

INL Intelligence

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A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory
Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic priorities of energy security,
nuclear security, scientific discovery and environmental responsibility.

■ Lab Supports Major Nuclear Energy Conference

INL joined Third Way, a leading Washington, D.C.-based think tank, to stage the New Millennium Nuclear Energy Summit in the nation's capital early this month. The event brought together energy policy makers from the Obama administration, congressional leaders and top-level executives from utilities and energy companies to initiate development of a long-term strategy for building consensus on a path forward for nuclear energy in the United States. The full-day meeting was divided into two sessions: a morning "roundtable" that featured an open and candid discussion between the public and private sectors, and afternoon working groups that began setting the agenda and developing the recommendations to be featured in a report due out in early 2011.

■ INL Team Completes Nuclear Safeguards Project

Late this fall, two INL employees completed a major international nuclear security endeavor. The pair – working on assignment for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) – oversaw the packaging and removal of 300 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel from a reactor in Kazakhstan to a secure facility. The 10-year project removed enough highly enriched uranium to make nearly 800 nuclear weapons. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union used the reactor to produce steam heat and fresh water for residents in the city of Shevchenko. The reactor was also used to produce very high quality plutonium for nuclear weapons.

■ BSU Releases Report on INL's Economic Impact

Following a nearly yearlong study, a team of economists from Boise State University's College of Business and Economics on Dec. 9 released a detailed report on the effects of INL site-based operations on Idaho's economy. Among the more significant findings in the report were that combined site operations were responsible for more than 24,000 jobs, increased personal income in the state by nearly \$2 billion, and had a total economic impact on Idaho of \$3.5 billion. Additionally, the report found that, directly and indirectly, INL operations accounted for more than \$135 million in personal income, corporate income, sales and other taxes paid to the state. "The state's economic picture is substantially brighter than it would be without INL," said Geoffrey Black, chairman of the Department of Economics at Boise State. He was joined on the research project by faculty members Don Holley and John Church.

■ Lab Reaches out to Science Teachers

INL hosted a nuclear energy booth at the National Science Teachers Association conference Dec. 2-4 in Nashville, Tenn. The lab's booth focused on its nuclear energy research activities. About 2,500 educators registered for the conference, which provided comprehensive instructional materials teachers were able to take back to their classrooms. Radiation measurements devices were awarded via a drawing at the end of the session, and teachers were given information on the next High School Physics Teachers Workshop to be held in July 2011 in Idaho Falls.

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