
# State of Idaho: Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) Request for Information (RFI) Response

March 31, 2026

Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
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**Governor Brad Little**
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March 30, 2026

The Honorable Secretary Chris Wright
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Re: Response to Request for Information – Establishment of Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses

Dear Secretary Wright,

On behalf of the State of Idaho, I'm pleased to submit this response and express Idaho's unwavering commitment to supporting the Department of Energy's visionary Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) initiative. Idaho, home to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the nation's premier nuclear energy research facility and command center for advanced reactor innovation, stands as the ideal partner in bringing this transformational concept to fruition.

For over 76 years, Idaho has proudly fostered a robust nuclear ecosystem driven by close collaboration with national agencies, academic institutions, and private industry stakeholders. Idaho's leadership in nuclear innovation stems from significant assets, including INL's 890-square-mile footprint, world-class expertise in advanced reactor development, fuel cycle innovation, and pioneering cybersecurity initiatives. The Material and Fuels Complex, Advanced Test Reactor, and Hot Fuel Examination Facility offer unparalleled capabilities to accelerate research-to-deployment pathways.

Providing an immediate regulatory head start, Idaho boasts existing Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses, mature environmental assessments, and extensive pre-siting data across seismic, flood, and grid integration studies. These attributes mitigate uncertainty, compress lead times, and reduce taxpayer burdens to ensure that the precise needs of the NLIC are realized within the Department's ambitious 2027 schedule.

Idaho is uniquely positioned within the Intermountain-West Nuclear Energy Corridor, a region supported by the Tri-State Energy Compact, signed with Utah and Wyoming in 2025. This collaborative effort enhances regional supply chain resilience and builds upon existing partnerships with DOE programs, such as Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) and the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC). Strengthened by a highly skilled nuclear workforce—from Ph.D. researchers to advanced tradespeople - Idaho complements its

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technical leadership with engaged local communities resolute in their support for nuclear technologies.

Idaho brings to this endeavor a deeply collaborative spirit. Leveraging investments in regulatory streamlining (SPEED Act), advanced digital infrastructure ($700M in broadband funding), and workforce development initiatives, Idaho is poised to deliver transformative economic, energy, and security benefits to the United States. Our partnerships span a spectrum of advanced reactor developers, fuel cycle innovators, and grid-integrated energy systems, ensuring operational viability, accelerated goals alignment, and national-scale deployment of cutting-edge nuclear technologies.

The State of Idaho is committed to working in close partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy to propel the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus concept from vision to reality. With unparalleled nuclear tools and deep-rooted mission alignment, Idaho is equipped to meet the challenges of nuclear leadership with determination and excellence.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss our state's proposal further and invite DOE representatives to visit Idaho's existing infrastructure and engage with key stakeholders. Together, we can cement the United States' position as the global leader in nuclear energy.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to advancing our nation's clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

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## Tables

## Acronym List

AAS - Associate of Applied Science
ADVANCE - Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act
AEA - Atomic Energy Act
AI - Artificial Intelligence
AMWTP - Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant
ANSF - Advanced Nuclear Strategic Framework
ANWE – Advanced Nuclear Workforce Ecosystem
ARDP - Advanced Reactor Demonstration Project
ASER - Annual Site Environmental Report
ATR - Advanced Test Reactor
BEA - Battelle Energy Alliance
BEAD - Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program
BAS - Bachelor of Applied Science
CAA - Clean Air Act
CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CIE - Cyber-Informed Engineering
CISF - Consolidated Interim Storage Facility
CPF - Capital Projects Fund
CRADA - Cooperative Research and Development Agreement
CTE - Career Technical Education
CWA - Clean Water Act
DC – Data Center
DEQ - Department of Environmental Quality
DHS - Department of Homeland Security
DOE - Department of Energy
DOME - Demonstration of Microreactor Experiments
DOT - Department of Transportation
DPA - Defense Production Act
DRAM - Dynamic Random-Access Memory
EBR – Experimental Breeding Reactor
EM - Environmental Management (DOE Office of Environmental Management)
EMS - Emergency Medical Services
EMT - Emergency Medical Technician
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
EPI - Energy Policy Institute
ESPA - Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer
ESTEC - Energy Systems Technology and Education Center
FAST-41 - Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Title 41
FDI - Foreign Direct Investment
GAIN - Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear
GPU - Graphics Processing Unit
HALEU - High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium
HFEF - Hot Fuel Examination Facility
HLW - High-Level Waste
H.R. - House of Representatives (as in H.R. 3898, the PERMIT Act)
HSA - High-Specific-Activity
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency

IAEC - Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium
ICDF - Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility
IEC - Idaho Environmental Coalition
INEC - Intermountain West Nuclear Energy Corridor
INL - Idaho National Laboratory
INTEC - Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center
IoT – Internet of Things
IPDES - Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System
IRC - Idaho Response Center
ISA - Idaho Settlement Agreement (1995 agreement among State of Idaho, DOE, USN)
ISMS - Integrated Safety Management System
ITAR - International Traffic in Arms Regulations
ITD - Idaho Transportation Department
IWTU - Integrated Waste Treatment Unit
LINE - Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission
LOTUS - Laboratory for Operations & Testing in the U.S.
LLW - Low-Level Waste
MARVEL - Microreactor Application Research Validation and Evaluation (INL testbed)
MCRE - Molten Chloride Fast Reactor Experiment
MFC - Materials and Fuels Complex
MLLW - Mixed Low-Level Waste
MOOSE - Multiphysics Object Oriented Simulation Environment (Advanced simulation code)
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
MT - Metric Tons
MW - Megawatt
NAND – Not-And Gate
NARUC - National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners
NASEO - National Association of State Energy Officials
NDA - Non-Disclosure Agreement
NE - Nuclear Energy (DOE Office of Nuclear Energy)
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NLIC - Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus
NOR – Not-Or Gate
NPDES - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (context: Clean Water Act reference)
NQA – National Quality Association
NRAD - Neutron Radiography Reactor at INL
NRIC - National Reactor Innovation Center
NRC - Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NSF - National Science Foundation
NWF - Nuclear Waste Fund
NWPA - Nuclear Waste Policy Act
OEMR - Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
OTA - Other Transaction Authority
PERMIT Act - Promoting Efficient Regulation and Maintaining Infrastructure of Transmission
PIE - Post-Irradiation Examination
PPP - Public-Private Partnership
PVHA - Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Analysis
R&R - Reprocessing and Recycling

RAPID - Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment Institute
RACE - Reactor and Area Critical Experiment
RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
REE - Rare Earth Element
RFI - Request for Information
S1W - Submarine 1st Generation Westinghouse (Prototype reactor at Naval Reactors Facility)
SCR 120 - Senate Concurrent Resolution 120
SEFI - State Energy Financing Institution
SMART – Semiconductor Manufacturing for Advanced Research with Twins
SMR - Small Modular Reactor
SNF - Spent Nuclear Fuel
SPEED Act - Strategic Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development Act
SPARC - System Physics Advanced Reactor Criticality
Th - Thorium
TREAT - Transient Reactor Test Facility
TREO - Total Rare Earth Oxides
T-REXC - Transient Reactor Test Facility Microreactor Experiment Cell
TRI - Tax Reimbursement Incentive
TRISO - Tri-structural isotropic fuel
TRU - Transuranic Waste
U - Uranium
UNF - Used Nuclear Fuel
USN - U.S. Navy
V - Vanadium
WIPP - Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

## Executive Summary

To reestablish the United States as the global leader in nuclear energy and advance our nation's nuclear capabilities, the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy seeks to create a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) that hosts a fully integrated nuclear ecosystem.

The urgency of this mission demands that NLICs become operational on an accelerated schedule with initial capabilities coming on-line in 2027. This operational tempo pushes well beyond the practical schedules for new nuclear facility design, construction, and commissioning. Therefore, to achieve your ambitious schedule in months rather than decades, DOE will require a host state where the most critical elements are already in place capable of being quickly configured to bring about a functioning full-lifecycle nuclear ecosystem. In simple terms, DOE needs a state that can hit the ground running.

Idaho has a rich history in nuclear energy and is home to the most advanced and comprehensive nuclear sciences campus on the planet, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Idaho's longstanding public, political, and institutional support for nuclear energy further strengthens our role as a national leader in this field. The vision that you describe in your solicitation very closely aligns with our current reality here in Idaho where we share a 76-year working history with DOE. Together with you as our partner, we address every aspect of your solicitation and bring about the highest probability of achieving your objectives on a dramatically accelerated timetable, at a fraction of the cost of starting from scratch. INL proudly serves as the nation's command center for advanced nuclear research, demonstration, and deployment. The 890-square-mile campus provides the ideal geographic footprint, nuclear workforce, and existing site infrastructure to host NLIC. The key elements of INL's current mission that position it as the ideal site for NLIC include:

Advanced Reactor Development: Our current mission includes comprehensive reactor testing and development through one-of-a-kind facilities such as the Advanced Test Reactor and the Neutron Radiography Reactor, as well as through the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Project (ARDP) hosted at INL.

Nuclear Fuel Development and Transport: In support of both DOE and USN nuclear programs, we host the nation's most comprehensive nuclear fuel development and transportation program. We conduct testing, irradiation, and post-irradiation examination through our Fuel Manufacturing Facility, Hot Fuel Examination Facility, Irradiated Materials Characterization Laboratory, and Experimental Fuels Facility. In addition, we are advancing reprocessing and recycling technologies under our Fuel Cycle Solutions Program, including work on advanced separations and fuel-cycle demonstrations. Idaho has received more SNF than any other U.S. site, without a single transportation incident. Our transportation safety performance literally sets the bar in our industry.

Waste Treatment and Disposal: Our Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) and the Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF), provide in-place solutions for managing nuclear waste. INTEC is focused on the management of spent nuclear fuel, high-level waste, and transuranic waste. The New Waste Calcining Facility (CPP-659) employs advanced treatment processes for sodium-bearing and other complex wastes.

Once Congress has acted to address and update the existing legal framework, Idaho is poised to engage in discussions about the eventual siting of a permanent national repository. Idaho intends to collaborate closely with the federal government and neighboring states that are interested in serving as long-term repository locations, ensuring the responsible disposition of waste streams.

Cyber Security: INL hosts specialized testbeds and facilities – including the Cybercore Integration Center and the Scaled Cyber-Physical Systems platforms – where we partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to test, model, and harden the nation's critical infrastructure.

Private Industry Partnerships: INL already partners with private industry across all phases of the nuclear fuel cycle. Our ARDP portfolio includes the demonstration of ten advanced reactors from ten separate firms. One of those firms, Oklo, has initiated construction of its Aurora Powerhouse, which is scheduled to come online in the 2027 timeframe. Through DOE's Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) program, companies such as Lightbridge and X-energy are utilizing INL's Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) and Post-Irradiation Examination (PIE) facilities to test and mature fuel configurations for their advanced reactor designs.

Contractual Framework: Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA) manages INL, and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC) manages the environmental mission with the majority partner, Amentum. DOE has the opportunity to accelerate the NLIC schedule by leveraging this existing contractual framework to commission an NLIC Master Plan. The NLIC Master Plan would integrate NLIC program priorities, funding sources, the physical siting of key elements, and the schedule for all NLIC functions. Through this approach, DOE can systematically add to or enhance existing capabilities, ultimately creating a full-lifecycle nuclear enterprise.

Positive Nuclear Political and Regulatory Climate: Our political leadership, state regulators, universities, and citizens share a deep understanding and support for the nuclear industry—an alignment that has taken decades to build. Idaho Senators Risch (R) and Crapo (R) introduced and sponsored the Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy (ADVANCE) Act, now enacted into law, which directly supports INL's nuclear mission. Congressman Simpson (R) has also remained steadfast in his commitment to INL's nuclear programs through his leadership on Energy and Water Appropriations. As demonstrated by the letters of support Idaho is submitting with its response, the State has formed a coalition ready to host an NLIC and to support the Trump administration's bold energy agenda. The 1995 Settlement Agreement between the State of Idaho, the DOE and the USN (ISA) provides a proven regulatory framework to manage and transport used nuclear fuel to / from Idaho.

Infrastructure, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Response: Idaho has invested $1.8 billion in our state highway system and high-speed fiber-optic network, creating safe transportation corridors and statewide access to fast, reliable data infrastructure. Our state law-enforcement and emergency-response agencies work hand-in-glove with INL to ensure the safe transport of nuclear fuel and waste. Idaho's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams routinely conduct joint exercises with INL and maintain Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that clearly define roles and responsibilities. In partnership with INL, we also constructed the High-Performance Computing Center and the Cybercore Integration Center in Idaho Falls.

Working Relationship with Neighbor States: Together, Mountain West states maintain the capabilities to support a comprehensive NLIC. We share a special relationship with our neighboring states, Utah and Wyoming, and together have established a formal tri-state cooperation framework. This agreement, – the Tri-State Energy Compact – serves as a roadmap for supporting nuclear-energy innovation, advancing regional energy planning, and directly enabling the vision you outlined for NLIC. Each state has distinct capabilities. Through regional collaboration, states can lead where best suited. Avoiding redundancy and focusing on efficiency, the Mountain West provides all needed resources. Because of the volume of work ahead and the immense opportunity the RFI presents, a regional, multi-state solution such as that envisioned in Idaho, Utah and

Wyoming is the best, and perhaps only, path forward for addressing the grand challenge DOE has put forward

Idaho's long history of nuclear expertise, robust infrastructure, proven stewardship, and regional collaboration make us uniquely well-positioned to serve as an NLIC.

The remainder of this document provides responses to each of the 23 items requested in your RFI. Where applicable, we have highlighted our plan to meet your objectives using our existing capabilities, infrastructure, and workforce. Additionally, where appropriate, we have identified those areas where federal funding or policy decisions will be required to achieve your objectives.


**Figure 1-1:** *Idaho's Existing and Planned Capabilities for the Envisioned NLIC*

## Nuclear Lifecycle

### Decomissioning & Site Remediation

- **Idaho Cleanup Project |** Reducing environmental risks while preparing facilities for Idaho's expanding nuclear energy research mission
- **Recycling Milestone |** + 583 tons of materials recycled during the demolition of the S1W reactor prototype at the Naval Reactors Facility.
- **Legacy Waste Exhumation |** SDA cleanup finished in March 2022

**Key Project:** Calcine waste retrieval and spent nuclear fuel removal to meet Idaho Settlement Agreement commitments.

### Mining & Milling

- **Lemhi Pass |** Th & REE | 64k tons ThO_2 reserves.
- **Long Canyon |** U & V |High-grade U; 3,985 ppm in soil
- **Diamond Creek |** REE & Th | High-value magnet REEs.
- **Mineral Hill |** Th & REE | Carbonatite with up to 17.6% TREO

### Enrichment & Conversion

- HALEU Recovery from INL EBR-II | 10 MT by 2028
- Recycled HALEU reguli for Advance Reactor Demos

### Fuel Deconversion & Fabrication

- **INL |** Experimental Fuels Facility | Fuel Manufacturing Facility | Advanced Fuels Facility
- **Oklo |** Aurora Fuel Facility | 2027

**Key projects:** HALEU Pellets | Molten Salt Fuel | TRISO Fuel

### Advanced Reactor Demonstration & Deployment

- **Aalo |** Critical Test Reactor| 2026
- **Antares|** R1 Mark-0 | 2026
- **Deployable Energy Unity Battery |** 2026
- **Aalo |** Aalo Pod (XMR) | 2026
- **Kaleidos |** Helium-cooled Microreactor | 2026
- **MARVEL |** Liquid Metal Microreactor | 2026
- **Antares|** R1 Mark-1 (XMR)| 2027
- **Project Pele |** High-Temp Gas (Mobile) | 2028
- **Oklo |** Aurora Powerhouse | 2028
- **MCRE |** Molten Chloride Fast Reactor | 2028
- **Deep Atomic |** MK60 SMR | beyond 2030

### Reactor Test Bed Infrastucture

- **Nuclear Energy Launch Pad INL |** 2026
- **Demonstration of Microreactor Experiments (DOME) |** 2026
- **Reactor and Critical Experiment (RACE) Facility |** 2026
- **TREAT micro reactor Experiment Cell (T-REXC) |** 2026
- **PWR Thermal Hydraulic Test Bed |** 2026
- **Laboratory for Operations & Testing in the U.S. (LOTUS) |** 2028
- **System Physics Advanced Reactor Critical (SPARC) Facility |** 2028

### Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing & Recycling

- **INL |** Aqueous & Pyrochemical R&D | Test beds for UNF recycling | 2028-2035 | National leadership in safeguards and fuel recovery.
- **INL |** Chloride-based fuel salt | 75-batch production for MCRE | 2026 | 95% conversion efficiency; 18kg per batch.
- **INL |** Intl. Center for Applied Research | SNF behavior studies | 2029 | Collaborative global research on SNF storage.

### Secondary Waste Disposition

- **Idaho's Regulatory Excellence |** Idaho DEQ |Unified permitting for air, water, and waste streams simplifies compliance | 10 years of proven oversight at INL, ensuring regulatory rigor and reliability
- **Advanced Waste Management Infrastructure |** IWTU | AMWTP | Complex waste stream processing
- **Strategic Waste Disposal Pathways |** WIPP | Clive Disposal Facility | ICDF

### HLW Disposition

Open to long-term UNF and HLW monitored storage and deep borehole technology. Collaboration with iNEC regional partner for federal DGR

- **Licensed Storage Facilities** Idaho operates state-of-the-art, DOE and NRC-licensed facilities optimized for the secure storage of HLW materials.
- **Hot Cells and Treatment Systems** Enabling the management of diverse and complex waste streams.
- **Key Projects |** IWTU | Road Ready Demonstration | Calcine Waste Retrieval

### Legend

- In Scope
- Partial Scope
- Current Capability
- In Progress
- Complete by 2027

### WorkForce Development

- **Idaho LAUNCH |** Complementary workforce pipeline for advanced nuclear.
- **Advanced Nuclear Workforce Ecosystem (ANWE)|** 547 job placements by 2030.

### Safety

- Robust INL Safety Culture | Joint Emergency Response Teams

### Environmental Stewardship

- Established Environmental Monitoring | Land Stewardship & Conservation | Cultural Resource Management | Sustainability & Net-Zero Goals | Waste Management & Cleanup

### Secure Transportation Networks

- Over 850 secure incident -free shipments of US Navy SNF| High Burnup Cask Shipment Receipt Fall 2027 | Port of Lewiston w/ Deep Water Access | 1,600 + miles of Rail Infrastructure | Regional Highway and Interstate Connectivity

### Advanced Manufacturing and Other Support Industries

- **Premier Technology |** NQA-1 Nuclear Manufacturing | Recent 40,000 + sq ft expanion at Blackfoot Campus
- **Peterson Manufacturing |** NQA-1 Nuclear Manufacturing | latest fabrication and machine equipment
- **INL |** SMART USA (Semiconductor Manufacturing for Advanced Research with Twins) Institute & RAPID Institute Member | world's largest direct current sintering equipment (DCS-800)
- **Micron |** DRAM and NAND, NOR products for AI, data centers, and industrial IoT |$50B expansion in Idaho

**Key Stakeholders:** Idaho Manufacturing Alliance | Idaho Commerce | Regional Economic Development for Eastern Idaho

### Proliferation Resistance through Advanced Safeguards, Material Control, & IAEA Compliance

- **Advanced Safeguards and Detection Tools |** INL leads in safeguards innovation | *PINS (Portable Isotopic Neutron Spectroscopy)* | *Tripwire*
- **Strategic Role in IAEA Compliance |** INL leads in global training for nonproliferation.| Strengthens Idaho's position as a global hub for nuclear security and international collaboration.
- **Pioneering Nuclear Cybersecurity |** 2026 priorities -> Integrating Cyber-Informed Engineering (CIE) into Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) & Launching an A/SMR Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

### Isotope Production for Medical, Industrial, & National Security Applications

- **Radium-226 |** Targeted Alpha Therapy | Atomic Alchemy | 2026 | Utilize existing Idaho Radiochemistry Laboratory
- **Scandium-47 |** Cancer Theranostics | INL | Production breakthrough 2024 | High-purity isotope for clinical trials.
- **Cobalt-60 |** Sterilization / Medical | INL | Ongoing shipments | High-specific-activity (HSA) targets.
- **Plutonium-238 |** NASA Power Systems | INL | Ongoing | Powering deep-space exploration.
- **Uranium Fission |** Research / Forensics | INL |Capability active | Lower-cost radioisotope production.

### AI/Data Center Construction and Operations

- **Meta Kuna DC |** Hyperscale Cloud | 2026 | $800M+ investment; 100% renewable matched
- **Deep Atomic / INL |** Nuclear-Powered AI | 2026 (Proposed) |First integrated nuclear-AI campus in U.S.
- **Aalo Pod / INL |** Integrated XMR-DC | July 2027 | Power collocated datacenter, with next-generation AI
- **Diode Ventures |** Tech Park / DC | Future | Planned for 800 MW power demand capacity.

**Key Partners:** Nvidia (Genesis Mission) and Amazon - expanding AI for rapid nuclear project delivery.

## 1. State Interest

Governor Little is pleased to submit this response and express the State of Idaho's strong interest in partnering with DOE on the vision for the NLIC. Idaho has a long and proven history of advancing the nation's nuclear energy mission, and the state is uniquely positioned to support the next generation of nuclear technologies, fuel cycle innovation, and commercialization. Idaho's commitment to nuclear research, development, demonstration, and deployment is deep and longstanding, driven by a strong partnership with INL and a robust ecosystem of industry, workforce, and academic collaborators who support the full lifecycle of nuclear innovation.

INL's existing mission already aligns closely with the objectives of the proposed NLICs. Figure 1.1 illustrates the significant alignment between INL's existing mission and the technical requirements of the proposed NLIC. As the nation's lead laboratory for nuclear energy research and development, INL has established experience, facilities, and expertise in fuel cycle science, advanced reactor technologies, fuel qualification, and nuclear materials handling. The expansion of this mission represents a natural progression: transitioning INL's decades of research excellence into a nationally significant hub for commercial-scale nuclear demonstration and deployment. Idaho offers a seamless bridge between laboratory-driven innovation and the real-world testing, fabrication, and industrialization capacity necessary for the nuclear technologies of the future.

Idaho also provides a strategic geographic and policy advantage within the broader regional nuclear ecosystem emerging across the Intermountain West. Reprocessing and Recycling (R&R) capabilities envisioned for the NLICs would complement regional initiatives including a proposed spent fuel repository in Utah and uranium enrichment activities underway in Wyoming. In 2024, the Governors of Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah signed a Tri-State Energy Compact, formalizing a collaborative agreement to expand regional cooperation on energy development, infrastructure investment, and emerging energy technologies. This Compact formalizes the states' intent to work closely on energy-related efforts. This alignment strengthens regional supply chain security and positions the NLICs as a central node supporting domestic fuel cycle resilience.

One of Idaho's greatest assets is the unparalleled availability of secure, federally managed land. With approximately 890 square miles at the INL Site, Idaho can support large-scale nuclear infrastructure development on DOE managed land. This offers the rare combination of space, safety, and regulatory stability required for complex nuclear lifecycle activities; from fuel cycle research to pilot-scale facilities to commercial demonstration projects.

In addition to leveraging land at the INL Site, Idaho is actively coordinating with numerous cities and counties that are eager to participate in and support the NLIC. Their enthusiasm reflects the statewide commitment to this effort, and their letters of support are included with this response.

Idaho also benefits from an existing nuclear-capable workforce and built-in technology base. Southwestern Idaho possesses one of the highest concentrations of nuclear scientists and engineers in the United States. The state hosts decades of accumulated expertise in nuclear operations, engineering, fabrication, materials science, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing, with training pipelines supported by Idaho's universities, community colleges, and the INL workforce infrastructure. These efforts are designed to build a supply of skilled workers – from PhD researchers to engineers, cybersecurity specialists, and skilled trades.

Idaho's postsecondary system operates under a coordinated statewide governance structure through the Idaho State Board of Education, enabling alignment across public universities, community colleges, career technical education (CTE) including regional technical colleges, and workforce training programs. In partnership with the Idaho Workforce Development Council, INL,

and industry partners, Idaho aligns academic programs, technical training, experiential learning and applied research to meet emerging workforce needs in advanced energy, manufacturing, and nuclear technologies. This coordinated system allows Idaho to rapidly scale workforce capacity across the full talent pipeline—from skilled trades and technicians to engineers and researchers supporting the nuclear lifecycle. For additional details, please see section 21.

Idaho's investment in workforce is also generating significant economic and community impacts across the state. Idaho's ever-growing nuclear industry is driving demand for housing, infrastructure, and local services while creating high-paying technical and professional jobs. Many of these positions offer salaries well above the state average, helping attract and retain skilled workers to the state. The growth also supports secondary employment through contractors, construction projects, and local suppliers that support INL site operations and new industry partner facilities. Idaho already has a robust nuclear workforce talent pipeline that can readily be scaled to meet new demand this campus will create.

Idaho's innovation ecosystem is further strengthened by regional partnerships. As discussed above, the Governors of Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah signed a Tri-State Energy Compact, which reflects the shared recognition among the three states that coordinated regional action can accelerate innovation, enhance energy security, and strengthen the domestic energy economy. Additionally, Idaho and Wyoming collaborate on the Intermountain West Nuclear Energy Corridor (INEC) a federally designated Tech Hub with established partnerships across industry, academia, and national laboratories. INEC's focus on advanced energy technologies makes it a ready-made platform for accelerating the economic development, private-sector engagement, and technology transfer goals associated with the Innovation Campuses initiative. Idaho is also home to the National Used Fuel Research Center, providing direct relevance to the fuel management and recycling components of DOE's vision.

Together, these assets create a uniquely qualified environment for DOE's NLIC. Idaho can offer an integrated, ready-to-implement, and nationally consequential solution—grounded in the continued evolution of INL's mission and supported by state leadership, regional alignment, and decades of nuclear expertise. The State of Idaho welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with DOE and the private sector to advance this vision and to ensure that the United States maintains global leadership in the next generation of nuclear technology.

Building on Idaho's longstanding legacy as home to the world's first city powered by nuclear energy, the State of Idaho is eager to cement its legacy as the global center for nuclear energy innovation. This work is already underway through collaboration with key stakeholders and neighboring states such as Utah and Wyoming, which have submitted complementary Request for Information (RFI) responses aligned with Idaho's proposal. With continued collaboration among the DOE, state partners, and the private sector, the creation of a NLIC in Idaho will accelerate development at the pace needed to support the Trump Administration's nuclear energy agenda.

## 2. Proposed Sites Within the State

The INL site, with its exceptional combination of land capacity, advanced nuclear infrastructure, integrated transportation networks, highly skilled local workforce, engaged community, and regulatory head start, stands uniquely equipped to meet the objectives outlined in the RFI for a NLIC. Each of these attributes contribute to an unparalleled foundation for developing, demonstrating, and sustaining innovative nuclear technologies across the entire lifecycle.

By leveraging INL's existing resources and proven capabilities, the proposed location reduces project risk, accelerates timelines, and optimizes costs, ensuring alignment with national goals for advanced reactor development, fuel cycle management, waste minimization, and energy security. These factors combine to make it one of the most compelling sites in the United States for advancing innovation across the full nuclear lifecycle.

**Land Capacity**

The INL site encompasses approximately 890 square miles of available land, delivering:

- Flexibility for Expansion**:** Sufficient space exists to accommodate a wide array of facilities, including:
  - Research laboratories.
  - Manufacturing hubs.
  - Test beds for prototype reactors and fuel cycle systems.
- Buffer Zones for Safety and Security**:** The substantial landmass provides appropriate distances between facilities to ensure safety and compliance with stringent security and operational protocols.

This expansive land availability positions INL as a critical venue for multi-partner collaboration, enabling a consolidated yet flexible campus structure that fosters synergistic engagement among researchers, manufacturers, educators, and policymakers. In addition to this existing asset, the availability of open land in adjacent Butte County provides future growth potential.

**Existing Infrastructure**

The INL site already operates as a hub for advanced nuclear technology, offering a wealth of infrastructure resources to support immediate development:

- World-Class Nuclear Research Facilities**:** These include reactor testing facilities, advanced materials laboratories, hot cells for radioactive material handling, and capabilities for fuel fabrication and examination.
- Spent Fuel Management & Reprocessing Expertise**:** The Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) provides comprehensive capabilities, including:
  - Dry storage facilities for spent fuel.
  - Radiochemical laboratories for separations science.
  - Established fuel reprocessing technologies.
- Secondary Waste Management Treatment, Storage, and Disposal**:** The INL has extensive history and proven capabilities in safely and compliantly managing, treating, shipping and disposing all secondary waste forms anticipated as part of the NLIC mission.

- Naval Reactors Facility Proximity: Access to critical naval nuclear operations ensures seamless collaboration with national defense programs for research, testing, and management.

This integrated infrastructure eliminates the need for extensive new construction, reducing costs and accelerating timelines while ensuring operational readiness across the nuclear lifecycle spectrum.

**Transportation and Utility Networks**
The site's established transportation and utility systems are integral to efficient operation:

- Transportation Networks:
  - *Internal Dedicated Highways:* These enable secure, direct connections between INL facilities.
  - *External Regional and Interstate Connectivity:* The site's internal roads link directly to larger transportation corridors.
  - *Heavy-Haul Rail Spurs:* Essential for the movement of oversized components, fuel casks, and other materials required for reactor testing and assembly.
- Utility Infrastructure:
  - High-capacity electrical systems and industrial utilities.
  - Secure, high-bandwidth fiber optic communications tailored for data-intensive and cybersecurity-compliant operations. Provides immediate broadband capacity to support the advanced digital needs of the campus supported by more than $700 million in federal BEAD and CPF funding.

These networks support robust logistics for large-scale nuclear innovation activities, ensuring a streamlined and secure operational environment.

**Skilled Workforce and Community Support**
Several Idaho communities are interested in participating in the NLIC and have provided letters of support to this response. In particular, the community surrounding INL presents a highly skilled workforce rooted in decades of nuclear operations:

- Experienced Talent Pool: Local expertise includes scientists, engineers, and tradespeople well-versed in reactor operations, fuel management, and nuclear research.
- Educational Institutions: Partnerships with institutions like the College of Eastern Idaho and Idaho State University ensure a steady pipeline of highly trained professionals through specialized programs in nuclear science and technology.
- Community Alignment: Strong support from local governments and organizations such as the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium underscores a long-standing commitment to nuclear energy as a regional and national priority.

This "nuclear IQ," deeply embedded within the local culture, provides intrinsic value in building and sustaining a world-class innovation campus.

**Idaho's Regulatory Head Start**
A well-established regulatory and technical foundation significantly differentiates the INL site:

- Active Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses and extensive pre-existing research enable immediate progress.

- Siting Studies, Environmental Assessments, and Safety Documentation are already established, reducing the burden of lengthy approval processes.

These elements mitigate operational risks and delays, providing a ready-to-deploy platform for the proposed campus' development.

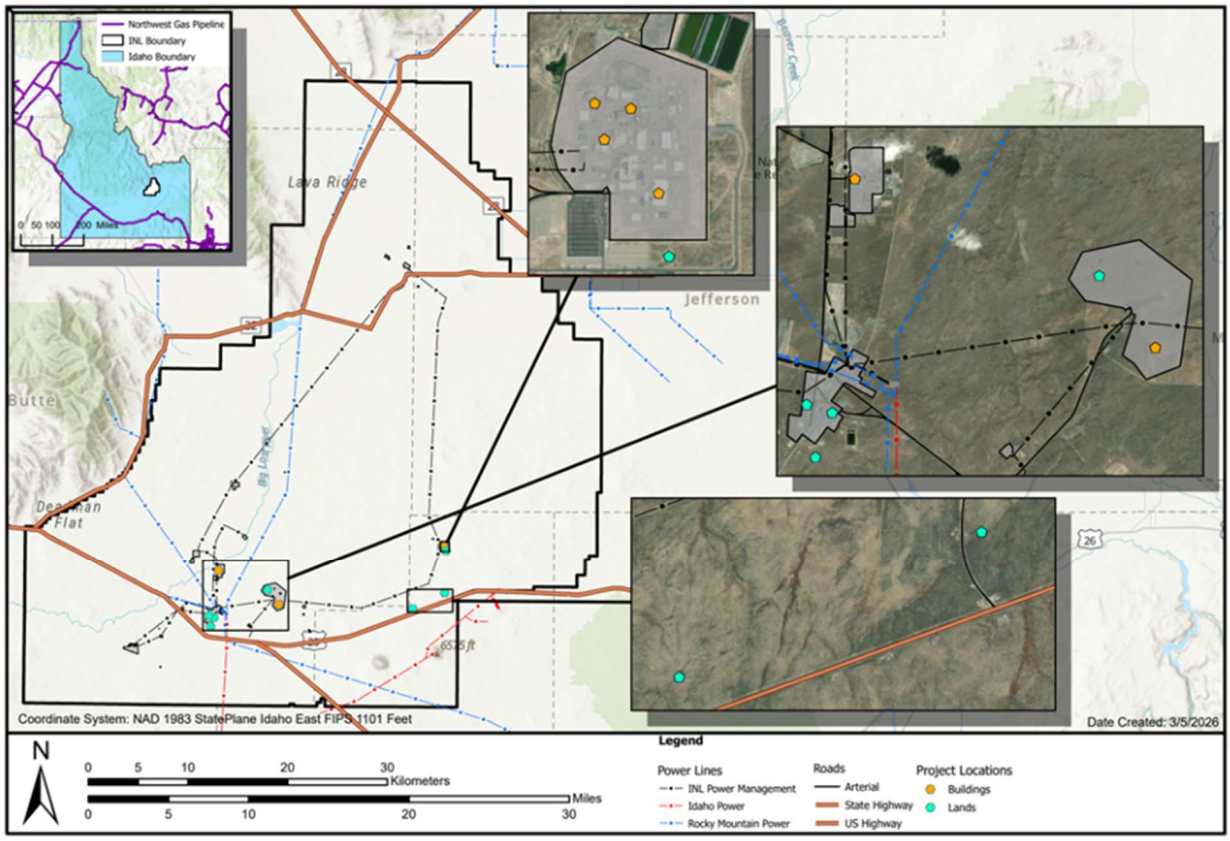


Figure 1-2: *Idaho National Lab Campus Map*

Finally, the overall value of the proposed site is amplified by its significant regional assets, which include manufacturing capabilities, support for rapid prototyping, and the ability to scale future commercial applications. Existing facilities, such as the Materials and Fuels Complex and advanced testbeds like the Laboratory for Operations and Testing in the United States (LOTUS) and the Microreactor Applications Research Validation and Evaluation (MARVEL) reactor, further solidify INL's status as a premier location for nuclear lifecycle research and development.

In summary, the INL site offers an unparalleled combination of land flexibility, advanced infrastructure, skilled workforce, community engagement, and regulatory preparedness, making it uniquely suited to host an NLIC. By leveraging its existing assets and long-standing expertise, INL stands as a critical partner in advancing cutting-edge nuclear technologies and addressing the nation's long-term energy and environmental challenges. This location not only provides a proven operational foundation but also embodies the forward-thinking innovation required to strengthen the future of the nuclear industry.

## 3. Potential Private Sector Partners

The State of Idaho will develop its NLIC through structured public-private partnerships that leverage Idaho's unique nuclear ecosystem, anchored by the INL and proven private-sector collaborations already delivering commercial results. INL is the nation's only laboratory dedicated exclusively to nuclear energy research and development. It directly employs nearly 6,000 people and sustains more than 17,000 total jobs across the state through its supply chain and economic multiplier effect, while generating over $4 billion in annual economic activity. INL routinely directs hundreds of millions of dollars each year to Idaho-based businesses – more than $377 million in a recent year alone—creating a ready network of suppliers, service providers, and specialized contractors already operating to nuclear-grade standards. The state's targeted incentives, land access, and streamlined permitting further reduce barriers, allowing private capital to move quickly from concept to deployment.

Idaho's clearest advantage is the depth and maturity of its public-private commercialization pathway. The National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC) was purpose-built to shorten the timeline between laboratory innovation and private-sector deployment, and the volume of active CRADAs and industry-led demonstration projects already under way demonstrates that this bridge functions in practice. The state's recent launch of the Advanced Nuclear Task Force further strengthens this ecosystem by focusing explicitly on attracting additional private capital, workforce development, and supply-chain expansion.

Building on the strong foundation of Idaho's Nuclear Development Incentives RFI results, the state has launched a proactive and targeted outreach campaign to engage key private-sector stakeholders across the nuclear industry. This effort is designed to identify and foster collaborations with the following organizations critical to the success of the NLIC (see Attachment A for letters of support from private sector partners):

- ✓ Advanced Reactor Developers and Technology Companies
- ✓ Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Materials Companies
- ✓ High Density Computing & AI Companies
- ✓ Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Firms
- ✓ Advanced Manufacturing, Supply Chain & Logistics
- ✓ Utilities and Grid Services

The campaign includes industry roundtables, individual consultations, and informational events that highlight Idaho's unique assets, such as its partnership with INL, its existing nuclear infrastructure, and its clear commitment to advancing the nation's fuel cycle goals. Through these conversations, Idaho is successfully building momentum and aligning prospective partners who share a vision for innovation and national impact.

Once selected as an NLIC, Idaho will immediately convene a formal partner-engagement process in close coordination with DOE. That process will use transparent, objective criteria—strategic alignment with national fuel-cycle goals, technical and commercial readiness, risk-sharing willingness, and long-term sustainability—to identify and prioritize partners. The resulting relationships will be formalized through appropriate agreements that protect taxpayer interests while maximizing speed to deployment and regional economic benefit. This collaborative approach will ensure the campus not only meets but exceeds the vision outlined in the RFI.

## 4. Site Infrastructure Requirements

Idaho presents an unmatched opportunity as the host for the NLIC, supported by a robust infrastructure foundation, a collaborative ecosystem, and the forward-thinking investments necessary to meet the unique requirements of this ambitious initiative. The state has strategically positioned itself with extensive transportation networks, reliable energy systems, abundant water resources, advanced waste storage capabilities, state-of-the-art security infrastructure, and a strong emphasis on workforce development, ensuring comprehensive support for Innovation Campus operations.

Transportation infrastructure investments totaling $1.8 billion have enhanced connectivity across Idaho, laying the groundwork for efficient and secure logistical operations. The planned development of a four-lane divided highway connecting Idaho Falls with the INL reflects the state's long-term commitment to improving accessibility for personnel and equipment. Complementing these upgrades, interstate highways such as I-15, I-80, I-84, and I-86 seamlessly connect the region to national and international markets. The rail system, which is foundational for the movement of heavy industrial goods and bulk cargo, stands ready to be further enhanced through planned rail spur upgrades. Equally pivotal is the presence of the Port of Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, which links the state to international shipping routes via the Columbia-Snake River System. This deep-water port plays a vital role in transporting oversized industrial components, agricultural exports, and bulk materials, all while integrating smoothly with the state's highway and rail systems. Together, these transportation assets not only position Idaho as the center of a well-connected logistics network but also provide unparalleled support for the secure and efficient movement of the critical resources necessary for the Innovation Campus.

Integral to the success of campus operations is the reliability and scalability of Idaho's energy infrastructure. The area Idaho has identified to participate in the NLIC benefits from dual power connections delivering reliable and redundant energy supplies, while high-voltage transmission lines and ongoing upgrades ensure capacity for intensive needs, such as those of enrichment plants, AI data centers, and advanced research laboratories. Idaho's energy system is distinguished by its abundance and high degree of reliability, with hydropower and other renewable sources forming a significant portion of the state's energy portfolio. Idaho's diverse energy portfolio aligns seamlessly with national objectives of reliability, affordability for ratepayers and industry, and scalability demanded by future growth.

The availability and responsible management of water resources are vital to Idaho's NLIC mission. Idaho is prepared to identify sources of readily accessible on-site water supplies capable of meeting industrial-scale needs, including cooling systems for reactors and reprocessing facilities. The state's proactive approach to groundwater management reflects a commitment to sustainable practices through ongoing research and discussions on innovative technologies, such as deep groundwater protection methods. These existing water systems will provide operational stability while supporting clean and secure management of environmental resources.

Idaho also excels in waste storage and processing capabilities, leveraging its solid foundation in existing infrastructure and leadership in innovative research. Idaho's waste storage and processing capabilities are exemplified by the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) and the Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF), which together provide comprehensive solutions for managing nuclear waste. INTEC, originally established in the 1950s as the Chemical Processing Plant to recover uranium from spent nuclear fuel, has evolved into a 200-acre facility focused on environmental protection and the management of spent nuclear fuel, high-level waste, and transuranic waste. It includes dry storage systems like the CPP-603 Irradiated Fuel Storage Facility

for spent nuclear fuel and the repurposed New Waste Calcining Facility (CPP-659), which now handles the characterization, repackaging, and preparation of remote-handled transuranic waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). INTEC also employs advanced treatment processes for sodium-bearing and other complex wastes, ensuring compliance with federal regulations while supporting environmental stewardship. Complementing INTEC's efforts, the ICDF serves as a secure on-site landfill for low-level radioactive and hazardous waste, featuring advanced containment systems designed to prevent environmental contamination. Together, these facilities exemplify Idaho's leadership in safe, scalable, and sustainable nuclear waste management, including for long-term storage. This will ensure robust support for the Innovation Campus's operations.

Security, spanning both physical and cyber domains, is at the heart of the Innovation Campus's operational needs. Idaho's physical security infrastructure benefits from a $160 million annual investment from DOE, safeguarding critical assets and ensuring readiness from day one. Secure transport corridors enhance the safety of materials and feedstock movement, providing confidence in the logistics operations critical to the campus. Moreover, Idaho's dominance in cybersecurity research solidifies the state as a national leader. The Cybercore Integration Center and Collaborative Computing Center represent transformative investments in protecting critical infrastructure. These facilities not only provide cutting-edge research expertise but also embed cybersecurity directly into system design under the DOE's cyber-informed engineering strategy. With over 400 cybersecurity professionals and world-class facilities for grid security testing, Idaho ensures both physical and digital resiliency, supporting the integrity of campus operations.

A cornerstone of Idaho's support for the Innovation Campus is its emphasis on workforce development and collaboration with academic institutions. Workforce initiatives are strengthened by planned facilities such as the Future Tech Building, dedicated to preparing the next generation of professionals critical to the nuclear lifecycle, including roles such as radiological technicians and engineers. The Idaho Falls Workforce Training Center further bolsters the state's capacity to equip a skilled workforce, while partnerships with universities across Eastern Idaho provide a steady pipeline of talent. These efforts are closely tied to state-funded resources like the Collaborative Computing Center and Cybercore Integration Center, where hands-on student internship programs directly engage with the cutting-edge research and technical challenges pivotal to the Innovation Campus. Idaho's dedication to cultivating talent fosters not only operational readiness but also long-term economic benefits, firmly positioning the state as a vital partner in this effort.

Idaho's commitment to the success of the NLIC is unwavering. By combining extensive infrastructure investments, a sustainable outlook on energy and water management, cutting-edge innovations in waste storage and security, and forward-looking workforce development initiatives, Idaho offers an environment uniquely primed for the campus to thrive. These efforts are bolstered by a collaborative partnership between the state and the DOE, exemplified through facilities like the Cybercore Integration Center and Collaborative Computing Center. Idaho's clear strategic alignment with national goals ensures that the state is not only prepared to meet the immediate needs of the Innovation Campus but also to support its growth as a cornerstone of transformational advances in nuclear innovation, energy security, and workforce prosperity.

## 5. Regulatory Framework and Licensing Support

Idaho's regulatory framework is designed to support timely and effective oversight for the NLIC while fostering strong collaboration with the DOE and ensuring adherence to federal standards. Idaho's streamlined approach relies on its existing regulatory structure, including state implementation of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as well as the delegation of hazardous waste management under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Avoiding redundancies, Idaho does not impose additional hurdles on projects operating under federal jurisdiction, instead leveraging proven state-federal synergies to reduce delays and provide clarity. This framework underscores Idaho's commitment to regulatory efficiency, enabling nuclear innovation within a predictable and supportive compliance environment.

Idaho's culture of collaboration extends to its proactive measures for regulatory streamlining. For example, the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the federal government under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41) demonstrates the state's dedication to expediting major infrastructure projects without compromising safety or environmental integrity. By integrating this approach into its nuclear initiatives, Idaho ensures that developers benefit from shortened project timelines and centralized regulatory coordination. Similarly, Idaho's Strategic Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development (SPEED) Act initiatives facilitate efficient, transparent permitting for advanced infrastructure projects, thereby fostering industry confidence and maintaining public trust.

Table 5-1: *Idaho's Proactive Measures for Regulatory Streamlining*

| Streamlining Milestone | Impact on NLIC | Regulatory Mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| SPEED Act (EO 2025-02) | Priority status for energy generation and fabrication facilities | Governor's Office |
| FAST-41 MOU (2026) | Synchronized state/federal environmental review timelines | Federal Permitting Council |
| RCRA/CWA/CAA Primacy | Single state-level agency for hazardous waste and water permits | Idaho DEQ delegated authority |
| NRC Reform Recommendations | Proposed 6-month reduction in license review schedules | INL Stephen Burdick et al. Report |

Idaho's long-standing partnership with the DOE is built on decades of successful coordination at the INL, where state agencies, federal regulators, and private contractors work together to manage complex projects with clarity and precision. This established relationship underscores Idaho's ability to delineate regulatory responsibilities effectively. The DOE retains ultimate safety oversight, while the state focuses on maintaining compliance with local and state-level environmental statutes, zoning requirements, and workforce development initiatives. This clear division of labor not only enhances efficiency but also strengthens the regulatory certainty necessary to attract investment in advanced nuclear technologies.

In sum, Idaho's regulatory model is a benchmark for collaborative excellence, rooted in effective communication, a streamlined permitting culture, and clearly defined responsibilities. This framework promises to support the successful development of the NLIC while fostering innovation, ensuring compliance, and providing the certainty needed for long-term success.

## 6. Legislative and Policy Requirements

The State of Idaho identifies the modernization of both federal and state legislative frameworks as the primary catalyst for the successful deployment of an NLIC. While Idaho is currently "ready for business" with a robust culture of nuclear support, certain statutory barriers notably at the federal level—require targeted amendments to unlock the full potential of an integrated, full-cycle nuclear ecosystem.

The most significant legislative barrier to the DOE's vision is the current limitation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA). To facilitate a durable pathway for used nuclear material, the NWPA must be amended to allow the federal government to assume title and liability for used nuclear fuel (UNF) at consolidated interim storage or reprocessing sites prior to the commissioning of a permanent geologic repository. Until such legislative changes are enacted, Idaho remains committed to working with DOE and others on identifying other long-term storage solutions.

**Proposed Federal Strategy:**

- Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) Accessibility: Legislation should be enacted to make the NWF available for its intended purpose, moving it separate from the standard annual appropriations process. Moreover, collection of one-time fees from commercial nuclear utilities could be accelerated by initializing UNF shipments to INL (INTEC) in 2027. Those fees should be directly reinvested into host states to jumpstart Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF) and reprocessing infrastructure.
- Atomic Energy Act (AEA) Reform: To accelerate deployment, Section 189a. of the AEA should be amended to remove the mandatory hearing requirement for construction permits and combined licenses for advanced reactors. This reform, supported by recommendations from the INL, could reduce license review schedules by approximately six months.

A key regional consideration is the 1995 Settlement Agreement between the State of Idaho, the DOE, and the USN. The ISA outlines key environmental protections and waste removal milestones in Idaho by restricting the intake of spent fuel for treatment and interim storage, with plans for its permanent disposal outside the state. Specific provisions of the ISA have been renegotiated on mutually acceptable terms. Such addendums demonstrate that Idaho values the success of INL and its continuing relationships with DOE and the USN. Idaho remains open to addressing future needs at INL by modifying provisions of the ISA in exchange for significant financial consideration and reaffirmations of DOE's commitment to human safety, environmental protection, and regulatory rigor. Future modifications will be discussed when relevant and appropriate.

**State-Level Strategic Positioning:**

- Senate Concurrent Resolution 120 (SCR 120): In 2026, the Idaho Legislature passed SCR 120, declaring that the reprocessing of used nuclear fuel is not inherently in conflict with the ISA. The resolution clarifies that modern reprocessing converts material into "reactor-ready fuel" (treatment) rather than simply "storing" it, thereby fitting within the agreement's existing definitions.
- Targeted Negotiated Waivers: Idaho has already demonstrated success in this area through the 2025 Waiver allowing the receipt of high-burnup casks for research. For the NLIC, the state is prepared to pursue further modifications or renegotiations of the 1995 agreement in exchange for significant financial consideration and perpetual safety assurances.

To remove state-level barriers, Idaho is actively reforming its internal codes to consolidate authority and simplify the pathway for complex nuclear and hazardous waste facilities. As you'll see in the attachments to this response, Idaho's executive and legislative branches collaborate well on matters

of high importance for the state, including the advancement of nuclear energy. Over 60 Legislators signed a letter of support (see Attachment B) explaining why Idaho is the right place to host an NLIC.

Table 6-1: *State-Level Strategic Positioning*

| Legislative Action | Impact on NLIC | Status |
|---|---|---|
| House Bill 714 (2026) | Repeals the antiquated Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Act and establishes a streamlined "siting license" process within the Hazardous Waste Management Act. | Enacted/In Effect |
| SPEED Act (EO 2025-02) | Seeks to eliminate duplicative state rules and coordinate multi-agency permits for energy projects. | Active Policy |
| State Energy Fund | Recommended by the Advanced Nuclear Strategic Framework to provide a dedicated state mechanism for nuclear project support. | Proposed for 2027 |
| PERMIT Act (H.R. 3898) | Cuts federal red tape and streamlines environmental reviews under the Clean Water Act. | Supported by Delegation |

Idaho has taken decisive steps to address legislative barriers to nuclear innovation, ensuring a clear and supportive pathway for development. House Bill 714 (2026) prohibits local governments from enacting ordinances that would restrict the construction of appropriately sited hazardous waste or treatment facilities, establishing a "state-primary" regulatory approach that provides clarity and confidence for developers. Additionally, Idaho's congressional delegation is poised to advocate for federal legislation that would initiate discussions on utilizing existing HEU UNF stocks (e.g., Advanced Test Reactor [ATR]) for pilot-scale reprocessing research, a move that underscores the state's proactive stance on advancing nuclear technologies and fostering collaboration at the federal level.

Idaho's strategic advantage is bolstered by a congressional delegation positioned on critical committees. Congressman Mike Simpson, a long-standing advocate for INL, has a proven record of appropriating funds for nuclear projects and sponsoring permitting reform like the PERMIT Act. Senator Jim Risch provides essential leadership in foreign relations, critical for the proliferation-resistant goals of the RFI. Senator Crapo, a steadfast advocate for nuclear energy, co-sponsored the bipartisan ADVANCE Act in 2023 to expand nuclear infrastructure, secure uranium supply chains, and strengthen regulatory frameworks, and played a key role in passing the 2016 Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, which established new licensing pathways for advanced reactors. Congressman Fulcher serves as member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

At the state level, the Idaho Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force (established by Executive Order 2025-06) serves as the "accelerator" for these legislative goals. The Task Force is mandated to recommend specific legislative and regulatory reforms to the Governor annually, ensuring that Idaho's code remains responsive to the needs of advanced reactor and fuel cycle developers.

Idaho has identified a strategic timeline for addressing legislative and regulatory opportunities critical to advancing the NLIC. In the near term (0–2 years), efforts will focus on advocating for amendments to the NWPA to address current limitations on interim storage and reprocessing, while concurrently working to reinstitute the NWF collection mechanism to support these activities. Over the mid-term (2–5 years), the state will collaborate with the DOE to establish clear policies for utilizing ATR fuel, explore the feasibility of fast-spectrum reactors, and negotiate modifications to the

ISA to remove constraints on future innovation. In the long term (5+ years), Idaho will prioritize the continuity of funding mechanisms through legislative reauthorizations, culminating in the full deployment of state-supported reprocessing facilities under redefined federal statutes, further strengthening the state's leadership in nuclear innovation.

Idaho offers a unique combination of high-level political will and practical legislative action. By passing SCR 120 and House Bill 714, the state has already begun clearing the internal regulatory path for full-cycle operations. We recognize that federal statutory changes to the NWPA and AEA are necessary to achieve the DOE's ambitious 2050 goals, and we are prepared to leverage our deep congressional relationships to lead that charge. Idaho is not merely a host site; we are an active partner in reforming the very laws and policies required to make the NLIC a national reality. Our strategic alignment with the federal mission, paired with our aggressive state-level streamlining, ensures that Idaho remains the most stable, secure, and efficient environment for the next American nuclear renaissance.

## 7. Timeline for State Support

The State of Idaho recognizes the critical national importance of deploying an NLIC by 2027 to advance the United States' leadership in nuclear energy innovation and fuel cycle sustainability. Idaho's unmatched infrastructure, centered around the INL, positions the state to facilitate the rapid establishment and operational readiness of this transformative campus. INL's world-class resources, such as the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC), the Transient Reactor Test Facility (TREAT), and the Hot Fuel Examination Facility (HFEF), provide the experimental, diagnostic, and safety-testing capabilities required at every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle. Idaho's "Launch Pad INL" initiative effectively de-risks projects for private developers, reducing the time from concept to commercialization and enabling the accelerated deployment of operational reactors, co-located data centers, and full-cycle nuclear fuel operations. These foundational elements ensure Idaho is optimally aligned with DOE's milestone objectives.

In supporting the expedited development of the NLIC, Idaho offers efficient and streamlined permitting processes that complement the federal review requirements led by NRC and DOE. Idaho's state and local permitting structures, including planning, zoning, and environmental approvals, operate largely outside the federal frameworks, ensuring that they do not create additional barriers to project development. The state remains committed to assisting developers in navigating all necessary permitting paths. With agencies such as the Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources acting as facilitators, Idaho provides developers with a centralized resource for ensuring compliance, accelerating permitting timelines, and navigating projects efficiently from initial planning stages to construction readiness. Idaho acknowledges that centralized and unified permitting systems are critical for developers, and to the extent allowable by law, the state will support the seamless acquisition of all state, local, and federal permits to avoid delays and streamline operations.

Idaho's permitting environment is further supported by early coordination and proactive engagement with stakeholders, which ensures a smooth transition through major project development milestones. These milestones include site selection, permit review and issuance, infrastructure upgrades, workforce training activities, and community engagement programs. Idaho's state agencies, local governments, and community stakeholders are uniquely positioned to collaborate in removing barriers and accelerating timelines. For example, state permits—such as air quality Permits to Construct and hazardous waste management approvals issued by the Idaho DEQ—typically have a processing period of one to two years. Similarly, water-related permits, such as water rights approvals and temporary water use authorizations from the Idaho Department of Water Resources, can be reviewed efficiently while aligning with federal approvals if required. For complex projects involving water discharges, Idaho's streamlined processes for obtaining an Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permit or a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, further minimize permitting delays. Importantly, many state permitting activities can proceed concurrently with federal reviews, creating opportunities for aligned processes and reduced timelines.

A strong and sustainable workforce remains a cornerstone of Idaho's preparation for the NLIC. Idaho already benefits from existing workforce pipeline initiatives such as Idaho LAUNCH, a program that fosters skills development for essential industries. Building upon this foundation, the Idaho Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force is actively working to expand workforce training programs in collaboration with the Idaho State Board of Education, technical colleges, local community leaders, and industry partners. This concerted effort will target skilled trades and technical expertise unique to lifecycle nuclear operations, ensuring that the necessary workforce is in place to meet the campus's long-term needs. The task force is also designing community engagement initiatives that

will amplify local support for the NLIC, leveraging Idaho's legacy as a nuclear leader to build pride in and ownership of the project.

## 8. Anticipated Public and Stakeholder Concerns

For decades, Idaho has been at the forefront of nuclear energy research and development, making it a state with a supportive nuclear industry environment. Idaho is a pro-nuclear state, with many residents living or working near INL.

At the same time, careful attention is required for sensitive functions such as waste disposition. Although few in number, some advocacy groups have expressed concerns about the increasing footprint of used nuclear fuel, fearing that interim storage in Idaho could become a permanent solution. Many worry that a true permanent deep geological repository may never be realized, raising ethical and practical questions about long-term responsibility. Tribal nations, in particular, are attentive to the implications of transitioning nuclear materials into waste without a permanent solution. These concerns are validated by the ISA, which establishes clear limits on storage timelines.

While Idaho remains committed to supporting research and innovation across the nuclear lifecycle, it is essential that permanent solutions be pursued and that the state's communities, Tribal nations, and other vulnerable populations are not left to bear these responsibilities indefinitely. As described in the State of Utah's RFI response, the development of a permanent nuclear waste repository in neighboring Utah could provide a viable long-term solution for used fuel, helping to alleviate concerns in Idaho. This would allow Idaho to continue its leadership in nuclear research and innovation while ensuring that long-term waste management responsibilities are addressed at the national level.

Butte County, home of the first city to be lit by atomic energy, is an active partner in advancing nuclear energy in Idaho. Its County Commission conducted a state-wide poll about used nuclear fuel (summarized in Table 8-1). This poll concluded what the Commission suspected-that Idahoans are very knowledgeable and supportive of nuclear technology and are comfortable with interim storage of waste as long as they are fairly compensated. Butte County has also done a significant amount of work conducting feasibility studies for appropriate storage sites and the infrastructure needed to transport used fuel to the lab or elsewhere for reprocessing and ultimate disposal. See more details in Attachment E.

Table 8-1: *Butte County Polling Overview*

| Category | Details |
|---|---|
| Polling Overview | 400 voters polled statewide; additional 200 voters polled in Eastern Idaho. |
| Support for Nuclear Energy | 83% of statewide voters believe nuclear energy is key to energy independence and reducing fossil fuels. |
| Support for Expanded Production | Strongest among Republicans and voters in Eastern Idaho, particularly near Idaho National Laboratory. |
| Initial Support for Storage | 64% of statewide voters initially support the Butte County interim storage project. |
| Support After Messaging | Statewide: 68%; Eastern Idaho: 71%; Strong support from Republicans and majority support from independents. |
| Primary Drivers of Support | Job creation, economic investment, federal payments, and confidence in existing safety practices. |
| Voter Concerns | Potential aquifer and environmental risks; 20% of voters express absolute opposition to storage. |
| Conditional Support | 74% of voters statewide could support nuclear storage with appropriate safety and economic measures. |

## 9. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Idaho has long been at the forefront of nuclear technology. That means that Idahoans already have a high "nuclear IQ." Idahoans, particularly in eastern Idaho, are knowledgeable and comfortable with the nuclear industry. This is partially because the INL is one of the primary employers of the region. However, the state also has a long history of community and stakeholder outreach. In 2012, Governor Otter created the Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission (LINE Commission) which was comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including local elected officials and members of the Shoshone Bannock Tribe. The LINE Commission held public meetings around the state to educate Idahoans about nuclear energy and the INL. The Advanced Nuclear Task Force, created in September 2025 by Governor Little, continues this work with a more modern direction, focusing not only on education, but advancing nuclear policy in the state. This Task Force convenes government officials, community leaders, Tribes, and industry leaders. Its mission is to assess, recommend, and support strategies that advance Idaho's leadership in nuclear energy innovation, deployment and workforce development. The Task Force's first meeting was February 2, 2026, and its second meeting will be May 21, 2026. These are public meetings and held throughout the state. This Task Force is intentionally a smaller group than the original LINE Commission. However, the Task Force will rely on working groups, chaired by members of the Task Force to work with additional stake holders and provide recommendations for the larger group to consider. The current working groups are the Policy Working Group which was directed to organize this response, the Workforce Development Working Group, the Red Carpet Working Group, intended to identify policies and incentives that will attract nuclear development, a legislator working group, and the Community Engagement and Education Working Group.

The Community Engagement and Education working group, chaired by the Mayor of Idaho Falls, will further provide opportunities for the public to engage directly with decision-makers, offer feedback on proposed initiatives, and stay informed about developments in nuclear energy projects.

Idaho has a framework in place to facilitate increased outreach for a prospective Nuclear Lifecycle Hub here in Idaho. At all levels of government, Idaho works hand in hand with DOE and other federal partners on nuclear energy outreach, this targeted outreach and engagement can be easily managed. Local and county elected officials are engaged and ready to assist with any ongoing outreach. The Shoshone Bannock Tribe is a key partner on nuclear matters, working closely with the INL, DOE and the State. They, like the rest of the region, have a high comfort with nuclear energy and development.

## 10. HLW Management, Storage, and Disposal

Idaho maintains a clear and resolute commitment to the safe and responsible management of high-level waste (HLW) under its jurisdiction. The state's overarching doctrine prioritizes the removal of HLW from Idaho for permanent disposal in federal deep geological repositories, in alignment with longstanding agreements such as the ISA. While Idaho will not consider the establishment of a deep geologic repository below the INL site or above the Snake River Plain Aquifer (consistent with the Idaho Settlement Agreement), Idaho is willing to consider additional long-term monitored storage solutions for the DOE, possibly including deep bore hole storage, in exchange for significant financial consideration in anticipation of development of a recycling and reprocessing (R&R) capability near the INL site. This approach reinforces Idaho's proactive pursuit of innovative HLW solutions, ensuring the state does not become established as permanent storage while advancing opportunities to reduce nuclear waste inventories responsibly.

Idaho's legacy of collaboration with DOE underscores this commitment. Building on decades of experience, Idaho's INL facilities, backed by a highly experienced workforce, continue to exemplify operational excellence and safety in HLW management. The INL site's record of safety performance, regulatory compliance, and its proven capacity to manage complex nuclear waste challenges reinforce its reputation as a center of excellence. This legacy provides a strong foundation for advancing innovative solutions while upholding public and stakeholder trust.

The state supports advancing sustainable waste management practices, including R&R strategies to manage existing HLW inventories effectively. By implementing R&R as an integral component of its HLW strategy, Idaho can achieve a twofold objective: significantly reducing the volume of on-site waste and expanding capacity for new feedstocks.

The proposed R&R framework envisions a dynamic operational cycle that would be in the spirit of the ISA framework. With this approach, the site would maintain a steady cadence of processing HLW, ensuring manageable inventory levels and aligning with both state and federal mandates for waste reduction. Beyond its technical and operational merits, this strategy aligns with core principles of environmental stewardship by advancing opportunities for resource recovery, minimizing the state's nuclear footprint, and demonstrating leadership in innovative waste management practices.

Idaho's HLW management infrastructure at INL is among the most advanced in the nation, with a comprehensive suite of facilities and systems designed to ensure safe and reliable waste handling. Notable capabilities include:

- Licensed Storage Facilities: Idaho operates state-of-the-art, DOE and NRC-licensed facilities optimized for the secure storage of HLW materials.
- Hot Cells and Treatment Systems: These capabilities support both waste diagnostics and treatment, enabling the management of diverse and complex waste streams.
- Dry Storage Systems: The site's robust dry storage infrastructure demonstrates its ability to safely store HLW over extended periods, fully compliant with regulatory guidelines.
- Experienced Workforce: Idaho is home to a dedicated and highly skilled workforce with decades of experience, ensuring operational excellence and continuity across HLW operations.

Over decades of safe and compliant operations, the state's HLW management facilities have earned the trust of regulators, stakeholders, and community members alike. This hard-won trust provides a solid foundation for continued partnership with DOE and other federal entities in addressing the nation's HLW challenges.

## 11. State-Specific Limitations

Idaho provides a mature, secure, and technologically advanced setting for the NLIC, complemented by proactive strategies to address environmental, regulatory, and geological constraints. Idaho's approach to these challenges transforms potential limitations into manageable operational advantages, ensuring seamless support for the campus's long-term success.

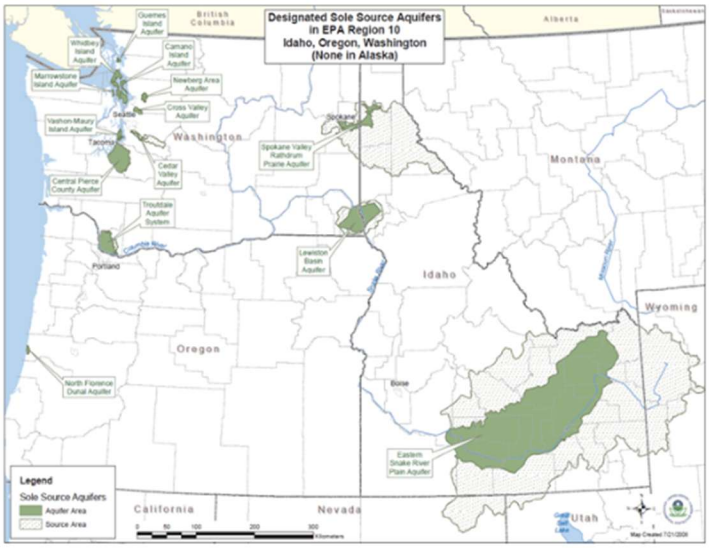


Figure 11-1: *Map of Sole Source Aquifer in EPA region 10, including the extent of ESPA*

One key consideration is the role of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA), one of North America's largest freshwater reserves, which underpins water availability for large-scale infrastructure. Irrigated agriculture on the Eastern Snake Plain, overriding the aquifer, contributes approximately $14.9 billion annually – about 33 percent of the total value of all goods and services produced in Idaho. The ESPA supplies water for irrigation to more than one million acres of cultivated land, representing roughly half of all irrigation on the Eastern Snake Plain. In addition, the ESPA serves as the sole-source drinking water supply for most cities and rural residents across the region, representing more than 400,000 Idaho residents.

INL holds a suite of existing federal reserved and state-based groundwater rights that are subject to priority administration by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR). In any given year, depending on water supply conditions, these groundwater rights could be subject to curtailment absent appropriate mitigation. Any new water uses proposed by INL would require the filing of a water right permit application with IDWR. While Idaho's water rights operate under the "first in time is first in right" appropriation framework, which may pose challenges for junior water right holders, Idaho Code § 42-223(10) secures water reliability through mitigation plans. These plans allow developers to offset new water appropriations by leveraging non-use of existing rights, enabling sustainable and reliable water use even in regulated basins.

Used nuclear fuel (UNF) management in Idaho is governed by the ISA, which restricts the quantities and types of UNF allowed into the state and mandates its eventual removal. Idaho has transformed this limitation into a strategic advantage through legislative action. The introduction of SCR 120 by the Idaho Legislature in March 2026 demonstrates its intent to expand the definition of "treatment" under the ISA to include modern reprocessing and chemical transformation. This interpretation would enable INL to broaden its capabilities for nuclear waste treatment while adhering to stringent environmental safeguards. By facilitating an expanded role for reprocessing, Idaho positions itself as a pivotal national hub for developing a nuclear "circular economy," demonstrating its ability to meet critical policy and operational demands.

Idaho's geology demands specialized engineering for the siting of nuclear facilities due to localized risks of basaltic volcanism and seismic activity from the Basin and Range province. The state mitigates these risks through a world-class Seismic Monitoring Program that boasts 38 stations and 20 strong-motion accelerometers. Additionally, siting decisions for the campus are guided by a

Probabilistic Volcanic Hazard Analysis (PVHA) that identifies high-redundancy, low-risk zones by mapping lava flows and tephra dispersal areas. These measures ensure that the NLIC benefits from informed, cutting-edge risk assessments and facility siting strategies tailored to Idaho's unique geology. Through comprehensive planning and mitigation strategies, Idaho transforms notable environmental, regulatory, and geological constraints into opportunities to enhance the resilience, efficiency, and sustainability of the NLIC. These robust frameworks reflect Idaho's readiness to partner with DOE to ensure the campus operates on a strong foundation, balancing innovation with environmental stewardship, regulatory compliance, and long-term operational reliability.

## 12. Environmental and Safety Stewardship

Idaho, leveraging the expertise and infrastructure of the INL, uniquely positions itself to host the NLIC with a robust strategy prioritizing environmental stewardship, radiological safety, and regulatory excellence. Idaho's approach is built on decades of operational success, supported by a mature regulatory framework and a demonstrated commitment to continuous innovation. This foundation ensures the NLIC can advance its mission in a secure, compliant, and environmentally responsible manner.

Idaho's world-class environmental monitoring system provides comprehensive oversight to protect public health and natural resources. The East Snake River Plain Aquifer, one of the nation's most critical freshwater reserves, is safeguarded by hundreds of monitoring wells and regular independent sampling by the Idaho DEQ across more than 100 locations. Air quality is continuously monitored through a robust network that includes weekly particulate and iodine gas sampling and advanced High-Pressure Ion Chambers providing real-time data every five minutes to state oversight offices. Terrestrial and biota monitoring extends this vigilance to agricultural products, vegetation, wildlife, and soil to prevent any off-site migration of contaminants, underscoring Idaho's commitment to protecting the environment and public health. For future campus operations involving enrichment or reprocessing, Idaho stands ready to adapt these programs, incorporating next-generation technologies such as AI-driven predictive modeling. This approach ensures proactive management of potential risks, enhancing the resilience and scalability of monitoring systems.

Safety remains a core principle of INL's operational framework providing a model for the NLIC, guided by the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and ISO 14001-compliant programs that embed safety protocols at every operational level. Health physics teams provide continuous oversight and maintain instrumentation critical to airborne modeling and worker safety, while robust dosimetry and radiological protection systems are seamlessly integrated into day-to-day operations. New facilities, such as the Oklo Powerhouse, will incorporate localized monitoring systems directly connected to Idaho's central oversight network, ensuring consistency and comprehensive coverage.

Emergency response capabilities in Idaho are mature, exercised, and routinely tested through a multi-agency framework designed to respond rapidly to any radiological or environmental events. INL fire and ambulance services staffed by advanced EMTs provide immediate response capabilities, while the Idaho Response Center (IRC), housed within the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM), serves as the state's central hub for situational awareness. Idaho's response teams integrate state agencies, such as the State Police and DEQ, with federal partners like the DOE, ensuring a seamless and well-coordinated response to incidents. Specialized pre-identified teams are prepared for specific scenarios, such as recovering hazardous materials, while joint full-scale exercises with federal and state responders ensure interoperability and readiness at all levels. This cohesive approach ensures Idaho's preparedness aligns with the highest standards of radiological and environmental safety.

Figure 12-1: *Joint Operational Excellence*

*The effectiveness of Idaho's stewardship is best illustrated by our ongoing Joint Exercises. By bringing together the BEA, IEC, DOE, and state responders, we maintain a state of "continuous readiness." This allows for the rapid expansion of missions-such as transitioning from R&D to full-scale processing-while maintaining the same high-performing safety standards recognized globally*

Idaho's regulatory framework fosters an environment conducive to innovation while maintaining strict compliance through efficient and predictable oversight. The DEQ's INL Oversight Program acts as an impartial auditor, conducting independent sampling and publishing Annual Site Environmental Reports (ASER) to assure transparency and accountability to the public. State regulations are aligned with federal standards, including adherence to DOE Order 458.1 and NESHAP for public and environmental protection and air emissions compliance. Idaho's success in managing its "Superfund" cleanup mission serves as a model of risk-based remediation and demonstrates the state's commitment to sustainable and responsible management of complex nuclear and hazardous materials.

Through this integrated system of advanced monitoring, safety protocols, emergency management, and regulatory stewardship, Idaho offers a comprehensive and proven framework to support the NLIC. Equipped with decades of expertise, innovative tools, and an enduring commitment to environmental and operational excellence, Idaho ensures the campus will thrive as a secure, sustainable, and globally impactful innovation center.

## 13. Transportation Corridors

Idaho's transportation corridors are a cornerstone of its suitability for hosting a NLIC, providing an integrated network of highways, railroads, maritime assets and specialized internal roads that have been refined through decades of support for national security and energy research missions. U.S. Route 20, which traverses southern Idaho and directly passes through the INL's nearly 900-square-mile site, serves as a primary corridor for transporting materials, equipment, and personnel between Idaho Falls and the various laboratories and technology hubs in the Arco Desert. Recognized as the longest road in the United States, U.S. 20 has been prioritized for funding under Idaho's Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation program, ensuring it can handle the increased traffic demands of an innovation hub while maintaining infrastructure resilience. This critical artery is further supported by Idaho's specialized "out-of-commerce" infrastructure on the INL campus, such as a DOE-funded haul roads. These private roads eliminate the need for public road closures during sensitive shipments of radioactive materials, enhancing operational efficiency and safety while generating substantial cost savings of approximately $50 million over a 40-year operating period.

Idaho's highway system includes other significant corridors that provide regional and interstate connectivity for the movement of large or sensitive loads, enabling seamless logistical integration. Interstate routes like I-84 and I-15 provide access to major distribution hubs in Salt Lake City, regional connections to the Pacific Northwest, and broader transcontinental freight networks. Heavy-haul routes designated by the Idaho Transportation Department allow the transportation of reactor components and specialized casks weighing up to 129,000 pounds, supported by the ITD's continuous safety testing of asphalt and concrete materials to ensure durability under extreme industrial use. It is further complemented by rules and oversight conducted by a Nuclear Radiation Safety Officer to protect public safety while maintaining operational efficiency.

The State of Idaho regulates the transportation of nuclear and radioactive materials on its highways through a combination of federal requirements and state-level oversight. The Idaho DEQ and the Idaho State Police play key roles in overseeing the movement of nuclear and radioactive materials on Idaho's highways. Shipments to and from the INL are regulated under strict federal standards set by the U.S. DOT and the NRC, which govern packaging, routing, vehicle safety, and emergency preparedness. Materials are transported in Type B certified casks. Before shipments occur, carriers must follow strict routing requirements and coordinate with state officials to ensure the safest available highway corridors are used. The State coordinates closely with several agencies to manage and monitor these movements. The Idaho State Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Division inspects trucks carrying hazardous and radioactive materials to verify compliance with federal hazmat rules. The Idaho DEQ and the Idaho Office of Emergency Management help maintain preparedness plans in case of an incident. Local fire departments and emergency responders along major corridors receive specialized hazardous materials training and participate in preparedness exercises coordinated with the U.S. Department of Energy, which managers nuclear shipments associated with federal cleanup and research missions.

For nuclear materials requiring optimized safety and cost, Idaho's robust rail infrastructure provides unmatched advantages. With 1,609 miles of rail operated by Class I carriers like Union Pacific and short-line railroads such as the Eastern Idaho Railroad, the state offers transcontinental connectivity and specialized industrial access. The Idaho Falls Rail Terminal, located near INL, serves as the region's intermodal gateway, facilitating seamless transfers between railcars, trucks, and containers for containerized shipments. These multimodal capabilities are essential for the efficient movement of nuclear materials and operational inputs, ensuring logistical resilience for nuclear fuel, high-level radioactive waste, and large equipment. Union Pacific's consistent investment in safety and modernization—totaling $262 million in Idaho from 2020 to 2024—reinforces the state's role as a

nationwide transportation hub for advanced nuclear technologies. Additionally, short-line operators such as the Eastern Idaho Railroad serve critical local industrial zones and provide branch line connections to hubs like Northgate Industrial Park, enabling end-to-end access for remote components of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Idaho's transportation network is further strengthened by the Port of Lewiston, the most inland seaport on the U.S. West Coast. Situated on the Columbia-Snake River System, the port provides direct access to the deepwater ports of Portland and Seattle, offering a vital maritime link for the export and import of large reactor components, nuclear materials, and heavy equipment. The port is equipped to handle oversized shipments and serves as a critical logistical gateway for the movement of goods from Idaho to international markets. Combined with Idaho's robust highway and rail networks, the Port of Lewiston allows for seamless multimodal connections that support the full lifecycle of nuclear operations. This strategic access to deepwater ports ensures that Idaho can efficiently manage the transport of sensitive and large-scale materials, further solidifying the state's role as a hub for advanced nuclear innovation with global reach.

Idaho's transportation strategy does not exist in isolation but integrates seamlessly into a broader regional initiative: the INEC. Designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, INEC brings together more than 45 partners across Idaho and Wyoming to coordinate advanced reactor deployment, modernize the nuclear supply chain, and foster regional economic growth. Anchored by projects like the Natrium reactor in Wyoming and INL's microreactor programs, the corridor positions Idaho and its partners at the forefront of America's energy transition. INEC's central office in Idaho Falls facilitates collaboration between national laboratory validation efforts and commercial innovation through its INEC Innovation Incubator. This initiative accelerates advancements in digital sensors, advanced materials, and full-cycle infrastructure that are critical to deploying nuclear technologies globally within the next decade.

With its well-connected highway and rail networks, specialized infrastructure, and integration into the Intermountain-West Nuclear Energy Corridor, Idaho provides a unified transportation strategy tailored for the needs of the NLIC. This seamless connectivity ensures that every stage of the nuclear fuel cycle, from uranium recovery to reactor deployment, is supported by robust logistics, safety, and infrastructure, enabling the rapid realization of the NLIC's national and global objectives.

## 14. Proposed Agreement Framework

Idaho proposes a dynamic agreement framework to advance the development and operation of the NLIC, relying on proven mechanisms that align federal, state, and private-sector collaboration. Idaho's historical expertise in fostering public-private partnerships positions it to strike a balance between stakeholder needs and risk mitigation, ensuring successful outcomes as DOE transitions to a risk mitigator role. A blend of cooperative agreements, grants, voluntary frameworks under the Defense Production Act (DPA), and other tools authorized by the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) and Energy Policy Act of 2005 could be utilized to align operational priorities with private investment and enterprise functions.

Idaho boasts an extensive track record of leveraging memoranda of understanding (MOUs), incentive programs, and contractual authorities to meet strategic goals. Flexible structures such as MOUs will continue to formalize roles and responsibilities across stakeholders, drawing from longstanding successes, including collaborations with industries like energy, agriculture, and technology, as well as initiatives like the Idaho Workforce Development Council's grant programs. Examples include tailored workforce development grants capable of disbursing up to $1 million, tax incentives, and other operational resources designed to meet specific business needs. These mechanisms will work in concert with innovative federal tools, such as Other Transaction Authority (OTA), DPA voluntary agreements, and Section 161/162 Site-Use Agreements under the AEA, to create a comprehensive framework for both development and risk-sharing.

Idaho understands the critical importance of integrating private funding into infrastructure development and operational priorities, as exemplified by entities such as the Idaho Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force and the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance. These organizations have demonstrated success in fostering collaboration and have laid a foundation for operationalizing the NLIC through partnerships that minimize federal financial exposure while achieving robust private-sector leadership. Idaho stands ready to incorporate tools such as Title XVII Loan Guarantees – through qualified State Energy Financing Institution (SEFI) - or cost-sharing agreements where appropriate, especially for capital-intensive phases such as advanced reactor deployment, supply chain expansion, and workforce training.

By embracing the DOE's stated goal of moving toward private-sector leadership while retaining risk oversight, Idaho remains committed to developing agreement frameworks that maximize operational flexibility, streamline federal-state alignment, and achieve scalable innovation in nuclear energy. Drawing upon its whole-of-state approach and robust network of universities, vocational programs, and industry leaders, Idaho will collaborate closely with the DOE to ensure agreements are well-matched to specific enterprise needs. This approach will support the timely implementation of the NLIC and foster a sustainable, forward-looking partnership framework.

## 15. Technology and Industry Partnerships

The state of Idaho has had a 76-year partnership with INL, the nation's nuclear energy laboratory and the designated Used Fuel Research Center for DOE. INL has a long history in fuel reprocessing, fuel development, post-irradiation examination, and related activities. In partnership with the USN, nuclear fuel is transported safely by INL's team across the site frequently.

Many favorable conditions support the development and operation of data centers and related energy infrastructure, particularly nuclear energy. Developers can partner with INL to leverage more than 75 years of expertise in nuclear energy, cybersecurity, and integrated energy systems. The site's remote location – long used for nuclear research and adjacent to public lands – enhances its security and suitability for data center and energy projects. Nearby federal lands could also be explored for development and expansion.

Potential energy infrastructure and data center projects sited at INL may benefit from previous characterization projects conducted on the site, as they can help accelerate the siting process, including any NRC licensing. These include meteorological, subsurface, seismic, flood, and other relevant data. In addition, several categorical exclusions were issued for certain project activities to occur on selected areas and may provide a more streamlined means of data collection for new projects reusing previously evaluated sites.

Eastern Idaho offers additional advantages for developers, including a favorable tax and regulatory environment, a highly skilled energy workforce, strong pro-nuclear community support, robust technical education programs, and proximity to supportive states such as Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. Idaho is also working to improve its business climate through the SPEED Act initiative.

**Existing Nuclear Industry Collaborations, State Incentives, and Proposed Partnerships**

The Idaho Department of Commerce has taken a proactive stance on energy by designating it as a strategic priority and dedicating a staff member specifically focused on the sector. Idaho Commerce has also retooled their energy-specific resources to better support growth and development in the industry.

The Idaho New Capital Investments Incentive Act (aka AREVA Tax Credit) is a state-level tax incentive designed to encourage AREVA, a global nuclear energy company, to build a uranium enrichment facility in Idaho, adjacent to the INL. The incentive, approved in 2008, provided up to $3 billion in tax credits over 20 years, contingent on AREVA meeting specific investment and job-creation milestones. While AREVA ultimately elected to not proceed with constructing the facility in Idaho, the concept utilized via the tax incentive was proven an effective motivator for consideration and investment.

A state and a population with a 76-year history, strong nuclear IQ and high acceptance for the technology and industry, Idaho offers a great business, supplier partner, and tax environment to support the industry's growth.

Idaho's Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI), which took effect July 1, 2014, offers qualifying businesses a credit of up to 30% on income, payroll, and sales taxes for up to 15 years. The program is open to a broad range of industries – from aerospace and high-tech to agriculture and food processing – and welcomes both companies new to Idaho and existing businesses looking to grow.

To apply, a company must create a minimum number of full-time jobs: 20 in rural areas or 50 in urban ones. Those jobs must pay at least the average county wage and be at least 30 hours per week. Beyond job creation, applicants must demonstrate financial stability, a meaningful community contribution, a significant economic impact, and – critically – that the incentive itself is a deciding factor in their location or expansion decision.

Table 15-1: *INL Private Sector Partnerships – Advanced Nuclear Reactors*

| Company | Reactor/Technology Type | Partnership Focus | Program/Agreement |
|---|---|---|---|
| TerraPower | Natrium (Sodium Fast Reactor) | Demonstration support, fuel & materials testing | ARDP; CRADA |
| X-energy | Xe-100 (Pebble Bed HTGR) | Fuel fabrication (TRISO), reactor design support | ARDP; CRADA |
| Kairos Power | KP-FHR (Fluoride Salt-Cooled) | TRISO fuel testing, materials R&D | CRADA; user facility agreements |
| Terrestrial Energy | IMSR (Molten Salt Reactor) | Reactor design, licensing support, materials testing | Technical collaboration |
| Oklo | Aurora (Microreactor / Fast Neutron) | Site licensing at INL, fuel recycling R&D, used EBR-II fuel supply | Site Use Permit; CRADA; NRIC |
| Westinghouse | eVinci Microreactor | Heat pipe & microreactor testing | MARVEL reactor collaboration; CRADA |
| Ultra Safe Nuclear (USNC) | Micro Modular Reactor (MMR) | TRISO fuel, high-temp materials | Technical partnership |
| General Atomics | Energy Multiplier Module ($EM^2$) | Fast reactor fuel & materials testing | R&D collaboration |
| NuScale Power | VOYGR (SMR / Light Water) | Design certification support, safety analysis | DOE cost-share; technical support |
| Centrus Energy | HALEU fuel supply | Fuel supply chain for advanced reactors | HALEU supply agreements |
| BWX Technologies | Microreactor / space nuclear | Nuclear propulsion & microreactor R&D | NASA/DOE joint programs |
| Lightbridge Corporation | Metallic fuel technology | Advanced fuel fabrication & testing | CRADA |
| Aalo Atomics | Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor | Early-stage R&D, fast reactor fuel & design engagement | DOE/NRIC ecosystem engagement* |
| Antares Industries | Defense Microreactor (100kWe–1MWe) | Modular power for defense-critical assets, 4–6 year core life | DoD/DOE microreactor program engagement* |
| Holtec Government Services | SMR-300 (LWR PWR) | Construction and Operation of the Integrated and Separative Effects Test Loop at INL | DOE Cost Share Cooperative Agreement |

*This list is a summary and not exhaustive of all exiting partnerships, some under NDA***

## 16. Secondary Waste Management

Idaho, supported by the Idaho DEQ, offers a mature and highly reliable and right-sized regulatory framework that is fully prepared to meet the secondary waste management needs of the NLIC from the outset. With a proven track record of more than a decade of successful oversight at INL, Idaho has established itself as a leader in regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and collaborative partnerships with DOE. This experience ensures both regulatory certainty and seamless integration, allowing DOE and its partners to focus on innovation and assurance of robust and dependable secondary waste management systems.

Idaho is ready to assist in the management, storage, processing, and disposal of secondary waste streams, including those generated from R&D and decommissioning activities. The state's comprehensive infrastructure provides efficient pathways for multiple waste classifications. Idaho, through INL, maintains a longstanding pipeline for the characterization and shipment of transuranic (TRU) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), ensuring the accurate classification, packaging, and secure transport of these materials via the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant (AMWTP) and INTEC: established and proven facilities with capabilities for complex waste management and disposition. For LLW, Idaho's geographic proximity to EnergySolutions in Clive, Utah, combined with its reliable rail infrastructure, offers cost-effective and efficient options for commercial and federal LLW and MLLW treatment and disposal. Additionally, Idaho hosts the ICDF, a secure on-site landfill specifically designed for the safe disposal of low-level radioactive and hazardous waste regulated under CERCLA generated at the INL. The ICDF features state-of-the-art containment systems, including multiple engineered barriers, to prevent environmental contamination, underscoring Idaho's advanced capacity to manage complex waste streams in compliance with state and federal standards. Supplementing these capabilities, the IWTU highlights Idaho's ability to handle liquid waste streams, transforming them into stable, solid carbonate forms suitable for eventual long-term disposal. Together, these assets, coupled with Idaho's existing expertise and logistical connections, create a seamless and reliable waste management system ready to support all secondary waste handling requirements of the NLIC. without delay or unnecessary costs.

The state's regulatory framework is another pillar of support for the NLIC, with Idaho DEQ acting as the lead authority for hazardous waste management under RCRA, as authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a single-point-of-contact, Idaho DEQ offers clear guidance for mixed-waste compliance, ensuring close oversight of radioactive waste containing hazardous components while complementing DOE's authority over pure radioactive waste. Idaho DEQ inspectors maintain an active field presence and engage in routine, collaborative discussions with DOE counterparts to ensure seamless, ongoing compliance. Unified permitting processes provide a comprehensive regulatory approach for all secondary streams, including air quality permits, drinking water standards, and wastewater discharge. By addressing these streams with the same rigor and efficiency applied to high-tech industrial processes, Idaho DEQ ensures that all waste complies with stringent state and federal environmental regulations while avoiding unnecessary administrative delays.

## 17. Government-Furnished Data/Technology/Equipment

The State of Idaho, while not currently holding rights or licenses to the specific data, technology, or equipment required to support the NLIC, is uniquely equipped to leverage the unparalleled capabilities of INL. Situated on land regulated by the state under both federal and state environmental laws, the INL represents the largest and most practical lifecycle nuclear system testing and development site in the world. Much of the infrastructure, data, and technology necessary to achieve the objectives of the NLIC are already operational, continuously upgraded, and integral to DOE's long-term mission for U.S. energy security. Idaho asserts that access to INL land and facilities would accelerate development timelines for the NLIC while imposing negligible environmental or public risk due to the size, history, and robust safeguards already in place at the site.

Expanding existing INL contracts to grant the state access to facilities, expertise, and operational information would allow Idaho to capitalize on proven capabilities in nuclear energy development and environmental management (see Table 17-1 for examples). Such access would enable the efficient development and deployment of NLIC objectives while significantly reducing federal and private-sector capital expenditure. Leveraging resources that have already been developed and funded ensures cost savings for both the government and private industry. The INL's existing infrastructure—including fuel storage and management systems, fuel reprocessing technologies tied directly to commercial applications, processes for managing and disposing of both primary and secondary waste, and its exemplary safeguards and security protocols—provides an exceptional foundation for the NLIC. These capabilities have been consistently proven and complemented by INL's unparalleled safety record, which is further supported by its longstanding commitment to public engagement on matters of environmental stewardship, nuclear research, and power development.

Table 17-1: *Government-Furnished Data/Technology/Equipment*

| | |
|---|---|
| DOE land lease at INL | Long-term lease of a portion of the land identified in the DOE's recent RFP on AI Infrastructure and Energy Generation on DOE Land at INL would provide immediately available, secure, federally controlled land to anchor core Campus functions and facilities. |
| Genesis Mission | Leveraging DOE's advanced computing backbone would be a critical technological enabler. This includes Prometheus, collaboration between INL and Nvidia encompassing initiatives such as generative AI, digital twins, and agentic workflows to accelerate nuclear design, licensing, manufacturing, construction, and operation; utilizing DOE supercomputers and Nvidia AI systems for large-scale simulations and real-time operations; validating digital twins with INL's extensive nuclear data and on-site reactors like NRAD and MARVEL; and accelerating nuclear simulation codes, including MOOSE, BISON, Griffin, and Pronghorn, on Nvidia GPU architectures. |

Idaho envisions a graded approach to access the data, technology, and infrastructure required for the NLIC. Agreements with the DOE would ensure the state and its partners are granted access only to the resources necessary to achieve project success. Idaho would also proactively collaborate to incorporate private-sector technologies and program management expertise, ensuring that resource use is appropriately scaled to maximize mission objectives and minimize costs. The state sees significant opportunities to utilize and update existing INL facilities for research, fuel processing, and fuel storage in ways that complement the campus's mission without disrupting ongoing DOE Office

of Nuclear Energy (NE) or Environmental Management (EM) objectives. Idaho would also pursue access to existing contracts and infrastructure for fuel management, waste handling, and decommissioning operations, further conserving resources by avoiding the need to reconstitute these capabilities.

## 18. International Export Capabilities

Idaho is uniquely positioned to support the international export of advanced nuclear technologies and related infrastructure through a cohesive strategy that leverages its partnership with the INL, the "Export Idaho" program, international trade missions, and a robust compliance framework. The state's commitment to integrating state-level diplomatic resources, world-class infrastructure, and export-oriented workforce development ensures global market access for reactors, fuels, isotopes, and supporting technologies, while addressing the complexities of international trade regulations. Idaho's "Export Idaho" program serves as a centralized framework to guide nuclear technology companies through the intricacies of global market entry, supported by the state's extensive network of international trade offices and frequent Governor-led missions. Recent engagements with nations such as the United Kingdom, Japan, and Taiwan have expanded Idaho's footprint in global markets by fostering bilateral opportunities for collaboration on SMR deployment, advanced reactor safety systems, and fuel cycle services.

Idaho further enhances these efforts through close collaboration with the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, ensuring businesses can access business matchmaking services and "Gold Key" initiatives to secure partnerships abroad. The state actively utilizes its four international trade offices to promote foreign direct investment and expand the reach of Idaho-based innovations, connecting stakeholders to international customers. This strategic alignment is reinforced by strong advocacy from Idaho's congressional delegation and close ties between the Governor's office and INL, ensuring that Idaho's nuclear capabilities remain central to U.S. foreign policy and global energy goals.

Idaho's infrastructure readiness underscores its export potential. The Port of Lewiston, the most inland seaport on the U.S. West Coast, enables efficient maritime transport of oversized reactor modules and components to global markets via the Columbia-Snake River system. This port, paired with the state's robust highway network—enhanced through projects like the Intermountain Nuclear Energy Corridor (INEC)—and rail logistics hubs such as the Pocatello intermodal facility, ensures efficient transit of sensitive materials, including HALEU. The integration of state and federal cooperation under the Tri-State Compact further strengthens regional infrastructure to support uninterrupted global access.

To prepare for the challenges of international trade regulations, Idaho employs a proactive approach to compliance with the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), Export Administration Regulations (EAR), and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards. State-sponsored workshops educate the nuclear supply chain on regulatory requirements, while partnerships between universities like Idaho State University (ISU) and INL ensure the workforce is well-versed in export controls. INL's expertise in nuclear cybersecurity, nonproliferation, and safeguards also enhances Idaho's ability to deliver technologies that meet rigorous international benchmarks for security and safety.

Idaho's workforce development strategy aligns educational programs and industry needs to support the global ambitions of the NLIC. Programs like Idaho LAUNCH ensure the state's workforce is prepared for high-value roles in reactor operations, maintenance, and fuel management, while federal support at ISU has expanded isotope production capabilities to meet growing global demand. By connecting workforce training initiatives with the state's trade missions, Idaho ensures that its talent pipelines meet the expectations of international customers.

Idaho's economic strategy prioritizes attracting private capital to reduce the financial burden on taxpayers while managing risks associated with complex nuclear deployments. By co-locating energy-intensive industries such as data centers with nuclear infrastructure and scaling

technological innovations through platforms like the NRIC Launch Pad, Idaho has developed a sustainable model for global market engagement. This approach makes Idaho's export strategy self-sustaining, competitively positioned, and fully aligned with the DOE's vision for global nuclear leadership.

With its unparalleled infrastructure, comprehensive compliance framework, globally engaged workforce, and sustained commitment to international collaboration, Idaho is prepared to spearhead the global nuclear renaissance. From the Port of Lewiston to international trade networks and INL's cutting-edge research capabilities, Idaho ensures that American nuclear innovations can compete globally while safeguarding U.S. interests. Establishing the NLIC in Idaho represents a pivotal step toward energy security, economic growth, and renewed global leadership in advanced nuclear technology.

## 19. Constraints and Inhibiting Factors

The State of Idaho, recognized globally as a premier hub for nuclear research and development, offers a robust ecosystem uniquely suited to host the NLIC. However, the successful siting and long-term operation of the campus require addressing several technical, environmental, and regulatory factors through proactive management and close integration with the DOE. Idaho's infrastructure, while mature and capable of supporting a large-scale nuclear initiative, is also undergoing critical upgrades to meet the evolving demands of modern energy infrastructure. Specifically, improvements to power distribution and grid resilience are essential. The ongoing multi-year upgrade programs must secure sustained funding to modernize transmission lines and ensure they can handle the high-density power demands anticipated from the data center components of the NLIC. Failure to proactively upgrade these systems could disproportionately impact local electricity distribution and disrupt grid stability for both the NLIC and the region's USN missions. Additionally, Idaho's current status as an underdeveloped data center hub necessitates strategic integration of utility protocols to balance large-scale energy consumption with residential rate stability. Leveraging innovative technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and adopting flexible interconnection standards will enable Idaho to mitigate concerns about load volatility while advancing the campus's operational goals.

Environmental stewardship and resource management are integral to Idaho's nuclear development strategy. The INL site is situated above the Snake River Plain Aquifer, a sole source of drinking water for nearly 300,000 residents that also supports a significant portion of Idaho's agricultural economy. While water rights on-site are sufficient for current operations, precise management will be critical as NLIC activities increase water demand. The state anticipates significant adoption of sustainable water practices such as recycling and non-water cooling technologies for data centers to mitigate demand on the aquifer. Idaho's unique climate also affords an opportunity to minimize peak cooling needs, reducing the environmental footprint of the campus. This careful approach ensures that the campus can operate efficiently while preserving water resources vital to the state's residents and economy.

The ISA remains a cornerstone of the state's regulatory framework for nuclear operations. Established in 1995, the agreement mandates the removal of spent nuclear fuel from the state by 2035 and embodies Idaho's commitment to environmental accountability. While renegotiation of certain provisions have allowed research quantities of commercial fuel to support INL's leadership in the nuclear sector, adherence to these cleanup obligations will remain non-negotiable for any NLIC activity. Additionally, Idaho's complex geology, characterized by its proximity to volcanic fault lines, poses limitations for deep geologic disposal. The state supports alternative strategies such as recycling to reduce waste volume, exploring disposal solutions like deep geologic boreholes, our utilizing proposed deep geological repositories in broader Western U.S. regions (e.g., Utah). These initiatives align with Idaho's position as an advocate for sustainable and responsible waste management practices while maintaining compliance with state and federal requirements.

Idaho's workforce readiness is a critical asset for the success of the NLIC, but scaling resources to meet the full demands of a nuclear renaissance will require targeted educational investment. While Idaho's reputation as a "nuclear epicenter" ensures access to top-tier engineering talent, meeting NLIC's workforce needs will necessitate increased focus on skilled trades such as welders and specialized technicians. Expanding community college programs and potentially adopting training models like the Navy Nuclear Power School will ensure a sustainable workforce pipeline capable of supporting the campus's operational and growth objectives. Public support for the NLIC is anticipated to remain strong, given Idaho's informed and engaged communities that take pride in INL's contributions to regional and national interests. Maintaining that support will depend on

consistent transparency about the campus's infrastructure requirements and clear communication of the economic benefits it provides without burdening local resources.

Addressing these potential barriers with precision and proactive strategies ensures that Idaho remains the ideal state to host and advance the mission of the NLIC. Through targeted infrastructure upgrades, rigorous environmental management, adherence to a respected regulatory framework, and investment in workforce development, Idaho demonstrates its readiness to deliver an operationally effective, environmentally responsible, and economically impactful nuclear innovation hub.

## 20. Unaddressed Considerations

To ensure the successful implementation of an NLIC, DOE must address key issues surrounding fiscal innovation, logistical integration, national security, and stakeholder engagement. Idaho, leveraging its unique position as the home of the IINL, provides a comprehensive framework to navigate these complexities and position the NLIC as a transformative hub for nuclear innovation, development, and deployment.

A primary consideration is the establishment of a clear and sustainable fiscal framework for the campus, particularly regarding integrated waste management and fuel handling. Idaho emphasizes the importance of funding transparency, with DOE defining how federal commitments will fulfill the financial obligations required for long-term campus development. Additionally, clarity on the reprocessing technologies and fuel types to be handled at the campus is indispensable for planning and operations. Idaho advocates implementing a strategic policy shift where commercial nuclear utility "one-time fees" be collected immediately by initiating nuclear fuel (SNF) shipments to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) from decommissioned commercial nuclear reactors. This approach would reinvest those funds directly into host states, accelerating the establishment of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities (CISF) and reprocessing infrastructure to ensure a closed nuclear fuel lifecycle. Such measures are essential for reinforcing DOE's objectives and ensuring cost-effective, sustainable progress at the NLIC.

The successful integration of physical and digital infrastructure is also critical for the efficient operation of the NLIC. Idaho's expansion of its digital footprint, including a recently completed fiber project serving the INL site, provides immediate broadband capacity to support the advanced digital needs of the campus. Continued development of rights-of-way for fiber access along both the northern and southern portions of the INL site ensures uninterrupted high-speed connectivity, which is essential for next-generation nuclear operations and AI-driven innovations. Idaho's Office of Broadband, supported by more than $700 million in federal BEAD and CPF funding, actively enhances digital access statewide, targeting underserved areas and eliminating potential connectivity barriers. On a logistical front, Idaho's attention to transportation corridors underscores the importance of secure and efficient movement of materials and personnel. Interstate rights-of-way, coupled with regional collaboration, support the safe transport of sensitive materials—a vital consideration for large-scale nuclear operations.

Idaho also offers an unmatched national security and site suitability environment that minimizes risks for high-sensitivity infrastructure. The physical isolation of the INL campus mitigates safety conflicts with surrounding public or private land use, providing the security required for the campus to function as a national leader in nuclear innovation. INL's established leadership in cybersecurity and infrastructure protection positions Idaho as a safeguard against both physical and cyber threats. This expertise ensures compliance with national security standards and eliminates any concerns impeding the development and operation of high-demand facilities such as data centers and energy generators on the NLIC site. Idaho's suitability is further validated by its long history of successfully hosting complex industrial and nuclear projects, underpinned by policies and technical frameworks that create a stable foundation for campus development.

## 21. Additional State Information

Idaho is at the forefront of advancing nuclear energy development through targeted initiatives, regional partnerships, and workforce cultivation. The state's efforts are rooted in collaboration among public, private, and academic institutions to support supply chain growth, workforce readiness, and infrastructure development for advanced nuclear technologies. Historically, the Leadership in Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission laid the foundation for these efforts, now led by the Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force. This work expanded significantly in 2023 with the establishment of the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium to align industry and educational stakeholders on supply chain, workforce, and infrastructure needs within the nuclear and clean energy sectors.

In a bold regional effort, the Governors of Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming signed a Tri-State Energy Compact on April 29, 2025, paving the way for collaboration on a nuclear energy corridor. The partnership focuses on accelerating nuclear energy development by:

- Aligning energy policies to encourage innovation and private investment;
- Coordinating regional infrastructure development;
- Addressing regulatory and environmental challenges jointly;
- Advocating for federal support;
- Enhancing grid resilience and energy reliability; and
- Expanding workforce programs to meet the sector's growing needs. This agreement exemplifies Idaho's leadership in regional energy advancement, fostering unified policies and actionable strategies across state lines.

**National and Regional Engagement**

Idaho is actively engaged in advanced nuclear policy development through initiatives like the Advanced Nuclear States Collaborative, a partnership between the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). Since 2023, this forum, funded by the DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, has facilitated Idaho's engagement in addressing cross-state policy and regulatory challenges, enhancing peer learning and policy alignment among state utility regulators and energy officials.

Additionally, the Common Ground Consortium, led by Boise State University's Energy Policy Institute (EPI), works to design collaborative strategies for siting critical energy and nuclear waste infrastructure. Funded by the DOE, this effort engages policymakers, Tribal groups, industry leaders, and technical experts to develop recommendations based on extensive stakeholder input, historical analysis, and collaborative feedback.

The EPI, with over two decades of leadership in nuclear-related research and policy, provides data-driven insights on NEPA regulations, nuclear-cybersecurity risks, SMR and microreactor adoption, and emerging markets such as nuclear-powered hydrogen production and critical minerals mining. These activities reinforce Idaho's position as a thought leader in nuclear innovation.

**Established Workforce and Industry Expertise**

Idaho has cultivated a robust network of skilled labor and supply chain partners with experience in nuclear construction and compliance. The state's industry expertise includes:

- Structural steel fabrication and erection, welding, and inspection;
- Concrete mixing, placement, nondestructive evaluation, and testing;

- Precast concrete manufacturing and field engineering; and
- Advanced material characterization and evaluation.

These firms uphold nuclear industry standards for precision and safety-critical construction with a demonstrated readiness to support advanced nuclear facility development.

**Workforce Training and Development**
Idaho's universities and community colleges are central to advancing nuclear workforce capabilities, leveraging proximity to INL and programs aligned with industry needs. Highlights include:

- University Programs: Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho lead academic efforts in nuclear engineering, health physics, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing. Idaho State operates one of the country's few university-based nuclear reactors, while the University of Idaho enhances training with a nuclear reactor simulator.
- Nuclear Safeguards and Security Certificate (delivered online through a collaboration of Idaho universities): Trains professionals in protecting nuclear and radioactive materials from misuse.
- Graduate Certificates (University of Idaho):
  - Used Fuel Management and Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning;
  - Nuclear Criticality Safety;
  - Technology Management;
  - Nuclear Materials Engineering.

These academic programs integrate classroom learning with internships, co-op opportunities at INL, and federally funded projects, ensuring students gain practical experience in reactor technologies, materials testing, and cybersecurity.

**Community Colleges and Regional Partnerships**
Idaho's community colleges, including the College of Eastern Idaho (CEI), deliver critical training in trades essential to nuclear plant construction and maintenance, such as heavy equipment operations, IT, and construction management. In partnership with the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium (IAEC), regional colleges developed the Advanced Nuclear Workforce Ecosystem (ANWE). Supported by a $3.6 million EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant awarded in 2025, ANWE aims to:

- Develop nuclear technician AAS programs;
- Advance nuclear-informed trades curriculums;
- Enhance transitional workforce training across the Intermountain West;
- Build earn-and-learn opportunities and outreach initiatives.

This scalable training network meets the needs of both existing and emerging nuclear technologies.

Idaho's initiatives and cooperative approach position the state as a national leader in nuclear energy innovation and workforce readiness. Regional partnerships through tri-state agreements, deep engagement in national collaboratives, and robust academic and workforce programs equip Idaho to achieve the DOE's objectives for advanced reactor deployment and lifecycle management. Idaho's holistic alignment of policy, infrastructure, and education ensures the state remains at the forefront

of the nuclear renaissance, while fostering economic growth and energy innovation for the region and the nation.

Specifically, the State of Idaho accelerates progress through these key areas of action:

- Career Technical Education (CTE): Idaho's CTE programs deliver industry-aligned technical training through regional technical colleges and secondary CTE centers. These programs provide pathways into skilled trades essential for nuclear infrastructure, including welding, instrumentation, electrical systems, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing.
- Public Universities and Community Colleges: All of Idaho's eight institutions (four 4-years and four 2-years) provide programming that supports nuclear management and technology. Idaho's universities and community colleges collaborate with the Idaho National Laboratory and industry partners to develop specialized academic pathways in nuclear engineering, materials science, cybersecurity, and energy systems. Degree programs, certificates, and applied science credentials are structured to support the full workforce continuum—from technicians to PhD-level researchers. Examples of existing programs in the state include:
  - Idaho State University (ISU)
    - Energy Systems Technology and Education Center (ESTEC): five focus areas including Nuclear Operations Technology; certificate, AAS, and BAS pathways
    - Health Physics Certificate
    - Bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Nuclear Engineering
    - Nuclear welding career-technical certificate
    - Additional CTE programs: welding, heavy machinery, mechanical design
    - Graduate programs in engineering, cybersecurity, governance and policy, and resilience engineering
    - Active in AI research and curriculum development
  - College of Eastern Idaho (CEI)
    - Health Physics Certification
    - Associate of Engineering (A.E.) pathways
    - Information Assurance programs
    - CTE programs: welding, heavy machinery, mechanical design
  - University of Idaho (U of I)
    - Master's degree in Nuclear Engineering
    - Nuclear Safeguards and Security Certificate
    - Graduate programs in engineering, cybersecurity, governance and policy, and resilience engineering
    - Active in AI research and curriculum development
  - Boise State University (BSU)
    - Nuclear safeguards and security programs

  - Cybersecurity, cryptology, and threat intelligence programs
  - Graduate programs in engineering, cybersecurity, governance and policy, and resilience engineering
  - Active in AI research and curriculum development
- College of Southern Idaho (CSI)
  - Applied Science in Engineering degree
  - Associate of Engineering (A.E.) pathways
  - Water Resource Management career-technical program
  - CTE programs: welding, heavy machinery, mechanical design
- College of Western Idaho (CWI)
  - Applied Science in Engineering degree
  - Associate of Engineering (A.E.) pathways
  - Mining Technician program
  - CTE programs: welding, heavy machinery, mechanical design

- Industry and National Laboratory Partnerships: Through partnerships with INL and private-sector companies, Idaho integrates experiential learning opportunities including internships, apprenticeships, cooperative education, and industry-sponsored research. These collaborations ensure students gain direct experience with advanced nuclear technologies and related supply chain industries.

**Mineral Potential**

Idaho offers a strong geologic and economic foundation for the establishment of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. The state hosts a well-documented mineral endowment that has supported a long-standing precious and base metal mining industry and is now rapidly expanding into the exploration and development of critical minerals essential to advanced energy technologies. This existing mineral sector provides a network of supporting industries—including mineral exploration, extraction, and processing—that aligns closely with the supply chain needs of an integrated nuclear lifecycle innovation ecosystem.

From a geologic perspective, Idaho and the surrounding Intermountain West contain significant resources relevant to next-generation nuclear technologies. The region hosts rare earth element (REE) deposits and known thorium occurrences, particularly in the Lemhi Pass district along the Idaho–Montana border, which has long been recognized as one of the largest thorium resources in the United States. These resources present opportunities for research and demonstration related to advanced fuel cycles, strategic mineral supply chains, and materials development for nuclear energy systems.

Establishing an Innovation Campus in Idaho would also support economic diversification by building on ongoing mineral processing and demonstration initiatives while leveraging the proximity of a growing mining and critical minerals industry. Coupled with Idaho's existing research infrastructure and technical workforce, these geologic and industrial advantages position the state to contribute to workforce development, infrastructure investment, and technology leadership across the full nuclear lifecycle—from resource development and fuel materials to advanced reactor technologies and fuel cycle innovation.

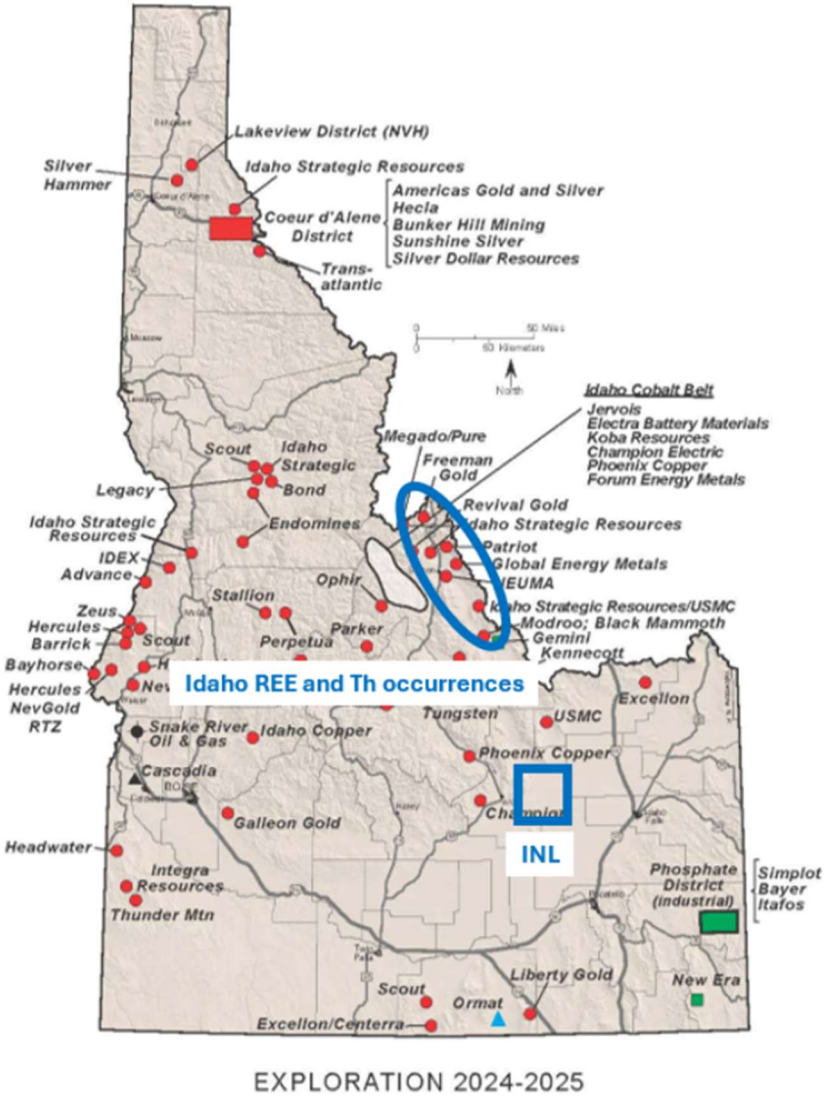


Figure 21-1: *Mineral Exploration map of Idaho updated for 2025 activities, with highlighted INL approximate location and pertinent sites of known REE and Th deposits selected for proximity to the site.*

## 22. Financial responsibility, Cost Sharing, and Assurances

Idaho brings forward a multi-layered financial framework designed to balance public and private investments, mitigate risks, and ensure long-term economic sustainability while reducing reliance on federal funding. Idaho's strategic integration of state-administered programs, private sector participation, and innovative cost-sharing mechanisms demonstrates its readiness to co-lead the establishment of an NLIC.

Idaho has already made substantial, direct investments in infrastructure supporting the INL and the regional nuclear ecosystem, setting a solid foundation for cost-sharing:

- Owned and Operated Facilities: The State has committed over $100 million in assets (e.g., Freemont Avenue and MK Simpson Boulevard facilities), providing administrative and laboratory spaces for collaborative use by developers.
- Future-Tech Building: A $30 million investment in advanced research facilities to stimulate innovation and provide shared-use infrastructure for public-private partnerships.
- Transportation Infrastructure: continuous investment in highways and transit corridors capable of supporting heavy-load nuclear equipment and fuel movements. These highways are integrated into broader statewide energy strategies, ensuring safety and logistics efficiency.

By leveraging these existing assets, Idaho directly reduces federal financial burdens and enables private sector participation with lower upfront capital requirements.

Idaho positions itself as a co-investor throughout the lifecycle of the NLIC by integrating private sector capital, state-sponsored programs, and facilitated federal cost-sharing into a collaborative framework. Key components of this approach include Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) modeled on successful industrial projects, where the federal government supports core research infrastructure while state and private entities share the costs of deployment and commercialization. Additionally, Idaho employs clear risk allocation mechanisms, such as performance bonds, surety bonds, and shared liability pools, to ensure private developers internalize risks related to operations, decommissioning, and closure phases. This integrated model promotes equitable cost distribution, fosters innovation, and mitigates risks across the entire campus lifecycle.

Idaho's economic development strategy emphasizes private sector leadership in funding large-scale industrial projects, including nuclear-energy initiatives within the NLIC, with private developers expected to take responsibility for capital investments, operational funding, and lifecycle management. To attract such investments, Idaho fosters a business-friendly environment with low taxes, property tax caps, and sales tax incentives that reduce capital costs and investment risks. Additionally, programs like the NRIC Launch Pad provide plug-and-play infrastructure, offering ready-made facilities and utilities that allow SMR and microreactor developers to focus on innovation instead of site preparation. The State's land-use policies further reduce overhead costs through property tax caps. Idaho's Large Business Property Tax incentive provides a property tax exemption on all property in excess of $400 million for businesses that invest a minimum of $1 billion in capital improvements, which exempt investments over $400 million, and . Idaho also has special local arrangements where counties collaborate with developers on tax abatements, enabling economically viable project financing. Idaho stands ready to incorporate tools such as Title XVII Loan Guarantees – through qualified State Energy Financing Institution (SEFI) - or cost-sharing agreements where appropriate, especially for capital-intensive phases such as advanced reactor deployment, supply chain expansion, and workforce training. Together, these tools create a highly competitive ecosystem that supports commercial-scale nuclear innovation.

Idaho requires private participants to contribute to decommissioning and waste management through mechanisms such as sinking funds and performance bonds, which mandate financial commitments during the planning phases to ensure adequate resources for facility closure. Additionally, the state prioritizes consent-based waste management planning, emphasizing collaborative federal-private strategies to prevent financial burdens on taxpayers. These measures ensure that the lifecycle costs of operating and decommissioning facilities are internalized, creating a sustainable and accountable financial structure.

Idaho employs targeted, performance-based incentives to attract capital-intensive projects and align state contributions with tangible returns on investment. The Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) serves as Idaho's flagship incentive for catalyzing industrial development and job creation. Developers can earn tax credits of up to 30% for 15 years based on verified performance metrics, such as job creation, capital investment thresholds, and average wage levels above local benchmarks. Provisions require continued company performance during the eligibility lifetime of the TRI credits, ensuring beneficiary accountability and protecting taxpayers while delivering substantial economic benefits.

Recognizing the vital importance of skilled labor, Idaho provides targeted training support and grants to build a strong workforce pipeline for the NLIC. This includes $3 million in annual university research funding aligned with nuclear and energy sciences, up to $8,000 per worker through the Idaho LAUNCH program for individuals pursuing high-demand careers in nuclear technology, and workforce training grants of up to $1 million available to developers who meet verified hiring and training metrics. Together, these initiatives ensure a robust talent pool to support operations across the NLIC.

The establishment of the NLIC under Idaho's strategic framework is grounded in unparalleled advantages that position the state as the ideal partner for this initiative. With 76 years of continuously managed partnerships with the DOE, Idaho offers unmatched regional expertise and a well-established historical foundation. Its existing ecosystem, anchored by the $2.1 billion annual budget of INL and robust state-federal collaboration, creates fertile ground for innovation and commercialization. Idaho's proactive global connectivity, driven by international trade missions, attracts Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and integrates the state into the global nuclear supply chain. Additionally, regulatory stability provided by the ISA ensures predictable, timeline-driven milestones for waste management and decommissioning, reducing uncertainty for all stakeholders. Together, these strengths form a comprehensive and compelling case for Idaho as the premier location for the NLIC.

## 23. Revenue Sources and Cost-Recovery Approaches

Idaho proposes a robust, performance-based fiscal framework for the NLIC that ensures financial sustainability while holding private sector beneficiaries accountable for their responsibilities. This strategy minimizes public sector liability by linking revenue generation and cost recovery to the direct activities of private entities, including reactor operators, fuel cycle companies, and energy-intensive users, to ensure these parties fund their operating expenses, waste disposition, and decommissioning responsibilities. The strategy includes user fees and service charges to recover costs for shared infrastructure, utilities, and operational support, ensuring that energy-intensive users pay proportional fees for power and other resources consumed, while waste producers contribute to centralized waste management systems. Private entities will also establish segregated sinking funds or secure performance bonds to ensure sufficient reserves for decommissioning and waste disposition, providing upfront financial guarantees to prevent liabilities from transferring to the public. Lease agreements and cooperative frameworks with private-sector participants incorporate financial benefits tied to economic performance, milestones, and compliance, with provisions for clawback mechanisms if conditions are not met. Additionally, a centralized financial mechanism would be created to collect contributions from private participants to pool resources for shared liabilities such as decommissioning, waste transport, and emergency planning.

The ISA serves as a fundamental element in addressing waste management obligations at the NLIC. The agreement ensures that nuclear materials and waste generated within Idaho adhere to strict removal and disposal timelines, thereby preventing indefinite accumulation of waste within the state. This framework minimizes public sector liability by requiring private operators to adhere to federal standards, provides regulatory certainty through predictable milestones that enhance project feasibility for stakeholders, and protects state and local budgets from unforeseen liabilities by keeping waste management costs with the private beneficiaries. The NLIC would build upon these principles to establish Idaho as a leader in responsible nuclear operations by enforcing clear standards for lifecycle cost accountability under the ISA.

Idaho's Advanced Nuclear Strategic Framework (ANSF) further strengthens this fiscal strategy by integrating accountability, innovation, and sustainability into every phase of campus operations. As a policy roadmap for advanced nuclear development, the ANSF facilitates risk minimization for taxpayers by mandating financial assurances from private entities throughout the lifecycle, aligns state policies with federal goals to attract matching funds while enforcing accountability standards, and fosters market-driven innovation to encourage private investment and sustainable deployment of new technologies. Together, the ISA and ANSF ensure the framework addresses long-term financial risks while fostering innovation and supporting the DOE's objectives.

Central to Idaho's fiscal approach is the requirement that private sector beneficiaries assume financial responsibility for their activities, thereby reducing public liability exposure and enabling a sustainable operational model. Reactor operators are expected to fully fund operational expenses, insurance premiums, and risk management measures proportional to their operations. Companies involved in the fuel cycle, including enrichment, fabrication, and recycling, must contribute directly to decommissioning and waste management funds to address all key lifecycle phases. Energy-intensive users, such as co-located AI data centers, will pay market-based rates for power and heat supplied by campus reactors through State Commission-approved structures, such as special contracts, in compliance with the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act (Idaho Code 61-332 A through D) while benefiting from plug-and-play infrastructure that reduces initial startup costs. This structure allows the NLIC to operate as a revenue-neutral or revenue-positive enterprise for state and federal stakeholders while leveraging private capital to sustain its innovation ecosystem.

Idaho's overall framework combines bold innovation with fiscal discipline to ensure the NLIC's long-term viability. By incorporating cost recovery mechanisms such as user fees, performance-based agreements, and decommissioning funding and the proactive innovation outlined in the ANSF, Idaho builds a sustainable model that keeps private entities accountable for financial and operational commitments. This approach not only protects taxpayer resources and limits public liability but also establishes Idaho as a national leader in nuclear energy innovation and commercialization

## Attachment A - Letters of Support from Private Partners

amentum

*March 26, 2026*

**Attn:** The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of Idaho
State Capitol
700 W. Jefferson Street
Boise, ID 83720

Mrs. Cally Younger
Administrator, Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
304 N. 8th Street
Boise, ID 83702

**Subject:** Amentum Support for Idaho's Proposal to Host the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC)

Dear Governor Little and Administrator Younger,

Amentum is proud to express its strong support for the State of Idaho's proposal to host a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC). With its legacy of leadership in advanced nuclear energy, environmental management, and workforce readiness, Idaho is well-positioned to fulfill the ambitious goals set forth in DOE's vision of establishing fully integrated nuclear lifecycle campuses.

Amentum is leader across the global nuclear industry, providing engineering, construction, and operations services across the entire nuclear lifecycle, and we are one of the few companies in the world to have successfully reprocessed spent nuclear fuel. We support nuclear energy, defense, and environmental remediation projects, including managing nuclear sites, waste management, and advanced reactor development. We have worked for over 70 years to deliver critical DOE missions, including through our majority partnership role in the Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC), which manages environmental work at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Our daily contributions across multiple sites—spanning nuclear cleanup, fuel cycle technology, advanced reactor design, and reprocessing systems—are directly aligned with the objectives of the NLIC initiative.

Idaho provides an unparalleled foundation for the development of this cutting-edge campus. INL's robust infrastructure, which includes world-class facilities such as the Advanced Test Reactor (ATR) and Fuel Manufacturing Facility (FMF), positions Idaho to deliver the advanced reactor testing, fuel reprocessing, and energy innovation functions envisioned by DOE. Furthermore, Idaho's demonstrated strength in waste management—through facilities such as the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) and Idaho CERCLA Disposal Facility (ICDF)—ensures full lifecycle coverage for the NLIC.

Beyond infrastructure, what sets Idaho apart is the collaborative ecosystem it has developed. Through initiatives such as the Advanced Nuclear Task Force and partnerships with local stakeholders, Idaho demonstrates a full commitment to supporting the next generation of

nuclear talent and technologies. Its active participation in the Tri-State Energy Compact with Wyoming and Utah amplifies regional synergies, reflecting a shared commitment to nuclear innovation.

Our global expertise in cutting-edge technologies—ranging from the production of high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) to environmental remediation—aligns seamlessly with DOE's objectives for the NLIC. Amentum works with advanced nuclear developers across the full lifecycle, including the design and deployment of advanced reactors, testing and recycling of fuels, and the operation of secure transportation systems for nuclear materials. Our partnerships with clients and agencies emphasize private-public collaboration, making us uniquely capable of contributing to Idaho's success in establishing the NLIC.

Amentum strongly supports Idaho's ambition to lead the nation in nuclear lifecycle innovation by hosting the NLIC at the INL site. With IEC's expertise in environmental restoration, coupled with INL's unparalleled scientific capabilities, Idaho offers the DOE a proven pathway to meet its objectives under the RFI.

We are fully committed to supporting the State of Idaho, INL, and DOE in advancing this initiative for the benefit of the nation. Should you require further assistance or information, Amentum stands ready to collaborate on this transformative effort.

Thank you for your leadership and vision in advancing America's nuclear innovation. Together, we can secure a clean energy future and ensure the U.S. remains at the forefront of global nuclear technology.

Sincerely,

**John R. Eschenberg**
Senior Vice President – Government Services
Nuclear Center of Excellence | Energy & Environment
125 Broadway Ave. | Oak Ridge, TN 37830
M 202.997.6195
john.eschenberg@amentum.com

amentum

ANTARES

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

On behalf of Antares, we are pleased to express our strong support for the State of Idaho's response to the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Request for Information.

Antares is designing, building, and deploying nuclear fission microreactors for military and commercial applications on Earth and in space. We have an office in Idaho Falls focused on our partnerships with Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

INL is a unique national asset with a proud history and tradition as our country's nuclear reactor testing station. The workforce at the facility has decades of expertise in reactor design, advanced fuels, and other national security missions. This ecosystem offers the opportunity to accelerate the testing of microreactors and microreactor subsytems, creating alignment with the Department of Energy's (DOE) broader vision for nuclear innovation.

Antares is building our low power demonstration unit in the Reactor and Critical Experiment (RACE) facility, also known as the Materials and Fuels Complex Building 793, for our criticality test scheduled before July 4, 2026 under the DOE's Reactor Pilot Program. Our partnership with INL and the DOE Idaho Operations Office have helped enable our progress under this program, and we are confident the strong collaboration will lead to other subsequent reactor demonstration activities.

In the future, Antares plans to establish additional reactor test and ancillary support facilities at INL where we will continue to improve and develop reactor designs to support U.S. government agency and commercial market energy needs.

Should Idaho be selected to host the proposed Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus, we would welcome the opportunity to advanced strategic partnerships with the state and its stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jordan Bramble
CEO and Cofounder
Antares

HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL

Krishna P. Singh Technology Campus, 1 Holtec Blvd., Camden, NJ 08104
Telephone (856) 797-0900
Fax (856) 797-0909

March 30, 2026

The Honorable Brad Little
Governor of the State of Idaho
Idaho State Capitol
700 W. Jefferson St.
Boise, Idaho 83720

and

Cally Younger, Administrator
Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
304 N. 8th St., Suite 250
Boise, Idaho 83720

Subject: Letter of Support for Idaho's Response to the U.S. Department of Energy RFI for Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses

Dear Governor Little and Administrator Younger:

Holtec International is pleased to express its strong support for the State of Idaho's response to the U.S. Department of Energy's Request for Information regarding the establishment of Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses.

Holtec is a global provider of technologies and services across the nuclear lifecycle, with capabilities spanning advanced reactor development, nuclear fuel management, used fuel storage systems, decommissioning, and nuclear manufacturing. The company has extensive experience in the design and deployment of dry cask storage systems, fuel handling technologies, and nuclear plant systems, as well as in the decommissioning and site restoration of nuclear facilities. Holtec also maintains significant manufacturing capabilities to support the production of nuclear components and systems. Through its integrated approach to nuclear technology development and lifecycle services, Holtec brings a comprehensive perspective to the deployment and long-term management of nuclear infrastructure, supported by demonstrated performance across multiple segments of the nuclear industry:

- Installed nuclear equipment at nearly every operating U.S. nuclear power plant
- Over 70% of domestic market share in dry cask used nuclear fuel storage and 40% of the accessible international market
- Designer and U.S. NRC license holder for an interim used nuclear fuel storage facility named HI-STORE Consolidated Storage Facility
- Provider of security services to nuclear and commercial facilities
- Global leader in nuclear plant decommissioning
- Owner and NRC licensee of five U.S. nuclear sites, including ownership of the used nuclear fuel.
- Active nuclear plant operator through the Palisades Nuclear Plant Restart Project

The proposed Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus represents an important opportunity to strengthen domestic nuclear capabilities by integrating reactor deployment, fuel cycle innovation, manufacturing capacity, and workforce development within a coordinated framework. If the U.S. Department of Energy advances Idaho's submission, Holtec would be interested in supporting the State of Idaho and its collaborative partners in areas aligned with its capabilities, including:

- Disposition of waste streams including experience and expertise in Used Nuclear Fuel (UNF) dry storage, handling, and transport and the HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility sitting and licensing.

HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL
Krishna P. Singh Technology Campus, 1 Holtec Blvd., Camden, NJ 08104
Telephone (856) 797-0900
Fax (856) 797-0909



- Advanced reactor deployment through the SMR-300, fresh HALEU fuel storage racks and transport systems, UNF storage racks and associated reactor loading and unloading systems.
- Advanced manufacturing, through USA based heavy manufacturing plants utilizing state-of-the-art automation, robotics, and advanced welding techniques for large nuclear facility components and thermal equipment.
- Workforce development.
- Decommissioning and site remediation.
- Physical and cyber security capabilities (which are listed within several functional areas such as Uranium Enrichment, Data Centers, Advanced Reactor Deployment, and Proliferation Resistance).
- NRC licensing capabilities (listed within Secure Transportation Networks).
- Long duration energy storage solutions.

Holtec believes that initiatives such as the proposed campus will play an important role in strengthening U.S. nuclear infrastructure and supply chains while advancing the deployment of next-generation nuclear technologies. Idaho's strong industrial base and skilled workforce position the state well to support these efforts.

Holtec looks forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the State of Idaho and its partners in support of this initiative. Thank you for your leadership in advancing innovative approaches to nuclear energy development.

Sincerely,

Myron M. Kaczmarsky
Vice President, Holtec Government Services
Mobile: 978-493-3007
E-mail: m.kaczmarsky@holtec.com

CC: Joy Russell (j.russell@holtec.com); Patrick O'Brien (p.obrien@holtec.com); Phil Bartholomew (p.bartholomew@holtec.com)

Document ID: 304471aa

JANICKI

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March 25, 2026

RE: U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus.

Lieutenant Governor Bedke,

I appreciate the opportunity to support the State of Idaho's pursuit of designation as a host site for the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus.

As the CEO of Janicki Industries, I want to express our strong support for this initiative and our interest in playing a meaningful role in advancing the domestic nuclear supply chain alongside the State of Idaho, the Department of Energy, and other industry partners.

Janicki Industries has a long track record of executing complex, large-scale manufacturing programs in highly regulated industries, including aerospace, defense, and energy. We specialize in advanced composite structures, precision tooling, and large integrated assemblies, and we have demonstrated the ability to scale rapidly to meet demanding production requirements. These capabilities are directly applicable to the emerging needs of advanced nuclear systems and their supporting infrastructure.

We believe the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus represents a critical opportunity to strengthen U.S. energy security, rebuild domestic industrial capacity, and accelerate deployment of advanced reactor technologies. A coordinated, co-located ecosystem—linking fuel cycle capabilities, reactor developers, national laboratories, and advanced manufacturers—has the potential to significantly reduce time to deployment and cost across the entire nuclear lifecycle.

If Idaho is selected, Janicki Industries would be interested in evaluating the development of new manufacturing capacity to support this effort. Areas where we believe we could contribute include large-scale structural components, advanced manufacturing solutions, tooling and fixtures, and other critical elements of the nuclear supply chain where capacity is currently constrained. We would also anticipate leveraging private capital alongside potential federal and state programs to accelerate facility development and production readiness.

Importantly, we believe that speed of execution will be essential. With the right alignment between federal support, state leadership, and industry participation, it is possible to stand up meaningful manufacturing capability on a timeline that supports near-term deployment of advanced nuclear systems.

Idaho is uniquely positioned to lead this effort, given its proximity to Idaho National Laboratory, its history of nuclear innovation, and its commitment to building a supportive environment for

advanced energy development. We are confident that, if selected, Idaho can become a central hub for the U.S. nuclear supply chain.

Janicki Industries stands ready to engage further as this initiative develops and would welcome the opportunity to work closely with your office and other stakeholders to define how we can best contribute.

Thank you for your leadership on this important effort.

Sincerely,
Peter Janicki
Chief Executive Officer
Janicki Industries

Kiewit

To Whom It May Concern,

Kiewit is proud to support Idaho's efforts to advance nuclear innovation and strengthen the workforce pipeline needed to support the future of the energy industry. As a leading engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contractor, we understand the importance of strong partnerships between industry and education to prepare the next generation of skilled professionals.

Our teams are currently supporting several major nuclear initiatives in Idaho, including the Spent Fuel Handling Facility for the United States Navy and Oklo's Aurora Powerhouse, a first-of-its-kind commercial advanced reactor, being developed at the Idaho National Laboratory. Through these efforts, Kiewit is contributing EPC expertise to some of the most advanced nuclear work underway in North America.

Initiatives such as the proposed Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus will play an important role in strengthening workforce development and ensuring Idaho continues to lead in nuclear innovation, advanced manufacturing, and energy infrastructure.

Kiewit values its partnerships with Idaho's educational institutions and supports efforts that expand opportunities for students and professionals across engineering, construction, and technical trades.

Sincerely,

Corey McDaniel
Vice President, Fuel and Advanced Reactor Deployment
Kiewit Nuclear Solutions

**KIEWIT NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS**
525 Park Ave. Suite 2A, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402
(208) 497-6849

**Project Omega**
513 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
projectomega.com

March 18, 2026

**The Honorable Chris Wright**
**Secretary of Energy**
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

On behalf of Project Omega, I am writing to express our strongest support for the State of Idaho's response to the Department of Energy's RFI regarding Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses. As the United States navigates a critical inflection point in energy demand—driven by rapid electrification, advanced manufacturing, and artificial intelligence—rebuilding our domestic nuclear fuel cycle is not just an economic priority; it is a national security imperative. Idaho is the natural home for this initiative, and Project Omega is proud to be part of the state's thriving nuclear ecosystem.

**Our Commitment to Idaho and the Role of INL**

Project Omega is dedicated to transforming used nuclear fuel (UNF) from a national liability into a strategic asset. Our core mission focuses on recycling UNF to generate new fuel for both traditional and advanced reactors, while simultaneously extracting rare isotopes to manufacture long-lived power cells to power space missions as well as military operations.

When deciding where to anchor our UNF reprocessing operations, we chose Idaho strategically to collaborate with the world-renowned pyroprocessing experts at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). We continue to expand our footprint here because of the state's rapidly growing, dynamic nuclear ecosystem, as well as the unmatched physical space and stringent security infrastructure the Laboratory provides.

Central to our work is INL's position as the nation's premier nuclear energy laboratory, which provides Project Omega with indispensable resources. Backed by an ARPA-E CURIE grant, we are actively utilizing INL's Hot Fuel

Examination Facility (HFEF) and working shoulder-to-shoulder with Lab scientists to conduct the advanced pyroprocessing experiments that are foundational to our technology.

As we look to the immediate future, Project Omega is actively working on siting our pilot facility in Idaho Falls, which will prove out our recycling process at scale and demonstrate clear commercial feasibility. Thanks to the robust synergies and infrastructure we have already established here, Idaho stands at the very top of our list for this critical milestone project.

**Why Idaho is the Ideal Lifecycle Innovation Campus**

The DOE's vision of co-locating fuel fabrication, enrichment, recycling, and advanced reactor deployment perfectly aligns with the infrastructure Idaho has been cultivating for decades. Transitioning INL's world-class research into a commercial demonstration and deployment hub is the logical next step.

Beyond its unmatched technical expertise, Idaho offers the physical and operational assets required for a complex nuclear lifecycle hub. The INL site boasts approximately 890 square miles of federally managed land, providing the necessary space, safety buffers, and regulatory stability for large-scale development. Furthermore, facilities like the National Used Fuel Research Center directly support the DOE's goals for spent fuel management and recycling, complemented by a highly skilled workforce pipeline emerging from Idaho's universities and community colleges.

**The Impact of a Hub Designation on Project Omega**

Designating Idaho as a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus would directly and positively impact Project Omega's future. Our long-term commercial success relies heavily on a robust, localized ecosystem: initial off-takers to fabricate the fuel we recycle, and subsequent end-users to deploy that fuel. Co-locating our operations with advanced fuel fabrication and reactor deployment facilities would drastically reduce our supply chain risks and eliminate complex transportation barriers. Ultimately, this integrated hub would allow us to accelerate our commercialization timeline by creating a closed-loop market right in our backyard.

The U.S. has a straightforward choice: lead the next generation of global nuclear innovation or cede that leadership to competitors. Project Omega believes the U.S. must lead, and that Idaho is uniquely equipped to serve as the foundation for that leadership.

We proudly stand with the State of Idaho and the Idaho Legislature in supporting this vision. We welcome the opportunity to work alongside the Department of Energy and our state partners to make the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus a reality.

**Stafford Sheehan, PhD**
**Founder and CEO**
**Project Omega (Omega Project Co.)**
s@projectomega.com

OKLO

March 11, 2026

Dr. Jacob DeWitte
CEO and Co-Founder
Oklo
3190 Coronado Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95054

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

On behalf of Oklo Inc., we are pleased to express our strong support for the State of Idaho's response to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) Request for Information. Idaho has long been at the forefront of advanced nuclear innovation and Oklo is proud to be building its first advanced fission powerhouse, the Aurora, at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

Oklo is eager to work with Idaho to integrate advanced reactor deployment, used fuel recycling, fuel fabrication and radioisotope production on a single site.

INL represents the nation's premier laboratory for advanced reactor testing, fuel qualification, among others, with decades of expertise in fast reactor development, fuel recycling, and safeguards. Leveraging INL's existing infrastructure and facilities, and deep institutional knowledge can accelerate advanced fuel development and support responsible lifecycle innovation. Idaho's experience hosting national security missions and managing complex nuclear operations positions it as a natural leader in advancing next-generation nuclear technologies consistent with U.S. energy security objectives.

Through sustained investment, Idaho has cultivated a strong nuclear workforce and industrial base anchored by INL, and supported by regional universities, technical colleges, and apprenticeship programs. This pipeline provides the engineers, technicians, and skilled trades necessary to support these activities. Idaho's established emergency preparedness systems, and community familiarity with nuclear operations further reinforce its readiness to host NLIC activities.

Idaho has demonstrated both initiative and leadership on nuclear energy advancement creating a collaborative ecosystem between state government, federal agencies, and private industry. If selected, Oklo would welcome the opportunity to continue investing in Idaho and to work alongside local, state, and federal

stakeholders to advance a responsible, secure, and innovative model for the next phase of the nuclear lifecycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

## Attachment B – Idaho Congressional and State Legislature Letters of Support

**Mike Crapo**
**United States Senator**
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**James E. Risch**
**United States Senator**
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

IDAHO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

**Mike Simpson**
**Member of Congress**
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2026

Secretary Chris Wright
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to express our strong support for Idaho's response to the Department of Energy's January 28, 2026 Request for Information on Nuclear Lifecyle Innovation Campuses.

Idaho has served as a cornerstone of the nation's nuclear enterprise for more than seven decades, and the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) remains the DOE's laboratory for nuclear energy research, development, and demonstration. INL's existing mission is already closely aligned with the objectives outlined in the RFI. Its world class capabilities, including the Advanced Test Reactor, the Transient Reactor Test Facility (TREAT), the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC), and the Center for Used Fuel Research, provide unmatched assets for reactor development, fuel qualification, materials research, and nuclear safety science. INL's workforce, technology base, and longstanding public–private partnerships make it the natural anchor for this effort.

Idaho is uniquely positioned through its expanding network of nuclear technology companies, academic programs, and existing skilled workforce. The state is also home to one of the most unique and valuable assets in the nation, approximately 890 square miles of federally managed land at the INL Site. This controlled environment provides space, security, and regulatory stability for nuclear lifecycle activities. Regional proximity to uranium enrichment operations in Wyoming and proposed repository related work in Utah further positions Idaho as the center of a cohesive Intermountain West nuclear corridor.

As the nation enters an era of increasing electricity demand, nuclear energy remains the only scalable baseload resource capable of meeting this challenge and Idaho is prepared to lead the way. The State of Idaho, INL, regional partners, and private industry are aligned in their support for advancing the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses initiative. We welcome the

opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Energy as it refines the Innovation Campuses concept. We ask the Department of Energy to give full and fair consideration to Idaho's response.

Sincerely,

MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator

JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator

MIKE SIMPSON
Member of Congress

# Idaho State Legislature

State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0081


March 9, 2026

The Honorable Secretary Chris Wright

U.S. Department of Energy

Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Wright,

On behalf of the Idaho State Legislature, we write to express our strong support for the U.S. Department of Energy's efforts to advance nuclear energy innovation through the development of Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses. Through the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 120 (SCR120), the Idaho Legislature formally recognizes the importance of strengthening the United States nuclear energy ecosystem and encourages federal collaboration to accelerate deployment, research, and commercialization across the full nuclear lifecycle.

Idaho has long served as a cornerstone of the nation's nuclear leadership. The presence of Idaho National Laboratory and its world class research capabilities have positioned our state as a national hub for reactor innovation, advanced fuel development, and nuclear workforce training. This legacy of partnership between federal, state, academic, and private sector stakeholders uniquely positions Idaho to contribute meaningfully to the next generation of nuclear technologies.

SCR120 affirms Idaho's commitment to supporting Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses that integrate research, demonstration, fuel cycle innovation, workforce development, and commercial deployment. These campuses represent a strategic opportunity to strengthen domestic nuclear supply chains, enhance energy security, and maintain United States leadership in advanced nuclear technologies. By enabling collaboration among national laboratories, universities, industry, and state governments, these initiatives will accelerate safe and responsible nuclear energy deployment.

Idaho stands ready to work with the U.S. Department of Energy and national partners to advance this vision. Our state offers an experienced nuclear workforce, established regulatory cooperation, existing infrastructure, and a long record of safely hosting nuclear research and demonstration programs. We welcome opportunities to further expand collaboration and provide a supportive environment for projects that advance the entire nuclear lifecycle.

The Idaho Legislature looks forward to continued partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy as these initiatives move forward. Together we can strengthen America's energy future, advance clean and reliable power generation, and ensure that the United States remains the global leader in nuclear innovation.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to the nation's nuclear enterprise.

Respectfully,

Members of the Idaho State Legislature

State of Idaho

Senator James D. Ruchti
Energy Caucus Co-Chair

Representative Josh Tanner
Energy Caucus Co-Chair

President Pro Tempore Kelly Anthon

Assistant Majority Leader Douglas T. Pickett

Assistant Majority Leader Mark Harris

Representative Joe Alfieri

Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow

Representative Vito Barbieri

Senator Treg A. Bernt

Representative Robert Beiswenger

Senator Carl J. Bjerke

Representative Erin M. Bingham

Senator Camille Blaylock

Representative Judy Boyle

Senator Van T. Burtenshaw

Representative Tanya Burgoyne

Senator Phil Hart

Representative David M. Cannon

Senator Josh Keyser

Representative Lucas B. Cayler

Senator Dave Lent

Representative Richard W. Cheatum

Senator Tammy Nichols

Representative Jeff J. Cornilles

Senator Alison Rabe

Representative Jaron Crane

Senator Doug Ricks

Representative Barbara Ehardt

Senator Carrie Semmelroth

Representative Jeff Ehlers

Senator Brandon Shippy

Representative Marco Erickson

Senator Ron C. Taylor

Representative Ben G. Fuhriman

Senator Janie Ward-Engelking

Representative Rod Furniss

Senator James W. Woodward

Representative Soñia R. Galaviz

Senator Glenneda Zuiderveld

Representative Dan Garner

Representative Clay Handy

Representative Dale R. Hawkins

Representative Ted Hill

Representative Clint Hostetler

Representative David J. Leavitt

Representative Dustin Manwaring

Representative Kent A. Marmon

Representative Lori McCann

Representative Ron Mendive

Representative Stephanie Mickelsen

Representative Steve Miller

Representative Jack Nelsen

Representative Mike J. Pohanka

Representative Elaine Price

Representative Cornel S. Rasor

Representative Britt Raybould

Representative Jerald Raymond

Representative Mark Sauter

Representative Heather Scott

Representative Charlie Shepherd

Representative John Shirts

Representative Steven Tanner

Representative Faye Thompson

Representative Mike Veile

Representative Josh Wheeler

Representative Tony Wisniewski

## Attachment C – Community Letters of Support

BUTTE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. Box 737
205 W. Grand Avenue
ARCO, IDAHO 83213
(208)-527-3021

BRIAN HARRELL
M.H. "HOOTIE" LANGSETH
BLAKE VAN ETTEN

March 23, 2026

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Nuclear Energy

Re: State of Idaho Application – Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC)

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Butte County, Idaho, I am writing to express our strong support for the State of Idaho's application to participate in the Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) initiative.

Butte County has a long-standing relationship with the Idaho National Laboratory and a deep history of supporting the nation's nuclear energy mission. Our community understands both the responsibility and the opportunity that comes with hosting nuclear-related activities. Through recent engagement efforts—including coordination with regional partners, technical experts, and public opinion research—we have seen firsthand that our residents recognize the importance of nuclear energy to national security, energy independence, and long-term economic development. Just as importantly, our community has demonstrated a willingness to thoughtfully engage in discussions about expanding nuclear capabilities when projects are approached with transparency, strong safety standards, and meaningful local benefit.

The NLIC program represents a significant opportunity to build a fully integrated nuclear ecosystem—spanning research, fuel cycle development, advanced reactor deployment, and long-term materials management. Butte County is well-positioned to contribute to this vision given our proximity to existing infrastructure, technical expertise, and a community that is familiar with and supportive of nuclear innovation.

At the same time, we believe it is essential that host communities are recognized as full partners in this effort. As the Department and the State consider future siting, development, and lifecycle activities—including interim or long-term storage of nuclear materials—we respectfully emphasize the importance of ensuring that local communities directly hosting these activities receive equitable and sustained benefits.

In particular, we encourage the inclusion of clear provisions to ensure that if financial assurances, payments, or other forms of compensation are provided to the State of Idaho in connection with the storage of spent nuclear materials—whether from prior, current, or future activities—a fair and proportional share of those resources is directed to the county or counties where such

materials are physically located. Communities that host these facilities carry unique responsibilities related to land use, emergency preparedness, infrastructure, and long-term stewardship, and it is appropriate that they share directly in the associated economic benefits.

Establishing this principle upfront will help ensure durable local support, strengthen state–local partnerships, and create a model for responsible and equitable nuclear development nationwide.

Butte County stands ready to continue working collaboratively with the Department of Energy, the State of Idaho, regional partners, and local stakeholders to advance this effort. We are committed to supporting a safe, innovative, and economically beneficial nuclear future that reflects the needs and values of the communities at the center of this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

M.H. "Hootie" Langseth
Butte County Commissioner
Acting Chairman

Blake Van Etten
Butte County Commissioner

IDAHO GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**MOSCOW OFFICE**
University of Idaho
Morril Hall, Third Floor
875 Perimeter Dr. MS 3014
Moscow, ID 83844-3014

**BOISE OFFICE**
Idaho Water Center
Suite 201
322 E. Front Street
Boise, ID 83702

Dr. Heidi Estrem
Idaho State Board of Education
650 West State Street, Suite 307
Boise, Idaho 83702

March 11, 2026

Dear Dr. Estrem,

On behalf of the Idaho Geological Survey, I am pleased to offer strong support for the State of Idaho's proposal to establish a **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Hub** in Idaho.

The Idaho Geological Survey has a legislative mandate to understand Idaho's geologic resources and to support the responsible stewardship of the state's natural resources. Idaho's geology, research capacity, and existing national laboratory infrastructure position the state uniquely well to contribute to the nation's future nuclear energy ecosystem. A campus dedicated to advancing the full nuclear lifecycle—including fuel fabrication, enrichment, advanced reactor development, management of used nuclear materials, and the identification of nearby sustainable long-term storage solutions—would represent an important opportunity for Idaho to play a leadership role in addressing national energy and security priorities.

In addition, linking the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Hub with ongoing and emerging efforts focused on **critical mineral identification, characterization, and processing** across Idaho, including activities associated with the INL region, has the potential to further leverage and expand existing research capabilities. Such integration could provide direct benefits to Idaho's economy and industry while also supporting federal goals related to national security and the reshoring of a fully integrated, U.S.-based critical minerals supply chain.

The Idaho Geological Survey recognizes that any effort involving nuclear materials must prioritize safety, security, and environmental protection. The agency stands ready to contribute scientific expertise and institutional knowledge related to Idaho's geology, geologic hazards, hydrogeologic systems, and subsurface characterization in ways that support thoughtful planning and responsible decision-making.

Thank you for your leadership and work on this important initiative through the Office of the State Board of Education. We look forward to continued collaboration as the state explores opportunities to advance nuclear innovation while protecting Idaho's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudio Berti

Director and State Geologist
Idaho Geological Survey

P.O. Box 389
134 East Main Street
Rexburg, ID 83440

www.co.madison.id.us
(208) 359-6200

**March 19, 2026**

**TO:** Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
**ATTN:** Jett Hawk, Program Manager
**RE:** Support for Idaho's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Proposal

**Dear Mr. Hawk and the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources,**

On behalf of the **Madison County,** I am writing to formally express our enthusiastic support for the State of Idaho's interest in hosting a **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus**, as outlined in the recent U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Request for Information.

As a cornerstone community in Eastern Idaho, Madison County recognizes the generational opportunity this federal partnership represents. Our region is already the heart of American nuclear innovation; we believe that expanding the lifecycle—from fuel fabrication and enrichment to advanced reprocessing—is the natural next step in securing Idaho's legacy as the nation's nuclear leader.

**Why Rexburg and Eastern Idaho are Ideal Partners:**

- **Workforce Excellence:** Our proximity to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and our partnership with local educational institutions, including BYU-Idaho, provides a pipeline of highly skilled, mission-driven talent.
- **Infrastructure & Scalability:** Rexburg offers the logistical stability and community readiness required to support the advanced manufacturing and data center co-location efforts mentioned in the DOE's vision.
- **Economic Diversification:** We are committed to fostering an environment where energy security and regional economic growth go hand-in-hand, creating high-paying jobs for Idahoans.

Madison County, in partnership with the City of Rexburg, stands ready to collaborate with your office to provide the necessary local insights, infrastructure planning, and community advocacy required to make this campus a reality. We urge the State of Idaho to pursue this partnership with the Department of Energy vigorously.

We look forward to supporting this effort and ensuring that Idaho remains the "Gold Standard" for the global nuclear renaissance.

Sincerely,

Todd Smith
Chairman Madison County Commissioner

REXBURG

(208) 359-3020
35 North 1st East
Rexburg, ID 83440
Rexburg.org

**TO:** Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
**ATTN:** Jett Hawk, Program Manager
**RE:** Support for Idaho's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Proposal

**Dear Mr. Hawk and the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources,**

On behalf of the **City of Rexburg**, I am writing to formally express our enthusiastic support for the State of Idaho's interest in hosting a **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus**, as outlined in the recent U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Request for Information.

As a cornerstone community in Eastern Idaho, the City of Rexburg recognizes the generational opportunity this federal partnership represents. Our region is already the heart of American nuclear innovation; we believe that expanding the lifecycle—from fuel fabrication and enrichment to advanced reprocessing—is the natural next step in securing Idaho's legacy as the nation's nuclear leader.

**Why Rexburg and Eastern Idaho are Ideal Partners:**

- **Workforce Excellence:** Our proximity to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and our partnership with local educational institutions, including BYU-Idaho, provides a pipeline of highly skilled, mission-driven talent.
- **Infrastructure & Scalability:** Rexburg offers the logistical stability and community readiness required to support the advanced manufacturing and data center co-location efforts mentioned in the DOE's vision.
- **Economic Diversification:** We are committed to fostering an environment where energy security and regional economic growth go hand-in-hand, creating high-paying jobs for Idahoans.

The City of Rexburg stands ready to collaborate with your office to provide the necessary local insights, infrastructure planning, and community advocacy required to make this campus a reality. We urge the State of Idaho to pursue this partnership with the Department of Energy vigorously.

We look forward to supporting this effort and ensuring that Idaho remains the "Gold Standard" for the global nuclear renaissance.

Sincerely,

Jerry Merrill
Mayor of Rexburg

IDAHO FALLS

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

LISA BURTENSHAW
MAYOR, CITY OF IDAHO FALLS
208.612.8235 | mayor@idahofalls.gov

31 March 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright Secretary of Energy U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

*Re: Expression of Support — Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses*

Dear Secretary Wright,

The United States stands at a critical juncture in energy policy. The Department of Energy's request for information regarding a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses represents more than a routine exercise but a significant opportunity to advance cutting edge nuclear technologies, strengthen the nation's energy independence, and cultivate a vibrant regional economy. Our communities are well-positioned to contribute meaningfully to this effort and help shape the future of the U.S. nuclear enterprise.

As mayors of eastern Idaho communities, we write to express our strong support for this initiative and our region's interest in partnering on this effort. Eastern Idaho is ideally suited to host this endeavor, with established infrastructure, skilled workforce and a long-standing history of advancing nuclear research and energy innovation in our own backyard. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to a project that promises to benefit both our region and the nation.

The vision of the Innovation Campus – co-locating fuel fabrication, enrichment, spent fuel recycling, separations, advanced reactors, and supporting infrastructure closely align with what eastern Idaho communities have been preparing for decades. With a population that already possesses a strong nuclear knowledge base and a workforce deeply engaged at the Idaho National Laboratory, our region is ready. Transitioning INL's world class research into a commercially significant hub for demonstration and deployment is not only a logical next step but one that our communities are ready to embrace.

As leaders in our communities, we are acutely aware of the significant and lasting benefits this mission could bring to our region. By leveraging the area's existing expertise and workforce, particularly the thousands of residents who work at the INL site, the initiative would create high-quality, well-paying jobs and strengthen the local economy. It would continue eastern Idaho's legacy as a national hub for advanced nuclear research, technology demonstration, and fuel cycle innovation. Beyond economic growth, the project would build educational and workforce development opportunities, ensuring that the next generation of scientists, engineers, and skilled technicians can thrive locally. By hosting such a transformative effort, our region would not only contribute to national energy leadership but also secure long-term prosperity for our communities.

IDAHO FALLS

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

LISA BURTENSHAW
MAYOR, CITY OF IDAHO FALLS
208.612.8235 | mayor@idahofalls.gov

Eastern Idaho is prepared to support the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses, with communities that understand and embrace the opportunities of advanced nuclear technology. We wholeheartedly endorse this initiative and are committed to contributing our expertise, resources, and workforce to ensure its success. Establishing this hub in our region builds on our unique history and solidifies Idaho's role as a leader in nuclear innovation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Burtenshaw
Mayor, City of Idaho Falls

Brian Powell
Mayor, City of Ammon

Scott Stufflebeam
Mayor, City of Blackfoot

Rodney Burch
Mayor, City of Chubbuck

Michael Thompson
Mayor, City of Iona

Mark Dahlquist
Mayor, City of Pocatello

Jerry Merrill
Mayor, City of Rexburg

Kim Westergard
Mayor, City of Shelley

## Attachment D – Idaho Educational System Letters of Support

# Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Information

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Heidi Estrem, CAO
Office of the Idaho State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Adam Bradford, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs
Idaho State University
DATE: March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: ISU Institutional Alignment with DOE Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses (NLIC) Initiative

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**Executive Summary**
**Idaho State University's College of Technology (CoT)** and **College of Science and Engineering (CoSE)** possess the specialized infrastructure, strategic partnerships, and educational pipelines necessary to support the immediate workforce expansion required by the U.S. Department of Energy's NLIC initiative. As a Northwest Regional Center of Excellence, the institution seamlessly maps its technical, operational, and research capabilities in close alignment with the DOE's Request for Information (RFI). From Associates Degrees that pipeline directly into in-demand technician positions to Doctoral Degrees to facilitate development and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors, ISU is Idaho's lead institution in Nuclear Energy Research and Workforce Development.

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## College of Science and Engineering (CoSE) Alignment with DOE Nuclear Campus Proposal

The College of Science and Engineering (CoSE) offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary ecosystem essential for the successful analysis, design, testing, construction, and operation of advanced nuclear reactors. By integrating a full spectrum of academic programs with cutting-edge physical assets and strategic industry partnerships, CoSE provides the intellectual and operational infrastructure required to support the DOE's nuclear initiatives. Recognizing that nuclear operations require diverse technical expertise, CoSE offers a continuous educational pipeline from Certificates and Minors up through Ph.D. programs.

**Core Academic Clusters (Spanning AS, BS, MS, and Ph.D. levels):**

- **Nuclear Science & Engineering:** Degrees in Engineering, Health Physics (Bioscience and Applied Physics tracks), and General Physics.
- **Engineering Systems:** Comprehensive programs in Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Computer, Environmental, and Measurement & Control Engineering.
- **Computing & Emerging Technologies:** Computer Science, Software Engineering, Cybersecurity, and GIS. Future-proofing efforts include planned certificates and degrees in Artificial Intelligence (2026/2028) and Robotics Engineering (2028).
- **Earth Systems & Materials:** Degrees in Geology, Geosciences, Statistics, and a planned AS in Mining Technology (2027).

**Specialized Physical Infrastructure in CoSE and Office for Research**
CoSE houses rare, highly specialized facilities that provide hands-on training and advanced research capabilities directly aligned with nuclear energy lifecycle demands:

- **Nuclear Science & Engineering Facilities:** A fully NRC-licensed and operational AGN-201 Nuclear Reactor alongside a Subcritical Assembly Experimental Apparatus utilizing HALEU fuel.
- **Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC):** Features electron linear accelerators with unique capabilities applicable to nuclear fuel reprocessing experiments.
- **Critical Materials and Energy Systems Innovation Center (CMESIC):** Located on the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) campus, this center drives research in mining, materials science, reactor design, and grid-scale storage to secure the U.S. critical materials supply chain.
- **Structural Laboratories (SLABs):** ISU houses the largest and most capable structural testing facility in the Intermountain region (Idaho and surrounding states). The SLABs are administering active funded projects focused on development and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors in collaboration with INL.

**Strategic Partnerships & Faculty Expertise**
CoSE deeply integrates its academic mission with industry and government partners to tackle real-world nuclear science and engineering challenges.
**Key Partnerships:**

- **National Laboratories:** Extensive collaboration with the DOE (training employees and conducting funded research projects) and INL (joint faculty appointments across Nuclear Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computer Engineering, Geosciences, Chemistry, and other disciplines).
- **Industry Collaborations:** Research collaboration with partners such as INL, Simplot, Bayer, Idaho Transportation Department focused on trending topics of energy, critical materials, infrastructure, and national security.

**Targeted Research Focus Areas:**

- Nuclear Reactor Analysis, Design, Siting, and Construction, Thermal-Hydraulics, and Spent Fuel Safety
- Nuclear Fuel Recycling and Chemical Materials Separations
- Industrial Cybersecurity and Applied Artificial Intelligence
- Critical Materials Exploration and Environmental Security, including Water Resources

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## ISU College of Technology (CoT) Alignment with DOE NLIC Initiative

Idaho State University's College of Technology (CoT), a designated Northwest Regional Center of Excellence for Nuclear Education and Training, is strategically positioned to support the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses (NLIC) initiative. CoT provides the specialized training, precision infrastructure, and rapid workforce pipelines required to meet the DOE's immediate industrial-scale expansion needs.

**Core Strategic Alignments**
CoT's programs map directly to the DOE's Request for Information (RFI) functional requirements across three core pillars:

| Alignment Area | Key Capabilities & Infrastructure | Relevant DOE RFI Sections |
|---|---|---|
| Advanced Manufacturing & Design | Precision fabrication, Computerized Numerical Calculation operations, CAD/CAM modeling, and structural metal fabrication. Features industry-leading training, including the nation's first academic K-TIG welding system for high-integrity nuclear welds. | Advanced Manufacturing, Fuel Fabrication |
| ESTEC & Nuclear Operations | Focuses on reactor deployment, maintenance of high-consequence equipment, and safeguards calibration. Offers specialized tracks for Facility Technicians (glovebox/manipulator work) and Licensed Operators. | Reactor Deployment, Fuel Cycle Operations |
| Emerging Tech & Infrastructure | Delivers the nation's first hands-on Industrial Cybersecurity Engineering degree, Applied AI emphasizing "secure-by-design" principles, and IT foundational training for co-located nuclear data centers. | Data Centers, Industrial Cybersecurity |

**Accelerated Workforce Pipelines**

To address immediate industry demands, CoT utilizes agile on-ramping models to generate a highly skilled workforce rapidly:

- Targeted Apprenticeships: High-tech apprenticeship pathways in Industrial Cybersecurity and Electrical/Industrial Controls prepare technicians to secure critical infrastructure and troubleshoot complex automation systems (PLCs, VFDs).
- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA): A robust credentialing process that translates the rigorous field experience of Navy nuclear veterans and licensed journeymen into up to 52 academic credits, rapidly transitioning skilled tradesmen into degree-holding nuclear professionals.

**Comprehensive Academic Portfolio**

CoT offers an expansive catalog of more than 25 specific credentials—ranging from Specialized Certificates to Associate (AAS) and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees—tailored for the nuclear sector. Core programmatic areas include:

- Computerized Machining, Advanced Welding, and Drafting (CADD)
- Cyber-Physical Systems and Industrial Cybersecurity
- Industrial Automation, Maintenance, and Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Civil Engineering Technology
- Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology
- Nuclear Operations Technology and Nuclear Engineering Technology Management

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**Memo**: One page overview of Boise States College of Engineering's educational programs and efforts/partnerships supporting DOE areas of interest - nuclear/critical materials, mining, advanced manufacturing, aviation, mechanics, engineering, AI, and cyber.

Research Centers, Collaborative Efforts, and Partnerships

- **Advanced Material Laboratory (AML)**: Led by Dr. Brian Jaques. Supports advanced materials research for extreme environments, nuclear fuels, smart sensors and monitoring, and computational materials modeling.
- **Advanced Materials and Manufacturing:** Led by Dr. Dave Estrada. Supports research the discovery, development, and characterization of materials that can survive in difficult conditions to support manufacturing for next-generation reactor components and microelectronics.
- **Secure and Resilient Energy Systems:** Led by Ira Burton. Researches how to leverage Artificial Intelligence and socio-technical systems to protect national and energy security and promote system resilience amidst disruption
- **Microelectronics Education and Research Center (MERC):** Led by Dr. Kurtis Cantley. MERC works with university colleges and units, regional industry, and international partners to expand microelectronics and semiconductor education, research, and manufacturing.
- **Center for Atomically Thin Multifunctional Coatings:** Led by Dr. Dave Estrada. Supported by NSF, this is a joint partnership between Boise State University, Pennsylvania State University, and Rice University, focused on the research and development of cutting-edge coatings of two-dimensional layered materials.
- **Convergent Engineering and Biomolecular Science (CEBS):** Led by Dr.s Jim Browning and Ken Cornell. Funded by a $10m NIH CEBS COBRE grant, this center support research on biomedical devices, sensors, and systems.

In addition to the labs/partnerships highlighted above, the College of Engineering has a number of other labs and facilities supporting research in materials, manufacturing, cybersecurity, and AI. These include The Boise State Center for Materials Characterization, The Biomechanics and Mechanobiology lab, The Research Machining and Engineering facility, The Materials Theory and Modeling Group, The Artificial Intelligence-based Security Lab, The Privacy and Industrial Control Systems Security Lab, The Atomics Films Lab, Computational Materials Engineering Lab, Electrochemical Energy Materials Lab, and several others.

Educational programs of interest include:

- **Doctoral Programs (~30 graduates/year):** Computing (with emphasis areas in Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Computational Math Science and Engineering), Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Materials Science, Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering.
- **Masters Programs (~90 graduates/year):** Data science, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, Materials Science and Engineering, Civil Engineering, and online programs in Cyber Operations and Resilience and Applied Artificial Intelligence.
- **Bachelors Programs (~500 graduates/year):** Materials Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science (emphasis areas in Machine Learning and Cybersecurity), Artificial Intelligence Science (new program), Civil Engineering, and Cyber Operations and Resilience (online).

In addition to the major degree programs highlighted above, the College of Engineering offers a number of minors and certificate programs supporting education in materials science, manufacturing, cybersecurity, and AI.

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

**Boise State University -- Energy Policy Institute**

# Overview of Nuclear Capabilities that Support an Idaho Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus

The Energy Policy Institute (EPI), based at Boise State University, is committed to building a more resilient, sustainable, and secure energy future by improving critical decision-making. Our work blends cross-cutting research, education, and advisory services. By leveraging deep expertise in policy, science, engineering, and economics, we partner with decisionmakers to navigate the complexities of regulation and policy, regional priorities and needs, economic viability, and the social and technical feasibility.

We have an extensive track record in nuclear energy:

- Serving as the lead for five nuclear waste studies for Idaho's Leadership in Nuclear Energy Commission (partners: INL, Idaho Fluor, and Boise State);

- Conducting economic analysis for small modular reactor developer and manufacturer, NuScale;

- Performing energy/economic diversification analysis for regions, considering new, nuclear adoption, with wide-ranging emerging market analysis experience tied to the nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear reactor frontier;

- Conducting research on nuclear adoption, safety, security, cyber-nuclear risk, safeguards, the ecosystem, policy and regulation, as well as regulation gaps with technology change;

- Supporting the establishment of the Advanced Nuclear Strategic Framework for Idaho, released by the Governor in Fall 2025;

- Co-founding and offering the online graduate/professional Certificate in Nuclear Safeguards and Security that is jointly implemented with the Idaho State and University of Idaho;

- Supporting collaborative planning and activity related to the Idaho Nuclear Innovation Corridor

- Leading a DOE-funded national consortium on collaboration-based siting for spent nuclear fuel and integrated nuclear waste management—a group that includes key partners from Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah (among others), directly aligning with the Tri-State nuclear compact. In this capacity, EPI acts as an objective, neutral facilitator, informing future process design, as well as sensitive policy and conversations with communities, Tribes,

industry and policymakers. Through this and related work, we have a deep, localized understanding of the regional actors and the unique nuclear ecosystem of the Mountain West.

- Our team was recently selected by the US Department of Energy to negotiate a new $ 1 million cooperative agreement which builds on the above consortium work, with more advanced research on nuclear waste siting and regional ambition in the US and Canada.

- Our team is now also leading a Special Issue of *Nuclear Technology* on Participatory Decision-making for the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.

Broadly, examples of EPI's core deliverables include:

- Strategic Analysis: Regional diversification, levelized cost of electricity economic assessments, cross-jurisdictional regulatory/policy assessments (NEPA, safety, and cyber-nuclear risk), and technology hubs.

- Workforce & Ecosystem Alignment: Mapping the educational and reskilling pathways necessary for regional readiness.

- Expert Facilitation: Leading high-stakes stakeholder discussions to identify preferred strategies.

- Technical Advising: Translating complex data into strategic consultations.

Key examples of how EPI could support a fuller submission for a lifecycle campus are noted below.

- **Neutral Facilitation & Trust-Building:** We establish a "safe harbor" environment to generate questions, address concerns, and align priorities. This allows for transparent dialogue relating to site selection and the integration of community co-benefits.

- **Gap Analysis & Workforce Readiness:** Rather than assuming local capabilities, we conduct a rigorous Workforce-Training Gap Assessment. This maps current regional skills against the high-specification demands of the nuclear lifecycle—from advanced construction and radiation protection to specialized logistics.

- **Socio-technical feasibility:** This form of integrated analysis evaluates local/ regional infrastructure and resources, such as fuel supply, in addition to community priorities. Road mapping as well as safety, security, and safeguards are common forms of evaluation.

| **Phase/Activity** | **Strategic Outcome** |
|---|---|
| Infrastructure & Resource Interdependency Mapping | Identification of technically preferable options that serve both the facility and the region. |
| Integrated Safety & Safeguards (3S) Review | Transparent risk-management framework that aligns international regulatory standards with local emergency response and safety expectations. |
| Neutrally facilitated dialogue: Town hall and Tribal meetings | Summary of priorities and concerns |
| Workforce-training gaps assessment | Readiness strategy |
| Multi-criteria Site Characterization | Weighted suitability matrix reflecting both technical constraints and community-defined priorities |
| Integrated co-design: Workshops on siting, co-benefits, shared infrastructure | A collaborative regional energy roadmap |
| Stewardship: Establish longer term oversight | Mutual accountability and societal collaboration |

**Educational Degrees, Research and Workforce Development Supporting Idaho's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus**

The University of Idaho (U of I), Idaho's land-grant and Carnegie R1 research university, is positioned to support the workforce, research capacity, and industry partnerships needed to develop a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus in Idaho. For more than seventy years, U of I has provided education and conducted research alongside Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in Idaho Falls, supporting the nation's nuclear energy and national security missions. **Over the past decade, 3,957 students have graduated from relevant programs across the university, including fields ranging from Earth and Spatial Sciences to Nuclear Engineering and Industrial Management. During that same period, the university graduated 174 INL employees and 483 total students through degree programs based in Idaho Falls,** reflecting U of I's direct role in educating the region's nuclear and energy workforce. The INL partnership was recently strengthened through the new **SUPER Agreement.** It expanded collaboration in **nuclear materials and fuel cycle engineering, nuclear integrated energy systems, and power systems and industrial cybersecurity**. The university's capabilities span disciplines needed for a full nuclear innovation ecosystem. See summary examples below.

**Nuclear and Energy Systems.** U of I is developing a new Industrial Systems Engineering degrees spanning BS (already established) through PhD with a nuclear supply chain focus. The program prepares engineers who support manufacturing, logistics, and infrastructure associated with advanced reactor deployment and fuel cycle operations.

Dr. You Qiang conducts research on nanomaterials and advanced materials characterization relevant to nuclear materials and energy systems. Dr. Andreas Vasdekis joined the U of I after research work at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and brings experience with advanced instrumentation and nuclear facilities.

**Critical Minerals and Mining.** Secure access to critical minerals is essential to nuclear energy, advanced manufacturing, and national defense. U of I faculty conduct research on critical mineral recovery from mine wastes and polymetallic sulfide ores, including reprocessing mining tailings to recover strategic materials. This work includes advanced mineral characterization and projects to extract and recover secondary materials in collaboration with INL. The Idaho Geological Survey, a state agency affiliated with the U of I, works directly with mining companies and state partners to analyze mineral resources and support Idaho's mining industry.

The U of I has launched **Idaho's first Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering.** The degree is designed to address the state's growing mining industry needs. The university is also prepared to launch a School of Mines and Minerals Science when funding becomes available. The school will work with Idaho's mining industry to build the workforce needed for expanded domestic mineral production.

**Technology, Manufacturing, and Workforce Pipeline.** The university is expanding programs in artificial intelligence, digital engineering, and advanced manufacturing that support nuclear systems and infrastructure. AI certificates have already been approved and new BS, MS, and PhD programs are moving through the approval process.

U of I faculty in Idaho Falls work with INL on machine learning applications for nuclear materials research. Dr. Min Xian leads projects involving machine learning analysis of TRISO nuclear fuel particle micrographs and modeling tools that accelerate nuclear materials research. Additional faculty including Alex Vakanski and Boyu Zhang contribute expertise in robotics, artificial intelligence, and industrial systems.

Engineering programs also support advanced manufacturing capabilities required for nuclear infrastructure and energy technologies. Mechanical engineering programs specialize in materials science, heat transfer, robotics, and additive manufacturing, while TechHelp connects these capabilities directly to Idaho industry.

# NUCLEAR ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT

### *INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY*

endorsement of the Nuclear Technology Management certificate makes U of I one of two universities in the U.S. to hold this designation

### *NATIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE*

American Nuclear Society chapter attends national conference each year to promote nuclear energy and research

### *HIGH-LEVEL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH*

Prestigious fellowship opportunities through the U.S. Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and more

Pursue your passions in energy systems, nuclear technology and industrial management. Gain expertise through hands-on learning, research opportunities and industry partnerships.

## Self-Healing Composites for Harsh Environments

Structural materials used in harsh conditions can last much longer if they can repair small damages caused by radiation, wear, and other harmful processes.

This self-healing method not only improves reliability and safety but also extends the lifespan of current and future reactors.

The ability to self-heal metal components is a major breakthrough. The research is led by Professor Krishnan Raja.

**Degree Programs**

- Industrial Technology, B.S.Tech.
- Engineering Management, M.Engr.
- Technology Management, M.S.
- Nuclear Engineering, M.S., M.Engr. and Ph.D.

**Undergraduate Certificate Programs**

- Human Safety Performance
- Fire Safety

**Graduate Certificate Programs**

- Nuclear Technology Management
- Nuclear Materials Engineering
- Nuclear Criticality Safety
- Nuclear Decommissioning and Used Fuel Management
- Nuclear Safeguards and Security
- Emergency Planning and Management
- Critical Infrastructure Resilience

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# Nuclear Engineering & National Impact

## *Campus celebrates 70 years*

The University of Idaho, Idaho Falls has been a pioneer in nuclear engineering education for over 70 years. One of the few institutions offering specialized nuclear engineering programs, U of I has cultivated a rich legacy of research, innovation and hands-on learning experiences.

Established in 1954 through a partnership with the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), U of I's nuclear engineering program has long been at the forefront of innovation. Programs were initially offered to employees of the Atomic Energy Commission's National Reactor Testing Station, but by the end of the 1960s, public enthusiasm for nuclear energy gave the momentum for degrees to be offered to the public.

U of I and INL signed a five-year Strategic Understanding for Premier Education and Research (SUPER) agreement to deepen collaborative research and development projects toward long-term viability of nuclear power, protecting national security and building a resilient and low-carbon energy future for Idaho and the nation.

In 2020, the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Industrial Management was officially established, building on the university's long-standing commitment to nuclear education. The department's programs have received notable accreditations, including Industrial Technology's accreditation by Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering in 2014 and its graduate program in Engineering Management is certified by the American Society for Engineering Management.

U of I was endorsed in 2023 by the International Atomic Energy Agency for its Nuclear Engineering and Technology Management master's programs when pursued in combination with the Nuclear Technology Management graduate certificate program. U of I is one of two U.S. universities to hold this endorsement.

Additionally, the university participates in the Western Regional Graduate Program, allowing students from member states to receive Idaho resident tuition while pursuing degrees in nuclear engineering. With advanced laboratories, collaborative research initiatives, and strong industry connections, U of I continues to produce graduates equipped to tackle global challenges in energy, safety and technology.

**ui-if@uidaho.edu**

Heidi Estrem, Ph.D
Chief Academic Officer
Office of the Idaho State Board of Education
650 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83720-0037

Dear Dr. Estrem,

As an Idaho native and a graduate of the University of Idaho's College of Engineering, I have seen firsthand how access to strong engineering education in our state can change the trajectory of a student's life. I grew up in North Idaho and earned my mechanical engineering degree from the University of Idaho before going on to join SpaceX as a founding employee and led the development of propulsion systems that power the Falcon rockets and Dragon spacecraft. I created my current company, Impulse Space, to provide agile, on-demand orbital maneuvering services for commercial, civil and defense clients.

The University of Idaho's willingness to invest in engineering programs and facilities equipped me with a strong engineering foundation which has aided in my success. World class research infrastructure and hands-on engineering laboratories are essential if Idaho wants to continue producing the next generation of innovators who will build technologies that matter for energy, national security, and advanced industry.

I believe the future of space economy will benefit from Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NEP), as well as space surface fission power. This starts with developing and advancing terrestrial nuclear power. The proposed nuclear research and education campus represents exactly the kind of forward-looking investment that will strengthen Idaho's role as a national leader in energy innovation. By bringing together research, industry collaboration, and student training, the initiative would create opportunities for students while supporting industries that are critical to the nation's future.

I strongly support efforts to advance this initiative and expand the state's capacity for engineering education and research. Investments like this ensure that students from Idaho communities can pursue world class careers in science and engineering.

Sincerely,

Thomas J Mueller

Tom Mueller
Founder and CEO
Impulse Space
University of Idaho Mechanical Engineering '85

College of Eastern Idaho

1600 South 25th East • Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404-5788 • 208.524.3000 • www.cei.edu

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) is strongly committed to advancing Idaho's nuclear aligned workforce and supporting the broader vision for a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. CEI provides high demand training across nuclear relevant trades, engineering, energy systems, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing, all reinforced by longstanding collaborations with INL, Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA), the Idaho Advanced Energy Consortium (IAEC), and regional industry. These partnerships ensure CEI programs remain aligned with current and future workforce needs across the full nuclear lifecycle.

**Key Programs Supporting the Nuclear Workforce**

**Nuclear-Informed Trades (Good Jobs Grant):**
In partnership with the EDA and IAEC, CEI developed the *Nuclear Primer*, embedded across all apprenticeship programs to introduce nuclear concepts, safety culture, and advanced career pathways. A supplementary safety module will provide the Nuclear Informed Industrial Readiness Certificate, helping Idaho build a broad, nuclear-aware workforce prepared for employment across numerous technical fields.

**Health Physics Technology (HPT):**
CEI's HPT program is transitioning from a full year credit offering to a streamlined 16-week Workforce Training model, enabling faster entry into high demand radiological control technician roles. Students may earn academic credit through CPL, and graduates support INL, national laboratories, and facilities requiring specialized radiological monitoring, environmental protection, and operational safety expertise.

**Engineering, Energy Systems, and Mechatronics:**
Launching in Fall 2026, CEI's new Associate of Engineering degree enhances transferability and introduces students to nuclear relevant applications early in their academic experience. Energy Systems and Mechatronics programs teach electrical controls, automation, and advanced mechanical systems used extensively at INL and throughout Idaho's expanding technology and manufacturing sector. One recent Mechatronics graduate—who began the program while living in a storage container—now works at INL earning $85,000, demonstrating CEI's strong role in economic and social mobility.

**STEM Pipeline & Cybersecurity**
Through the BEA funded Applied STEM Institute ($1.5M investment), CEI operates STEM academies, K–12 programming, industry mentorship opportunities, and dual credit pathways that strengthen long term nuclear workforce pipelines and broaden student access to STEM careers. CEI's cybersecurity program, built in close partnership with INL, will expand with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Digital Forensic Analytics in Fall 2026, providing bachelor's level pathway for Cybersecurity AAS graduates and supporting regional digital security needs across the nuclear and energy sectors.

**Additional Partnerships and Impact**
CEI also delivers advanced CAD, SolidWorks, and HAAS CNC training aligned with regional partners—including Idaho Steel and Premiere Technology—who help ensure CEI's manufacturing offerings closely match Idaho's industrial workforce needs and future growth areas.

CEI remains a committed partner in developing the skilled, adaptable talent necessary to support Idaho's leadership in nuclear innovation and to contribute meaningfully to the success of the Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus.

**Dr. Angela Sacket**
Vice President of Academics
and Student Affairs

**Trevor Elordi**
Vice President of Workforce
Training & Operations

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Dr. Heidi Estrem, Chief Academic Officer, Idaho State Board of Education
**From:** Dr. Barry Pate, Dean of Career and Technical Education
**Re:** Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus RFI
**Date:** March 10, 2026

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Dear Dr. Estrem,

The College of Southern Idaho continues to expand its role as a key workforce development partner for advanced manufacturing and engineering industries across the Magic Valley and the broader region. Our Advanced Manufacturing/ Automation program offers both one-year certificates and two-year associate degrees designed to prepare students for careers in industrial automation, mechatronics, and modern manufacturing systems. These programs emphasize hands-on training with industry-relevant equipment and focus on core competencies such as programmable logic controllers (PLCs), robotics, electrical systems, sensors, motor controls, and industrial troubleshooting. The stackable certificate and degree structure allows students to enter the workforce quickly while maintaining the ability to continue their education and advance their technical skills.

Our program development has been closely aligned with statewide workforce initiatives. Through collaboration with the Idaho Workforce Development Council, we are actively working with Micron to help prepare the technical workforce needed for the semiconductor industry. These efforts focus on aligning curriculum with emerging industry requirements, expanding training capacity, and ensuring that students gain the foundational electrical, automation, and systems knowledge required in high-tech manufacturing environments. This partnership ensures our programs remain responsive to employer needs while creating clear pathways for students to access high-demand careers.

To further strengthen this workforce pipeline, CSI has developed an Electrical Engineering Technology degree that will bridge the gap between traditional industrial maintenance training and engineering-level technical work. This program focuses on applied electronics, instrumentation, controls, and semiconductor-related technologies that are increasingly required in advanced manufacturing settings. In parallel, we are working to establish a transfer pathway from our engineering program into a Nuclear Engineering BS degree in partnership with Idaho State University. This pathway will allow students to begin their foundational engineering coursework locally before transferring to complete specialized nuclear engineering training, supporting Idaho's growing energy and nuclear technology sectors.

In addition to our credit-bearing programs, CSI also operates a competency-based Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship program that serves regional manufacturers. This apprenticeship model allows participants to build skills while employed, progressing through clearly defined competencies in electrical systems, mechanical systems, automation, and industrial maintenance practices. The program is designed in close collaboration with industry partners to ensure training reflects real-world equipment and operational needs. Together, these degree programs, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships form a comprehensive workforce development ecosystem that supports both student opportunity and the long-term competitiveness of regional manufacturers.

COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO

*Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs*

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** State of Idaho Governor's Office, Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Response Team

**FROM:** Denise Aberle-Cannata, Provost & VP of Academic Affairs

**RE:** CWI Grant-funded Programs Supporting Idaho's DOE Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus Proposal

**DATE:** March 13, 2026

The College of Western Idaho (CWI) has made significant grant-funded investments in technical programs directly aligned with the workforce needs of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus, including mining technology, advanced manufacturing, semiconductor fabrication, mechatronics, and STEM pathways in engineering.

**Mining Technology | NSF Grant ($862,435, Awarded Sept. 2025, 3-year term)**

- New two-year Mining Technician program is under development; curriculum is being designed in partnership with regional industry to ensure graduates are prepared for workforce needs in mining and critical minerals extraction, both foundational to the nuclear fuel cycle
- Perpetua Resources, an Idaho-based critical minerals company, is providing scholarship funding to support student enrollment and completion in the program

**Advanced Manufacturing: Mechatronics & Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology**

- Idaho Workforce Development Council grant: $4,194,931 + $501,792 Micron match (3-year term, concluding June 2025)
- Expanded Mechatronics program and established new Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology (SMT) program
- Ongoing Micron partnership: coursework planned at Micron's expanded Boise facility
- Mechatronics and SMT skills are directly applicable to nuclear facility instrumentation, automated control systems, precision component manufacturing, and maintenance of advanced equipment

**STEM & Engineering Pathways | NSF S-STEM via Boise State University ($1,088,645, 5-year term)**

- CWI serves as a subrecipient; provides scholarship funding and academic support services to students pursuing STEM degrees, including engineering, supporting both completion at CWI and transfer into four-year engineering programs

**Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

- Established program offering a Basic Technical Certificate and an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree; students complete hands-on training in mission planning, data capture, and digital imagery processing, and are prepared for FAA Commercial Remote Pilot certification
- UAS skills are applicable to nuclear site inspection, infrastructure monitoring, environmental sensing, and search and rescue operations at large-scale facilities

CWI also maintains relationships with Idaho National Laboratory (INL) through statewide STEM initiatives and workforce discussions supporting nuclear energy, advanced materials, and related technical career pathways.

The College of Western Idaho is committed to expanding the technical workforce Idaho needs to support emerging and nationally strategic industries, including nuclear energy and advanced materials. Through industry-aligned programs, grant-funded innovation, and strong partnerships with employers and higher education institutions across the state, CWI serves as a critical entry point into Idaho's technical workforce pipeline. Our programs prepare students for immediate employment in high-demand technical roles while also creating pathways for continued study in engineering and related STEM fields. CWI looks forward to partnering with the State of Idaho, industry, and research institutions such as Idaho National Laboratory to help develop the skilled workforce necessary to support a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus and the broader growth of Idaho's energy and advanced technology sectors.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus RFI Review Team
**From:** Dr. Fredrick Chilson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
**Date:** 03/11/2026
**Subject:** Workforce Contributions from Lewis-Clark State College

Lewis-Clark State College (LC State) is a regional public institution in Lewiston, Idaho with a long-standing mission to support workforce development across Idaho and the broader Northwest. Through applied and technical degree programs, LC State prepares graduates for high-demand industries including advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, engineering technologies, and skilled trades. These programs position LC State to contribute meaningfully to the workforce ecosystem required for emerging initiatives such as a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus.

LC State currently offers or is developing programs that align closely with the skilled workforce needs associated with advanced energy systems, advanced manufacturing, and national infrastructure development. Key programs include:

**Cybersecurity and Information Technology.** LC State offers programs in cybersecurity and information systems that prepare graduates to support secure digital infrastructure and operational technology environments. As nuclear and advanced energy systems increasingly rely on sophisticated cyber-physical systems, cybersecurity professionals trained at LC State can support critical infrastructure protection, secure data operations, and industrial control system security.

**Advanced Manufacturing and CNC Machining.** LC State's Career & Technical Education programs include training in CNC machining and precision manufacturing. These programs develop technicians capable of operating and programming advanced machine tools used in component fabrication, prototyping, and manufacturing processes. Such skills are directly relevant to supply chains supporting reactor components, fuel system components, instrumentation, and other precision-manufactured parts required by advanced energy technologies.

**Welding and Industrial Fabrication.** LC State's welding programs prepare students for careers in structural welding, pipe welding, and advanced fabrication. Graduates routinely enter sectors such as industrial construction, energy infrastructure, manufacturing, and heavy equipment maintenance. Welding and fabrication skills are essential to the construction, maintenance, and operation of energy facilities and associated infrastructure.

**Engineering Technology and Applied Engineering.** LC State offers associate-level engineering technology programs designed to prepare students for technical roles in engineering environments, including mechanical systems, industrial systems, and manufacturing processes. These programs serve as both workforce entry points and pathways to further engineering education.

LC State maintains strong partnerships with regional industry, workforce agencies, and other higher education institutions to align curricula with employer needs. Our programs emphasize hands-on training, applied learning environments, and direct connections to employment opportunities across Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. Many graduates remain in the region and contribute to industries critical to economic development and infrastructure modernization.

Through these programs and partnerships, LC State can contribute to the workforce pipeline required for large-scale technology initiatives by supplying skilled technicians, cybersecurity professionals, and advanced manufacturing specialists. We welcome opportunities to collaborate with state, federal, and industry partners to support workforce development aligned with the needs of emerging energy and technology sectors.

North Idaho College

**School Overview**

**Size:** North Idaho College (NIC), established in 1933, serves Idaho's five northern counties from its main campus in Coeur d'Alene and regional centers in Rathdrum, Post Falls, and Sandpoint. NIC is a powerful driver of growth in our region. One out of every 39 jobs in our region is connected to the college and its students.

**Demographics:** NIC's vibrant college community includes 4,666 students enrolled in credit courses and 7,000+ in non-credit workforce training and outreach programs. Students range from recent high school graduates to working adults, with a 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

**Key Research Strengths:** NIC emphasizes career-aligned education and workforce development, with recognized excellence in Nursing (Idaho's top-ranked RN program), Cybersecurity (INFOSEC), Advanced Manufacturing, and Outdoor Recreation Leadership. NIC builds partnerships with regional schools, tribal nations, community organizations, and businesses to provide students with access to internships, apprenticeships, and real-world learning opportunities.

**Accreditations/Credentials:** NIC is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and offers state-approved career and technical programs. Workforce Training provides industry-recognized certifications and apprenticeships.

**Post-Graduation Outcomes:** In 2023–24, NIC awarded 688 associate degrees and 732 certificates. Graduates enter high-demand fields including healthcare, cybersecurity, skilled trades, and business, with many securing employment before graduation in programs like Nursing, Radiography, and Surgical Technology. NIC contributes $273.2 million in economic impact, supporting nearly 4,000 regional jobs.

**Support for the Semiconductor Ecosystem**

**Semiconductor-Related Majors:** NIC offers pathways in Cybersecurity and Information Security Administration, Advanced Manufacturing: Engineering and CNC Technologies, and Computer Science transfer programs.

**Relevant Programs and Initiatives:** NIC X-Labs: A hub for innovation, lean startup, and design thinking, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and problem-solving aligned with advanced technology sectors. Workforce Training Center offers apprenticeships in electrical, HVAC, and advanced manufacturing, critical for semiconductor and aerospace supply chains.

**Key Research Strengths:** Applied learning in cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and technical trades; strong emphasis on design thinking, lean startup, and innovation through NIC X-Labs; and partnerships supporting aerospace materials and advanced composites.

**Faculty Researchers:** NIC faculty led programs in Cybersecurity, Advanced Manufacturing, and Engineering Technology, with expertise in applied technical education and workforce development.

**Unique Facilities / Infrastructure:** Parker Technical Education Center (Rathdrum): Advanced technical training in manufacturing and trades. Workforce Training Center (Post Falls): Industry-grade equipment for electrical, HVAC, welding, and aviation maintenance. State of the art Meyer Health and Science Medical Simulation lab. NIC X-Labs: Collaborative innovation space for prototyping and design thinking.

**Industry and Academic Partnerships:** American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center (AAMMC): NIC is a consortium member advancing aerospace and advanced manufacturing workforce development under the CHIPS and Science Act. NASA & Idaho Space Grant: NIC selected for NASA's Aerospace State Hubs for Skilled Technical Workforce Initiative.

**Existing Exchange Programs**

NIC collaborates regionally with Idaho universities for transfer pathways. NIC's partnerships with NASA and AAMMC create opportunities for future faculty and student exchanges in aerospace and advanced manufacturing. NIC employs three doctoral fellows from the University of Idaho as instructional leaders in robotics, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing.

**Suggestions for Partnerships**

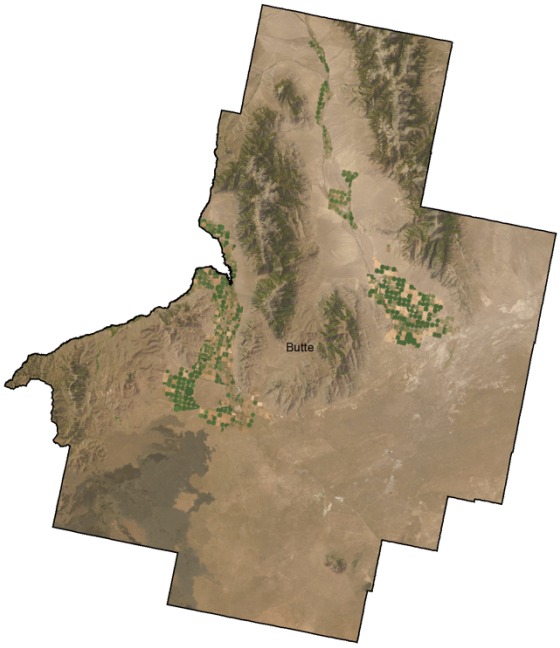
- Joint Research: Collaborate on applied research in advanced composites, cybersecurity for semiconductor systems, and manufacturing automation.
- Student Internships: Expand internships with aerospace and semiconductor firms through NIC Workforce Training programs.
- Curriculum Co-Development: Create stackable credentials in semiconductor manufacturing, microelectronics, and AI-driven design.
- Faculty Exchanges: Partner with research universities and industry labs for faculty development in nanotechnology, advanced packaging, and cybersecurity.

**Contact Information**

Name: Marita Diffenbaugh  Title: Director of Innovation
Email: marita.diffenbaugh@nic.edu  Phone: 208-929-4043  Website: https://nic.edu/

## Attachment E – Butte County Land Assessment – Nuclear Siting

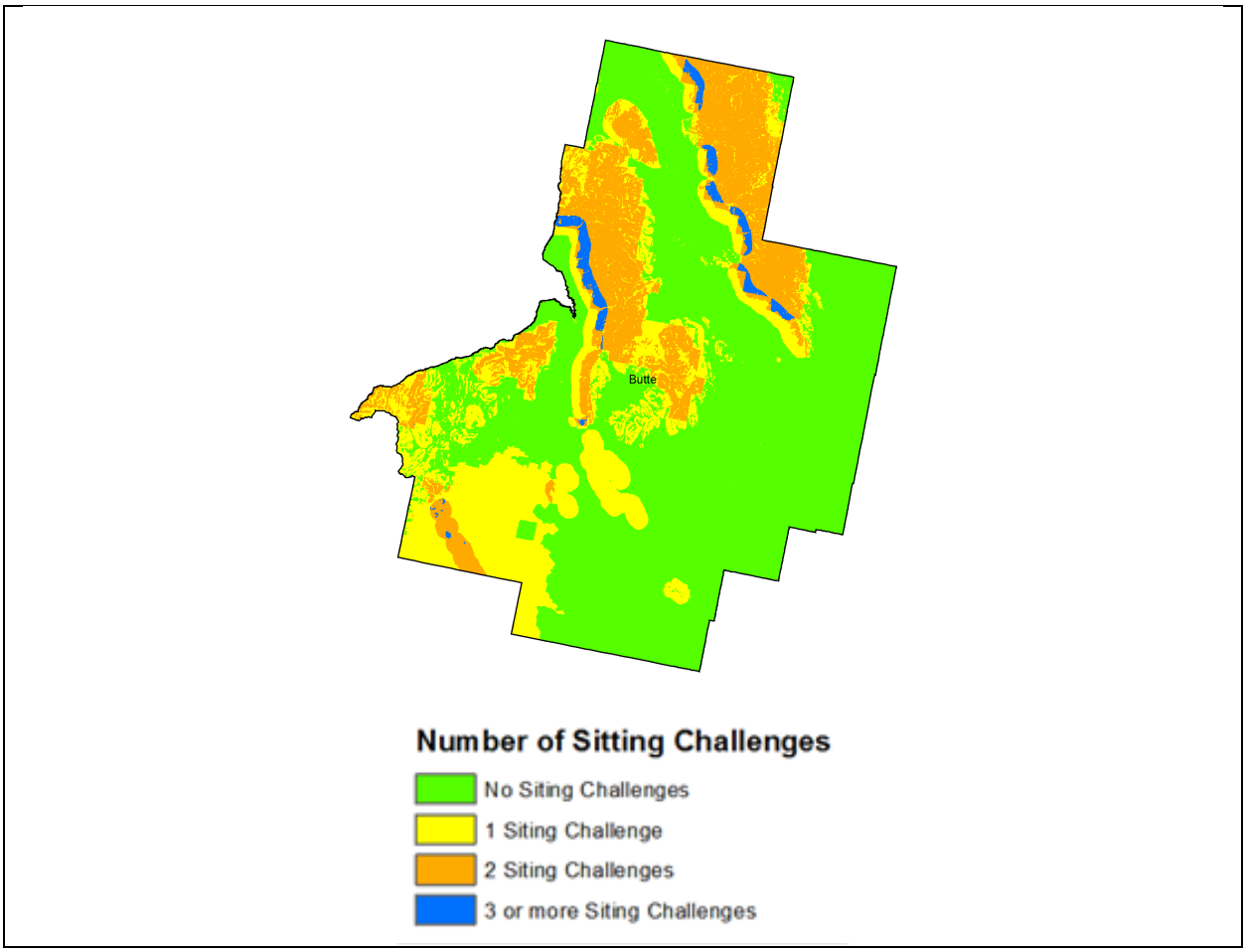
# Butte County: Overview




# Screening Criteria Overview: SMR

| ***OR-SAGE Screening Criteria*** | **Small Modular Reactor (e.g., Xe-100)** |
|---|---|
| *Population density (people/square mile – ppsm)* | >500 ppsm within 1 mile (EPZ – site boundary) |
| *Safe shutdown earthquake (ground acceleration)* | >0.5g |
| *Wetlands/Open waters* | Excluded |
| *Protected Lands* | Excluded |
| *Slope* | >18% grade |
| *Landslide hazard* | Flag High Risk |
| *100-year floodplain* | Excluded |
| *Streamflow – cooling water makeup (X gallons/minute; closed cycle cooling; limited to 10% of resource)* | 9,600 GPM/Unit (Assumes city-water supply) |
| *Proximity to hazards (buffer distance)* | Flag 1-10 miles |
| *Proximity to fault lines (buffer distance)* | Depends on length of fault |
| *Footprint* | ~13 acres (for 4-unit package) |

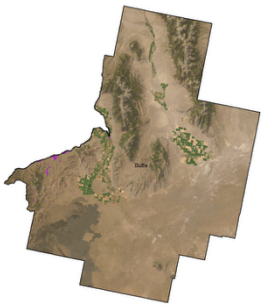
# County Characterization: Composite Map



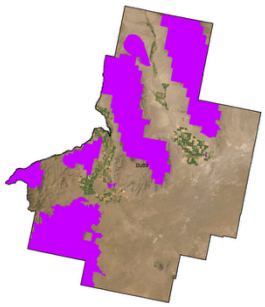
# Individual Excluded Areas

Population (>500 ppsm within 1 mile)

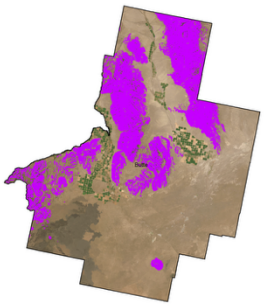
SSE (>0.5g)



Wetlands/Open Waters



Protected Lands



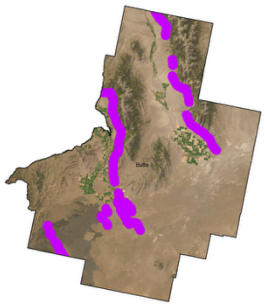
Slope (>18% grade)

Landslide Risk (High Risk Areas)

# Individual Excluded Areas

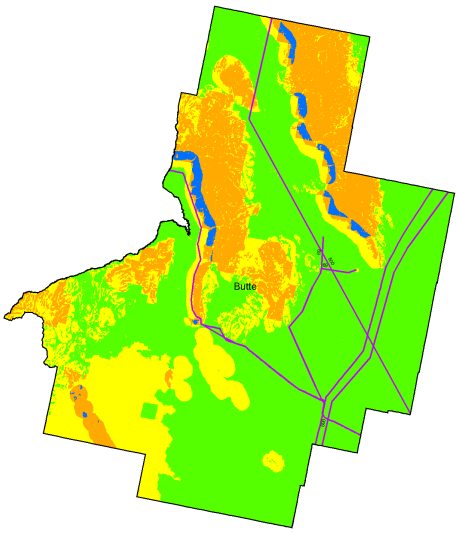
**Floodplain (100-year Risk Areas)**

**Proximity to Hazards**

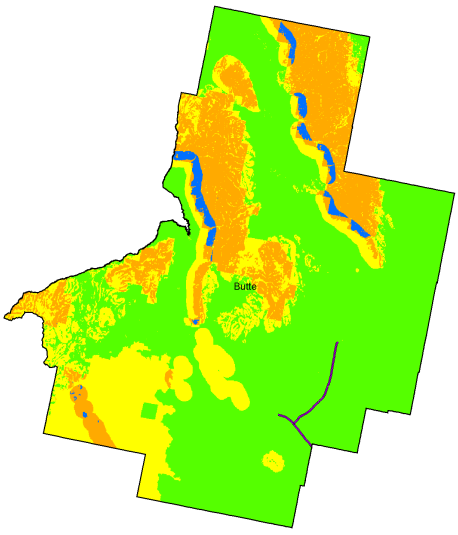


**Proximity to Fault Lines**

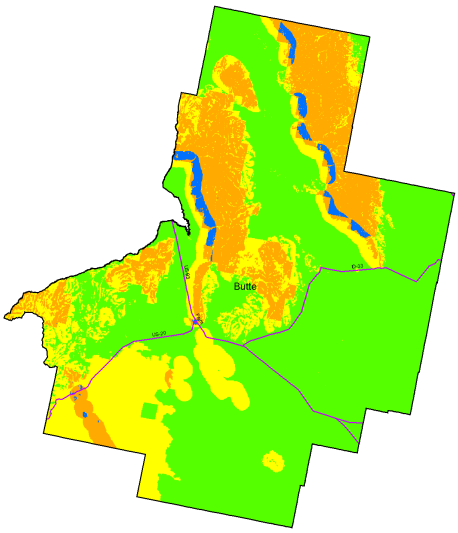
# County Characterization: Infrastructure Overlay




**Overlay of Transmission Lines on Xe-100 Composite Map**




**Overlay of Railways on Xe-100 Composite Map**



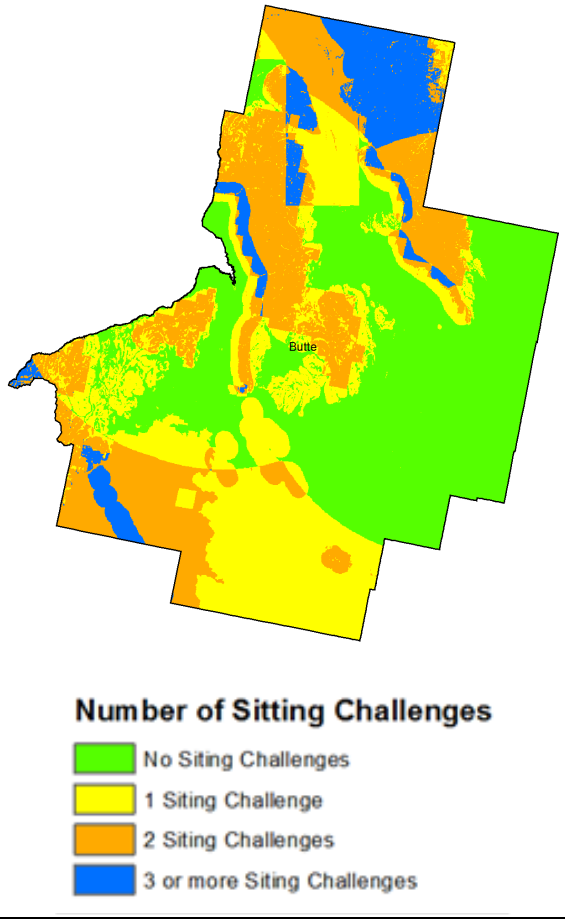

**Overlay of Highways on Xe-100 Composite Map**

# Screening Criteria Overview: Large LWR

| *OR-SAGE Screening Criteria* | **Large LWR (e.g., AP1000)** |
|---|---|
| *Population density (people/square mile – ppsm)* | >500 ppsm within 20 miles (EPZ – 10 miles) |
| *Safe shutdown earthquake (ground acceleration)* | >0.3g |
| *Wetlands/Open waters* | Excluded |
| *Protected Lands* | Excluded |
| *Slope* | >12% grade |
| *Landslide hazard* | Flag High Risk |
| *100-year floodplain* | Excluded |
| *Streamflow – cooling water makeup (X gallons/minute; closed cycle cooling; limited to 10% of resource)* | <130,000 GPM (Assumes freshwater cooling) |
| *Proximity to hazards (buffer distance)* | Flag 1-10 miles |
| *Proximity to fault lines (buffer distance)* | Depends on length of fault |
| *Footprint* | ~500 acres |

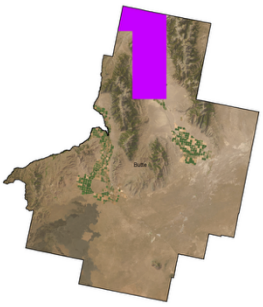
**Yellow rows highlight the differences with Small Modular Reactor (e.g., Xe-100)*

# County Characterization: Composite Map

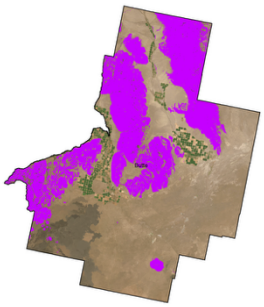


# Individual Excluded Areas

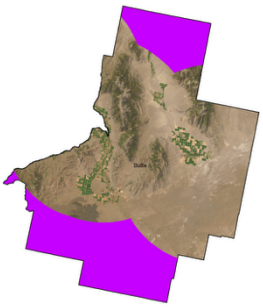
**Population (>500 ppsm within 20 mile)**



**SSE (>0.3g)**

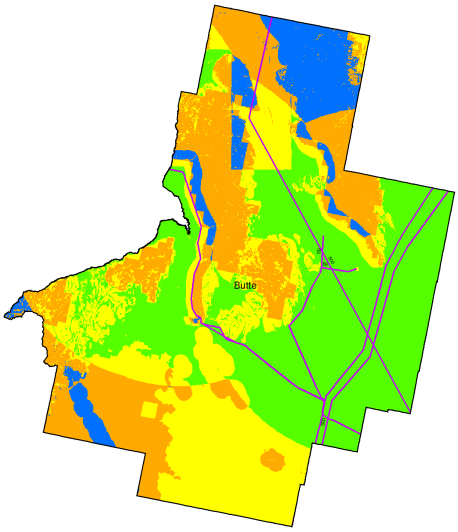


**Slope (>12% grade)**

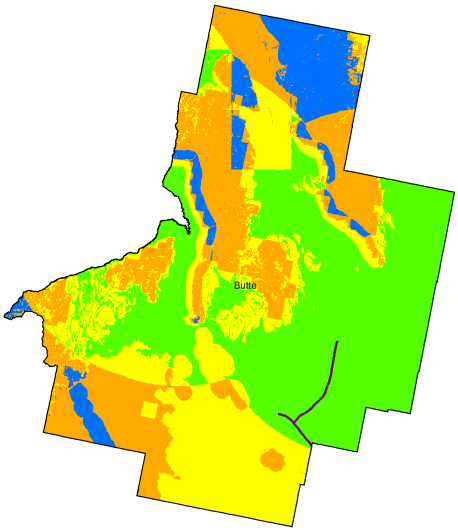


**Streamflow (<130,000 GPM)**

# County Characterization: Infrastructure Overlay




**Overlay of Transmission Lines on AP1000 Composite Map**




**Overlay of Railways on AP1000 Composite Map**

## Attachment F – Tri-State Compact

**Memorandum of Understanding**
**Between the States of Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho**
**Regarding Regional Energy Collaboration**

## I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a cooperative framework among the states of Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho to pursue regional collaboration in energy policy, infrastructure development, and regulatory strategy. The goal is to align energy-related efforts in order to strengthen energy resilience, foster innovation, attract investment, and advocate for shared priorities through the development of a tri-state compact.

## II. Background

Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho (States) share a unique geographic and economic landscape rich in energy resources, including fossil fuels, renewable energy sources, and critical minerals essential for modern energy systems. The States also participate in a common energy market and face common challenges related to energy production and distribution, grid reliability amid rising demand, the environmental and economic impacts of energy transition, and volatile federal regulatory priorities. This MOU will facilitate collaboration among the States to address these shared challenges. By working together, the States can share best practices and amplify their collective influence more effectively to advance common policy perspectives. Furthermore, this partnership will help insulate the States from adverse national or out-of-state policies that may impact their shared energy interests, resources, and long-term economic goals.

## III. Objectives

The parties to this MOU agree to develop a tri-state compact for the purpose of collaborating in the following areas:

1. **Policy Alignment**
    - Engage in discussion on energy policies that encourage innovation across the energy spectrum, preservation and enhancement of core energy industries, development of new energy sources, and private investment across state lines.
2. **Infrastructure Coordination**
    - Coordinate planning and development of critical energy infrastructure, particularly that which presents a mutual benefit to the parties.
3. **Regulatory and Environmental Strategy**
    - Work jointly on addressing and navigating federal or other state regulatory requirements, including those related to environmental concerns
4. **Federal Advocacy**
    - Unite together to advocate at the federal level on behalf of policies and funding that support regional energy priorities.
5. **Energy Resilience**
    - Enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid, recognizing anticipated load growth in the region and the needs of residential power delivery within each of the member states.
6. **Workforce Training and Development**
    - Further collaboration among education partners to develop the skilled workforce necessary to meet current and projected energy needs.
7. **Affordability**
    - Collaborate on strategies to continue delivering affordable energy to the citizens of all three states.

**V. Commitment**
The parties express their commitment to fostering long-term regional collaboration on energy issues through the development of a tri-state compact and acknowledge the mutual benefits this partnership offers to the states and their residents, while respecting the sovereignty of the same.

**VI. Non-Binding Agreement**
This MOU is not intended to create legal obligations but serves as a statement of mutual intent to work together in good faith toward shared objectives. Statutes, regulations, or policies adopted by one of the parties will not create any duties or responsibilities for the other parties.

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**The Honorable Spencer Cox, Governor of Utah**
Date: _____

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**The Honorable Mark Gordon, Governor of Wyoming**
Date: _____

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**The Honorable Brad Little, Governor of Idaho**
Date: _____