

AFTER INL WORDS

October 23, 2009

www.irea.info

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Tom McLaughlin, 523-1481, Tommac2230@aol.com

During this past summer IREA held two fun events for INL retirees. The annual picnic was held at Tautphaus Park and the golf tournament at Sage Lakes. You can read about these in more detail in other sections of this newsletter. The IREA webpage also contains photos of picnic attendees, many of whom you may be able to identify even though you may not have attended.

The fall General Meeting was held in late September and featured a program by AREVA's Bob Poyser. He discussed the AREVA worldwide operations and the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility proposed to be built west of Idaho Falls. More information is contained in this newsletter. Mark Scrogam from BEA presented a summary of the INL Retirement and Investment Plans. During the last year the markets have been unsettled causing changes in the value of both plans. Mark has been very gracious in attending this meeting and our previous spring meeting to provide retirees with the most recent information on the plans.

With the present administration's efforts to slow down, if not terminate, licensing activities for Yucca Mountain for the disposal of high level waste, the IREA board voted to become co-signers of the Partnership of Science and

Technology's (PST) letter to DOE Secretary Chu on alternatives to Yucca Mountain. Since failure to complete this facility will impact INL's proposed disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level waste, the board felt it was important to go on record supporting these concerns. This letter is included in this newsletter for all members to read.

A big thanks to our Program Chairperson/Secretary Nancy Carlson and Historian Felix Vanderwiele for taking all the past IREA records and putting them in electronic format. Felix reviewed the paper records and put them in order, and Nancy entered them into electronic format. These records go back to 1990 and contain much of the history of the organization that was still available in paper format. The file also contains the current by-laws, and files on the establishment of the organization along with the Charter members and a narrative history of the organization from 1990 to 1999. Members can view this information by contacting one of the board members.

We will once again have the annual Spring banquet where I hope to see many of you. For those that go south during our winter months, maybe you could come back a little early and join us.

FALL 2009 GENERAL MEETING - Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

On September 23, 2009 over 70 attendees at the IREA fall General Meeting had an opportunity to learn about the proposed AREVA Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility as well as get an update on both INL's Investment and Retirement plans.

Bob Poyser, AREVA's Vice President of Idaho Falls Operations, shared an overview of AREVA worldwide and the proposed Idaho Falls Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. AREVA, a French owned company that is ranked first in the global nuclear power industry, is focused on setting the standard for carbon-free power generation and electricity transmission. They have an integrated approach to nuclear power as their business model includes every stage of the fuel cycle, reactor design and construction, and related services. In addition, AREVA strives to promote environmental respect, social

responsibility and improvement, and economic development as an integral part of every facility.

Bob provided answers to many of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the enrichment facility. The proposed Eagle Rock facility will enrich natural uranium from 0.7% to 5.0% U²³⁵ fissionable material using gas centrifuge technology. The facility is a small water user with the amount of water needed for a year of operation equaling the water used by one center pivot irrigation system during a summer. The facility's power consumption rate is 30MW. There is nearly zero air discharge resulting from facility operation, and there is no water discharge to the ground. No waste burial occurs on-site as all hazardous and radioactive waste is shipped off-site with the exception of the depleted uranium UF₆ byproduct. It will remain onsite until a disposal facility is available.

Although AREVA has revised its original facility request to the NRC to double facility production, Bob provided a timeline as well as FAQ answers based on the original facility size. Construction requires 11 years with construction planned to start in 2011 and employ 500-1,000 construction-related workers over those 11 years. The facility will operate for 30 years (from 2014 to 2041) with initial operation starting in 2014 when the first centrifuge hall will be operational. Facility operations will require 300-500 employees. In addition the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility is anticipated to result in 3,000-5,000 indirect jobs and provide \$5B in tax revenue over the life of the facility.

During a question and answer period, Bob explained that Highway 20, the main access to the enrichment facility, will require major improvements to move equipment, fuel, and workers to and from the facility. Bonneville County is aware of this need and is working collaboratively with AREVA to make road improvements happen once the facility is a go. He provided the technical reasoning for the selection of centrifuge technology for the enrichment process. Bob also encouraged IREA members and all members of the community to attend upcoming NRC review meetings to show support for the project even if you do not have a question or comment. The NRC's review process is very public support sensitive so it is critical to have high attendance at all NRC meetings on the facility.

Following the AREVA presentation Mark Scrogam, INL Retirement and Investment Plan Committee

Administrative Secretary, provided updates on both the defined contribution plan, the 401K plan administered by Vanguard, and the define benefits plan, the annuity plan that pays our monthly retirement checks.

As of August 31, 2009 there were 6,925 active participants in the 401K plan. INL is currently working with Vanguard to explore the addition of another fund to our plan – a “true” balanced fund. Although the current Vanguard Asset Allocation fund is described as a balanced fund, in the past few years the fund has positioned nearly all the fund dollars in stocks and only recently has moved about 20% of fund dollars into bonds. Mark indicated that Vanguard will alert all participants of the new fund offering when negotiations are final. So be on the look-out for an additional fund around the beginning of 2010.

As of September 23, 2009 there are 9,802 persons participating in or beneficiaries of the INL Employee Retirement Plan. Of the 9,802 participants, 4,304 are currently receiving benefits. See the Benefits section of this newsletter for additional details on the Retirement Plan.

Following the presentation by our two speakers, attendees enjoyed pizza and a beverage and had time to talk with old and new friends.

A special thanks to Chuck Briggs for setting up the speakers for our fall general meeting!

2009-2010 IREA Board

NAME	FUNCTION	PHONE	EMAIL
Tom McLaughlin	President	523-1481	tommac2230@aol.com
John Johnson	V- President and Investments	523-7406	jejohnson@cableone.net
Norm Kramer	Treasurer	522-8677	nak@srv.net
LeRoy Meyer	Membership	523-7306	mey217@cableone.net
Nancy Carlson	Secretary and Programs	523-9128	nancymcarlson@msn.com
Felix Vandewiele	Historian and Consumer Affairs	523-0894	vandewiele@q.com
Rich Ising	Benefits	523-7395	isingclan@gmail.com
Everett Gruen	Publicity	523-3670	gegruen@cableone.net
Carol Jones	Social	521-2477	carolejones@cableone.net
John Flinn	Publicity and Energy Education	523-7330	flinnj@srv.net
Gary Johnsen	Energy Education	529-8849	gwjohnsen@gmail.com
Chuck Briggs	Programs	542-2882	carbriggs@ida.net

MEMBERSHIP – LeRoy Meyer, 523-7306, mey217@cableone.net

The two digit number after your name on your newsletter mailing label denotes the year that your membership dues are paid through. For example:

LeRoy Meyer 11

The 11 means that my membership is paid through the year 2011.

If you know a retired INL person who is not a member of IREA, pass on the form found on the last page of this newsletter. Remember, if you recruit 5 new members, you will receive a free year of membership

New IREA members: New members since the July 2009 newsletter are: Dan Yurman, Ray Anderson, Steve Wagoner, and Gary Sumpter.

Welcome!

Currently we have 398 active members.

To receive email alerts from IREA: If you have an email address, please send it to LeRoy Meyer at mey217@srv.net. That way we can alert you via email about critical contractor dates that pertain to retirees – like the 2010 retiree benefit enrollment dates. Many times the publication of the newsletter does not align with critical dates and deadlines you need to know about or with retiree opportunities to participate in INL sponsored events. We promise NO junk emails or spam – only items of importance to INL retirees!!!!

NO LONGER WITH US – Felix Vandewiele, 523-0894, vandewiele@q.com.

The following lists those of our INL friends who passed away from July through September 2009. IREA's historian, Felix Vandewiele, compiles this information from the Post Register (Idaho Falls) and by calls from friends and family. We publish this list on a monthly basis on our website at <http://www.irea.info> in addition to the IREA newsletter. If there are names you know we have missed, please contact Felix.

Other than July-September 2009

Kent B. Seamons (78) died 3/28/09. He worked at the INL in Maintenance at TRA for many years.

Jason Ashworth died on 1/4/2009. He worked at INL.

July 2009

Karla Lorene Young (59) died 7/1/09. She worked at the INL for a short time for Phillips Petroleum Co.

George Wellington Jackson Sr. (80) died 7/2/09. He worked at the INL for Argonne National Laboratory starting in 1966 and retiring in 1983.

C. Gale Campbell (74) died 7/3/09. He worked at the INL for Argonne National Laboratory in Material Handling.

Beverly Jeane Ystad Miller (79) died 7/4/09. She worked at the INL for Westinghouse as a Secretary.

Robert "Bob" Andrew Grimesey (80) died 7/4/09. He worked at the INL in Reactor Physics for 34 years retiring in 1991. He designed a mathematical

algorithm to calculate the cross section of elements in the core of a nuclear reactor. This algorithm is currently in use by Physicists all over the world.

David Neal Thompson (52) died 7/5/09. He worked at the INL.

Donald Wayne Reneau (80) died 7/10/09. He worked at the INL for 31 years for General Electric at the Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Facility for testing atomic aircraft.

Bobby Herbert Phillips (79) died 7/13/09. He started working at the INL in 1957 for Argonne National Laboratory and helped startup of Nuclear Power plants in several states. He was also a member of the Quick Response Team and the Desert Rats Group which took care of remote monitoring equipment around the site.

William Rue "Bill" Cook (83) died 7/14/09. He worked at the INL for 20 years.

Michael Edward Jacobsen (58) died 7/16/09. He worked at the INL as an Editor for EG&G.

Fern Eaton Humberger Chadwick (87) died 7/30/09. She worked at the INL for 25 years.

Lavern "Larry" Jewett 63 died 7/30/09. He worked at the INL drilling Monitor Wells.

August 2009

Phillip Eugene Brasket (79) died 8/9/09. He worked at the INL for Aerojet Nuclear starting in 1975.

Ronald Jesse Drake (75) died 8/10/09. He worked at the INL as a Project Manager for the PBF.

Clifford William "Bill" Kirkham (85) died 8/12/09. He worked at the INL as an Instrument Repairman and Power Dispatcher for more than 30 years.

Arlo Dwayne Summers (63) died 8/22/09. He worked at the INL for 37 years as a Certified Health Physicist and Nuclear Engineer. He was a Licensed Professional Engineer.

Eldon LaRain Dayley (74) died 8/26/09. He worked at the INL.

David Joseph Henderson (59) died 8/29/09. He worked at the INL for General Electric and EG&G.

Mary Jean Hansen Freund (78) died 8/29/09. She worked at the INL as a Secretary.

September 2009

Merlin LaVerne Bressler (81) died 9/1/09. He worked at the INL leaving in 1954.

Jane Arnold (79) died 9/3/09. She worked at the INL Chemical Processing Plant as a Technician.

Paul Edwin Litteneker (78) died 9/6/09. He worked at the INL for DOE. He

started work as a Chemical Engineer and retired as a Project Manager.

Darril Clair Sparks (77) died 9/12/09. He worked at the INL for 33 years as an Engineer in the Hot Cells and as a Reactor Operator, retiring in 1992.

Kimberly Steel (41) died 9/17/09. She worked at the INL for 18 years - most of the time in the Payroll Department.

Randall "Randy" Alan Mays (61) died 9/19/09. He worked at the INL in the Special Programs Department until his death.

Harold Dean Strand (80) died 9/19/09. He worked at the INL as Assistant Division Director of Budgets and Administration for Argonne National

Laboratory for 32 years. He retired in 1991.

Edison Wayne Roberts (77) died 9/21/09. He worked at the INL as an Electrical Engineer.

Charles "Charlie" Abrams (88) died 9/23/09. He worked at the INL starting in 1965 as Manager of Radiation Safety at the Naval Reactor Facility. In 1972 he joined Argonne National Laboratory as Manager of Safety Security and Safeguards. He retired in 1990.

Keith Harold Clark (84) died 9/25/09. He worked at the INL.

IREA RESEARCH HAPPENINGS AT BEA - Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

Unless you retired recently, you may not be aware of a new organization at INL. BEA united many services under a new organization called Facilities and Site Services. A special thanks to John Howze, public affairs specialist assigned to this new organization, for providing the article that follows.

Facilities & Site Services

Facilities & Site Services (F&SS) is the largest organization within the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) work force. Under the leadership of F&SS Director Dwayne Coburn, our vision is to be the service provider of choice for INL as it becomes the world's pre-eminent nuclear research and development laboratory. Our 1,300 employees provide services essential to operating and maintaining the safety, security, operations and infrastructure of the laboratory. F&SS consists of three divisions, each with a unique and vital function in support of current and future missions at the growing INL. They are Facility Management, Security & Emergency Services, and R&D Support Services.

Security & Emergency Services

The missions of INL's Security & Emergency Services (S&ES) Division could not be clearer: to protect the people, facilities, equipment, materials, and sensitive business and technical information of the nation's leading laboratory for nuclear energy research and development. It does so with comprehensive planning, training and execution of varied security programs using a highly qualified force deployed across the INL. Additionally, the division provides a robust program to prepare for and respond to a broad range of potential emergencies.

These include wildfires, vehicle accidents, and the unlikely event of a major chemical or radiological release to the environment. S&ES meets these challenges with the INL Fire Department (with more than 90 firefighters at three INL locations); the Warning Communications Center, which provides rapid notification to responders, laboratory management and government agencies in the event of an emergency; ambulance units with trained Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians; and comprehensive emergency planning, preparation and training. Tom Middleton is the director of Security & Emergency Services. Melissa Coon is deputy director.

R&D Support Services

The R&D Support Services Division provides a host of services vital to INL mission success. Deborah Tate is the director of R&D Support Services. James Marinus is the deputy director. The key services and a brief description of each are:

Learning, Performance & Knowledge Services – This department serves INL employees with quick, efficient solutions to their performance and information needs, including training, technical publications, document control, records management, and complete research library services.

Machining, Fabricating & Prototype Finishing Services -- Machining, Fabricating & Prototype Finishing Services includes multiple machine shops and a glass shop. It provides comprehensive fabrication services for the laboratory's scientists and engineers in support of research and operations, and is also responsible for establishing sitewide qualifications/certifications required for using various kinds of equipment.

Integrated Transportation Services -- Transportation & Fleet Services is responsible for operating and maintaining the fleet of some 100 INL passenger buses that transport employees to and from the INL Site every day of the year. Fleet Operations also maintains INL's 780 light-duty cars, trucks and other vehicles – and roughly 700-plus pieces of heavy equipment the laboratory owns. Fleet modernization, including new buses and light-duty vehicles, streamlining of bus routes and reduction of vehicle idling time have contributed to a 20% reduction in INL total fuel use in the past four years. Fleet modernization and the increasing use of biodiesel and E85 ethanol-based fuels are expected to continue.

Storefront Utilization -- R&D Support Services is implementing a storefront concept to increase the quality, availability and efficiency of our customer services. The use of “storefronts” where our customers can identify and purchase the services they need – and give feedback on our services and how to improve them – is a key to continuously improving our services and organization.

INL Food Services -- The INL Food Service Coordinator oversees cafeterias at MFC, RTC, SMC and CFA, with responsibility for operations, health and safety inspections, worker oversight, resolution of employee questions, and continuous improvement in food quality, service and customer satisfaction.

Facility Management

Facility Management provides a host of crucial services to INL. With more than 300 employees, Facility Management provides maintenance, engineering and related essential services to INL's three main areas – the Science & Technology Campus located in Idaho Falls, the Materials & Fuels Complex located 28 miles west of

Idaho Falls, and the Advanced Test Reactor Complex located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. Ed Anderson is the director of this organization. Scott McBride is the deputy director.

Facility Management consists of four departments:
 Facility Complex Management
 Laboratory Engineering Services
 Construction and Project Management Services
 Integrated Work Support

The highly skilled employees within each of the separate departments work in concert to support research and development initiatives across the Laboratory including Facility Operational and Maintenance requirements that support all types of customer and tenant requests. This combined effort allows the Laboratory facilities to continuously operate in an effective and responsive manner while enabling processes and systems to be monitored and consistently improved in order to meet the dynamic requirements of the Laboratory's customers.

IREA needs your ideas for future program topics

We need your ideas to make IREA general and technical meetings more meaningful to you. Please contact Nancy Carlson with suggestions on topics or speakers. Are there service agencies you would like to know more about, local politicians you want to meet, energy issues you need more information about, new ways to save on prescriptions drugs, AARP programs in our area, etc.? You can reach Nancy at 208-523-9128 or nancymcarlson@msn.com with your suggestions.

WEB STUFF – G Everett Gruen, 523-3670, gegruen@cablone.net

Our web site is located at www.irea.info. The newsletter and other information are normally on the web site when sent to the printer. Notification is made to those having email addresses registered with me. If you are not receiving email notifications then I either don't have your email address or what I have is incorrect. In either situation please email me (gegruen@cablone.net) with a request to be included for email notifications. The Senior PC Assistance Patrol (formerly called the Senior Geek

Patrol) is ongoing. This is our way to help seniors using computers - for Web services; and for email with friends, children, and grandchildren. The current volunteers for this service are listed below. Some of us have computer skills that could be used to help others with their computer issues. If you can and are willing to help, please contact G Everett Gruen for inclusion in this volunteer effort.

Mike Groh	524-3253	mikegroh@cablone.net
John Johnson	523-7406	jejohnson@cablone.net
G. Everett Gruen	523-3670	gegruen@cablone.net
Norm Kramer	522-8677	nak@srv.net

Whoops – correction to the BEA general benefits phone number. To reach the general benefits number, use 526-5500. The article we ran in the July 2009 issue of the IREA newsletter listed the wrong phone number. So here is the article again with the correct phone number!

When leaving instructions for your Trustee/Beneficiary, be sure to include how to handle the disposition of your INL benefits: Make sure you leave information for your Trustee/Beneficiary as to which BEA or CWI benefits you participated in.

The Trustee for the deceased retiree should contact the BEA Benefits general information number at 208-526-5500. They will be presented with menu selections. As specific Benefits specialist may handle different functions, the general number always links the Trustee to the person currently handling a function. That way the correct specialist works with the Trustee of the deceased retiree on their questions relating to life insurance, medical, dental, retirement annuity check, investments with Vanguard, etc.

The Trustee of deceased CWI employee should contact the BEA Benefits office, 208-526-5500, to handle retirement annuity and investments with Vanguard questions. They also must call CWI Benefits at 208-533-0411 to handle questions related to life insurance, medical, dental, or any other programs the deceased participated in through CWI.

Money saving tips: Denny's has a senior 20% off special on Mondays and Wednesdays. Tuesdays kids eat free. Also ask for the 55+ senior card that gives you a free meal after purchasing 5 regular or senior entrees.

You can get the Post Register's "Eastern Idaho Fair" discount (the discount saves you 50% on a year's subscription) during the fair week even if you can't make it to the Fair. You just need to go into the Post Register office in Idaho Falls during Fair week and ask for it. (I found out too late for this year, but I'll take advantage of the savings next year.)

If you have Medicare part D, you may be at risk of falling into the coverage gap or "doughnut hole". Follow this 4-step tool by AARP and find out if it will save you money. Find it at <http://doughnuthole.aarp.org> - you do not have to be an AARP member to use it.

You may have run into this already. I have found out that many stores advertise items that are not programmed into their computer so when the item is scanned, the regular price is charged on your sales slip rather than the sale price. If you don't pay attention to what is charged on your sales slip, you will be paying the regular price rather than the sale price. I have found it to be worse in grocery

stores and some stores seem to be worse than others. So pay attention to what you are being charged on your sales slip. It could save you some money.

New credit laws: In *Consumers Reports*, November 2009 issue, page 16, there is an interesting article on changes to credit cards. The credit card act of 2009 contains sweeping pro-consumer reforms. Most of the rules go into effect in February 2010; those requiring sufficient notice of account changes in time to pay bills are already in effect. If you do not subscribe to *Consumers Reports*, go to your library. There is also information in the article on good and bad credit and debit cards; those that cost you and those that are free; and those that pay rewards and how you can best handle the rewards. Here is what the law does and what it leaves unchanged.

THE LAW DOES:

- Require banks to mail bills 21 days before the due date and give 45 days notice of changes in APR, fees, and other key terms.
- Allow you to opt out of rate hikes and fee increases and to close accounts while paying off the balance under the old interest rates.
- Restrict interest rate increases during the first year of card use.
- Prohibit banks from charging over-limit fees, unless you sign up to be allowed to exceed your credit limit.
- Prohibit rate increases on existing balances unless you are 60 days overdue.
- Give you the right to revert to older, lower interest rates after making on-time payments for six consecutive months.
- Restrict cards for people under 21 without an older cosigner or proven income.
- Require banks to apply payments to the balances with the highest interest rate first.
- Prohibit gift-card fees for one year and expiration dates for least five years.

THE LAW DOESN'T:

- Prevent issuers from imposing annual fees on credit accounts.
- Set a ceiling on interest rates.
- Allow you to opt out of increases in the minimum monthly payment.
- Require banks to give you notice, if your borrowing limit is lowered or your credit card is canceled.
- Require banks to notify you if your interest rate goes up because of an increase in prevailing rates, such as the prime rate.

- Impose regulations on most prepaid cards or debit cards.

INVESTMENTS – John Johnson, 523-7406, jejohnson@cableone.net

Fixed Income Investments: Many folks who have held bank or credit union certificates of deposit (CDs) in recent years have no doubt been dismayed by seeing the current interest rates being offered for renewing their CDs. The financial crisis of this past year has trickled down to our local banks and credit unions, forcing them to cut back on interest rates they can pay depositors. I have surveyed several local banks and credit unions for their CD interest rates, with results summarized as follows:

- Bank rates for one-year CDs are generally 1.0% or less, about 1.2% for 2-year CDs, 1.6-1.9% for 3-year CDs, and 2.2-2.7% for 4-year CDs.
- Credit union rates for one-year CDs are 2.0-2.25%, 2.10-2.45% for 2-year CDs, 2.10-2.75% for 3-year CDs, and 2.5-3.0% for 4-year CDs.
- Interest rates are essentially independent of CD size up to about \$50K.

Thus, credit unions pay higher interest rates for one and two year CDs, with less difference on longer term CDs.

Both bank and credit union deposits are insured up to \$250K per depositor, by FDIC for banks and NCUA for credit unions, extended at least through December 2013. For intrepid investors who want higher returns than these CD rates, there are other types of fixed-income investments that are not insured against loss of value. These include long-term (10-30 yr) Treasury bonds, municipal bonds, corporate bonds, and mutual funds that specialize in government or corporate bonds. Buying and holding long-term Treasury bonds, which pay 3.5-4.5% interest, is somewhat inconvenient, so several investment firms such as Vanguard and Fidelity offer relatively safe low-fee mutual funds that specialize in government

bonds. These funds currently pay dividends of about 4% per year.

Municipal bonds and corporate bonds vary considerably in quality. Higher-quality bonds pay dividends of about 4.8-6.0% with terms of 5-10 years. The firms, Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P), provide quality ratings for various types of bonds and re-evaluate them periodically. After bonds are initially issued, they are often bought and sold in secondary markets and carry a variable market value depending on their quality. A bond may be issued initially with a good rating and subsequently be downgraded based on new information. The market value of such a downgraded bond will be reduced, which causes its effective dividend rate to rise. Such downgraded bonds are often referred to as "junk" bonds, which have a higher risk of default by their issuer. Mutual funds specializing in bonds typically buy bonds with a specific quality (and risk) level. Mutual funds that specialize in higher-risk bonds are attractive to some investors because they pay higher dividends (e.g., 7-9%) with an overall risk level that can be acceptable due to the diversity of their holdings. Buying bonds, either directly or indirectly via mutual funds, is best done in consultation with a knowledgeable financial advisor.

A reminder to those who (themselves or descendants) still hold US Savings bonds bought 20-40 years ago. Depending on when the bonds were purchased, they quit paying interest after 20, 30, or 40 years. The holders should consult the US Treasury web site on when bonds quit increasing in value and consider cashing them in for other investments such as CDs.

ENERGY EDUCATION – Gary Johnsen, 529-8849, gwjohnsen@gmail.com

In an op-ed article in the N.Y. Times of Sunday, October 11, 2009 Senators John Kerry (D, Mass.) and Lindsey Graham (R, So. Carolina), support nuclear power as one means of combating climate change. Senators Kerry and Graham list five principles that provide a framework for bipartisan compromise; use of nuclear power is advocated in principle two. The following excerpt from their piece entitled "Yes We Can (Pass Climate Change Legislation)" provides details on enablers needed to realize reduced carbon emissions using nuclear power.

"Second, while we invest in renewable energy sources like wind and solar, we must also take advantage of

nuclear power, our single largest contributor of emissions-free power. Nuclear power needs to be a core component of electricity generation if we are to meet our emission reduction targets. We need to jettison cumbersome regulations that have stalled the construction of nuclear plants in favor of a streamlined permit system that maintains vigorous safeguards while allowing utilities to secure financing for more plants. We also must do more to encourage serious investment in research and development to find solutions to our nuclear waste problem."

BENEFITS – Rich Ising, 523-7395, isingclan@gmail.com

I think you all have probably received the same letter from the INL that I received, the one that was titled Summary Annual Report of the Retirement Plan and Investment Plan, etc. Some of the information in that letter was a little disconcerting in the fact that it stated that the Retirement Plan had basically lost about \$200 million bucks over the previous year. We have received several calls asking if that tremendous loss had any effect on our retirement benefits. The answer to that question is “No”, and we will try to explain why as we give you an update of the Plan status as of our latest information.

Mark Scrogam, the Retirement and Investment Plan Committee Administrative Secretary, was at our general meeting in September and gave us an update on the plans status as of 8/31/2009. He also gave us a definition of the plans and their funding requirements. He explained that the Retirement Plan, from which we are receiving our benefits, is a defined benefit plan and as such the funding for the plan is required to be maintained by the plan sponsor - the current operating contractors.

Here are some of the things he told us about the Retirement Plan.

- Assets at 9/30/2008 \$807,177,191

- Assets at 2/28/2009 \$571,881,240
- Assets at 8/31/2009 \$728,400,000

Mark went on to mention, that although our plan assets were down 9.7%, during this same period the Dow Jones Average was down 12.4%. He also said that the minimum funding requirements for the Plan had been met.

There are a total of 9,802 total participants, of which 4,304 are receiving benefits, 1,681 deferred participants, and 4,087 active participants. There have been no changes in the committee structure or investment advisor during the past 2.5 years. The Retirement Plan is now closed to any new participants.

The Investment Plan, INL’s 401K plan, had total assets of \$818,204,297 as of 8/31/2009 and a total of 6,925 participants. Within the plan there are 13 different fund choices, and the committee is looking into an asset allocation fund as an additional choice. Vanguard, the Investment Plan Administrator, also offers financial planning information to plan participants on a yearly basis.

We hope this answers some of your concerns.

2010 HR/FINANCE CONTACTS & BENEFITS ENROLLMENT DATES – Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

2010 Human Resource and Finance Contact

Information: The table below provides you with the 2010 Human Resources (HR) and Finance point of contact(s)[POC] for INL’s major contractors.

Be sure to alert HR and Finance when you change your address or phone number. You must submit written notification of these changes to both HR and Finance. General questions about insurance should be directed to your HR POC. Additionally, if you receive a monthly

annuity/pension payment from the Laboratory and need to make a change in your bank account information or have a question about your deductions, contact your Finance POC.

CWI retirees: You need to make sure CWI HR has your current address. If you need to confirm your address with CWI, email your current address to Jenni.ackerman@icp.doe.gov .

Contractor	POC	POC phone	POC email
BEA	HR - Cheryl Curtis	526-0452	cheryl.curtis@inl.gov
	HR – Eric Wittwer	526-0638	eric.wittwer@inl.gov
	Finance – Susan Collins	526-9770	susan.collins@inl.gov
CWI	HR - Julie French	533-3773	julie.french@icp.doe.gov
	Finance – Susan Collins	526-9770	susan.collins@inl.gov
AMWTP	HR - Jennifer Barbo	557-0930	barbj@amwtp.inl.gov
	Finance – Jason Killpack	557-0941	killjd@amwtp.inl.gov
NRF – Bechtel Bettis	HR - Tim Reading	533-5943	readintj@bettis.gov

2010 Retiree Benefits Enrollment Periods - For those retirees who are currently enrolled in and are still eligible to participate in your company's medical, dental, and/or

prepaid legal, the critical enrollment periods for 2010 benefits are listed.

Contractor	Enrollment Period	POC	POC phone	Comments
BEA	November 1-30, 2009	Cheryl Curtis	526-0452	Call after 11-10-09, if you are eligible for 2010 benefits, and have not received your packet.
CWI	November 2 – 17, 2009	Julie French	533-3773	Respond only if you want to make changes to current coverage.
AMWTP	November 3 – 18, 2009	Jennifer Barbo	557-0930	If you have questions and Jennifer is not available, call 557-6700.

SOCIAL EVENTS – Carol Jones, 521-2477, carolejones@cableone.net

SUMMER PICNIC 2009: One Hundred Forty-One IREA members, spouses and their guest attended the Summer Picnic at Tautphaus Park in August this year. Once again the weather was ideal and the food excellent. Thank each and every one of you who attended; for those of you who could not attend we will look forward to seeing you next year. The Picnic is an opportunity to relax, reunite with old co-workers, and friends.



A special thanks to Chris Holden and Ella Ellis for their good work with this year's picnic, and a special thanks to Don Combs and Ella Ellis who took pictures of the picnic. You can review the pictures on the organization's web site at www.irea.info. We will look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring banquet.



IREA Golf Tournament (Tom McLaughlin): Fourteen teams signed up for the annual INL 4-person scramble golf tournament held at Sage Lakes Golf Course on August 18, 2009. First place was captured by the team of Russ and Kathy Buckland and Kirby and Terri Dawson with a net score of 58.5. Second place went to last year's defending champion team of Jim Veeneman, Tom Murphy, George Papaioannou, and Dan Mahnami with a net score of 59.5. Third place resulted in a three way tie between the teams of Marlo Rovig, Ron Defelici, John Krsul, and Tom Bush; Sam Goodwin, Jerry Thrope, Bob

Horton, and Bud Howell; and Tom McLaughlin, John Quick, Jerry Britschgi, and Jim Fisher with net scores of 63. The weather was great and we look forward to a bigger and better tournament next year. This is an annual

event so watch the 2010 summer newsletter for information and signup. Individuals can form their own team or sign up individually and they will be assigned to a team.

IREA JOINS WITH PST ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN CONCERNS - Nancy Carlson, 523-9128, nancymcarlson@msn.com

IREA is a member of the Idaho Falls energy advocate group, Partnership for Science and Technology (PST). PST is a non-profit, public interested organization advocating for advancement of science, energy and technology and providing accurate and timely information on related regional activities including those at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Recently PST's executive director, Lane Allgood, participated with many others to compose a letter to Secretary of Energy, Dr. Stephen Chu, expressing concerns about and potential consequences of the defunding of Yucca Mountain.

Lane explains the letter as follows:

"Attached is the final draft of the Yucca Mountain joint letter to Secretary Chu regarding Yucca Mountain defunding, which was released on Tuesday, October 6th, under the auspices of the Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force (which we participate with) with 20 organizations as co-signers. The timing should be propitious given the expected conclusion of the FY2010 energy and water appropriations cycle.

The letter has one new update (see paragraph two), which refers to the recent well publicized impasse by the NRC Commission over the Waste Confidence Rule as a sign of things to come.

SFCTF also did a press release. I will draft our own press release to send to the local media. Our contribution was the 5th bullet, which discusses that this decision will impact the defense waste.

Our other contribution was recruiting the following organizations to sign:

Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
INL Retired Employees Association
Coalition 21
Idaho Chamber Alliance."

To learn more about PST go to <http://www.partnershipforscienceandtechnology.org/index.php?section=4>.

The cost of becoming an individual PST member is \$35.00. Send PST the following information:

Individual name: _____

Business Name: _____
(if applicable)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-Mail Address: _____

Membership Level: Individual

And make your check for \$35.00 payable to: Partnership for Science and Technology or PST

Mail to: PST, 1075 S. Utah Avenue, Suite 178, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

October 7, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

The undersigned organizations are writing to advise you of our growing concern over reports that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will decline to seek funding in Fiscal Year 2011 for continuation of the Yucca Mountain license application now pending before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

We believe that termination of the Yucca Mountain license application would be premature and unwise, as well as deleterious in general to the Nation's energy independence, environmental progress, economic competitiveness, job creation and national security.

Among other things, this defunding action may:

- Leave the Nation with no path forward or "Plan B" for the Nation's nuclear waste management while conflicting with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, as well as Public Law 107-200, which approved Yucca Mountain as the site for the national repository -- a measure that was adopted in 2002 by decisive, bipartisan majorities of the U.S. House and Senate. The recent deferral by the NRC with respect to the pending Waste Confidence Rule is but one manifestation of the serious repercussions inherent in this policy vacuum and a harbinger of things to come;
- Potentially strand up to 140,000 metric tons or more of spent commercial fuel and defense waste at 121 sites in 39 states for the better part of a century;
- Exacerbate the current breach-of-contract with respect to the Government's longstanding failure to meet its legal obligation to begin collecting spent nuclear fuel -- resulting in damages estimated by some at in excess of \$50 billion;
- Unravel the Nuclear Waste Fund now reflecting an aggregate electricity consumer investment of nearly \$31 billion in receipts to date, including collections and interest;
- Disproportionately impact defense waste states and erode public confidence in the Department by undermining the DOE's own agreements with states and local governments to remove defense-related high-level waste, as well as agreements pertaining to the management operations. The U.S. Navy has purportedly designed its entire fuel disposal system entirely for Yucca Mountain and any violation of the "Batt Agreement" will create yet another complexity with respect to the Navy's program for de-fueling and refueling of the nuclear fleet;
- Re-open site investigations for a national geologic repository in up to 28 states, as identified by the DOE in its 2008 report to Congress;
- Unnecessarily abandon the pending Yucca Mountain license application as well as more than 40 years of scientific investigation and \$10 billion of taxpayer funding toward development of a national repository while terminating up to 700 jobs and evaporating decades of institutional knowledge;
- Remove funding of cooperative agreements with regional transportation organizations which have worked effectively with DOE on transportation planning and other organizations representing stakeholders involved with nuclear waste disposal issues;
- Contradict the President's Memorandum on Scientific Integrity as issued on March 9, 2009, stating that "political officials should not suppress or alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions;"
- Needlessly undercut full trust and confidence in the independence of the proposed Blue Ribbon panel and any ensuing recommendations; and
- Create an unnecessary hurdle and uncertainty for new nuclear generation in the United States, which is diametrically opposed to the Administration's emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and stimulating jobs.

While we understand that it is the Administration's intent to charter a new strategy for nuclear waste disposal and form a Blue Ribbon commission to study and recommend alternative waste management strategies, as summarized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in a recent report, Yucca Mountain is currently the "safest and best option" for managing spent commercial fuel and high-level waste "given the parameters of U.S. law." Cancelling this program without providing a bona fide alternative path forward is troubling, particularly to future generations, which bear the full burden of this action.

Accordingly, we encourage you to continue with the current approach of providing "costs necessary to answer inquiries from the 'NRC', while the Administration "devises a new strategy toward nuclear waste disposal," as stipulated in the President's budget submission to Congress in February.

Please note that -- while these views represent the consensus viewpoints of the undersigned organizations -- they do not necessarily represent the specific views of every individual member of these organizations.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Fuel Cycle Task Force

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
United States Chamber of Commerce
United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council
Partnership for Science and Technology
Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition
United States Nuclear Energy Foundation
Institute for 21st Century Energy
Idaho Chamber Alliance
South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
Tri-City Industrial Development Council
Coalition 21
Alliance for Nevada's Economic Prosperity
Economic Development Partnership of Aiken and Edgefield Counties
Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness
Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce
INL Retired Employees Association
Gary Hollis, Commissioner, Nye County
Fuel Cycle Science Panel

MEMBERSHIP FORM
INL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.

NAME (Print) _____

Email Address _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I am willing to serve
on the following committee(s):

- _____ Membership
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Consumer Affairs
- _____ Historian
- _____ Energy Education
- _____ Senior PC Assistance Patrol
- _____ Social Events
- _____ Investments
- _____ Programs
- _____ Benefits

Yearly dues are \$10

Or \$40 for 5 years

(January to December calendar basis)

**Make your check payable to IREA and
send along with your membership form
to:**

INL Retired Employees Assn.

P.O. Box 50056

Idaho Falls, ID 83405

INL Retired Employees' Assn.
P.O. Box 50056
Idaho Falls, ID 83405-0056

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