
μ g	microgram (10^{-6}) grams
μ R	microroentgen (10^{-6}) roentgen

μ S	microsiemen (10^{-6}) siemen
μ Sv	microsievert (10^{-6}) sievert
Ma	million years
mCi	millicurie (10^{-3}) curies
MeV	mega electron volt
mg	milligram (10^{-3}) grams
MG	million gallons
mGy	milligray (10^{-3}) gray
MI	million liters
mi	mile
min	minute
mL	milliliter (10^{-3}) liter
mR	milliroentgen (10^{-3}) roentgen
mrad	millirad (10^{-3}) rad
mSv	millisievert (10^{-3}) sievert
oz	ounce
pCi	picocurie (10^{-12}) curies)
R	roentgen
rad	radiation absorbed dose
rem	roentgen equivalent man
Sv	sievert
yd	yard
yr	year



A sagebrush sheep moth on sagebrush.

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