IDAHO SITE

Cell leak delays IWTU startup

Ten days after beginning a heat-up process to prepare for radiological operations at Idaho’s Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU), operators noticed a small leak of nonradioactive, nonhazardous solids in a cell, resulting in the facility’s shutdown in late December, the Department of Energy announced on January 10. The cell is where treated waste is staged until deposited into stainless steel canisters and sealed prior to being transferred into concrete vaults for storage. The IWTU is located at the DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory Site.

At the time, no radioactive waste had been introduced into IWTU and the facility was shut down. Engineering and operations personnel located the source of the leak in the cell and began an evaluation of the cause of the leak, after which repairs will be made. Once the repairs are completed, the IWTU will prepare for the start of radiological operations.

Source Points continues