

## DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

March 6, 2026

**TO:** Technical Director  
**FROM:** Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Cognizant Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** INL Report for February 2026

**DNFSB Staff Activity.** The cognizant engineer held weekly meetings to maintain awareness of site activities, including attending event fact-findings, management reviews, integrated project team reviews, and facility plan-of-the-day meetings, as applicable. On February 2, 2026, a staff team held discussions with representatives from the Department of Energy-Idaho Cleanup Project (DOE-ICP), Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC), and DOE Office of Environmental Management regarding the staff's ongoing review of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) safety basis. The discussion centered on the status of the safety basis, the current waste inventory, and the status of addressing previous safety concerns raised by the Board. This staff review continues through review of documentation and development of follow-on lines of inquiry.

**Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) – Denitration Mineralization Reformer (DMR) Steam Valve Inoperable.** On February 20, 2026, IWTU personnel entered a Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) due to an inoperable DMR steam feed valve. During performance of an evolution to support the introduction of steam into the process, operators noticed that the safety-significant steam feed valve was open (evident through the valve stem position), though the local and remote valve position indicators showed the valve was closed. Operators subsequently confirmed the condition during an attempt to drain condensate from the system and noted that the failure prevents the valve from positioning and functioning correctly. An investigation identified the reverse indication was a result of an error when IWTU maintenance reinstalled the indicator after completion of preventive maintenance performed on the DMR steam feed valve during the recent maintenance outage. Corrective actions included immediately closing the valve manually, correcting the valve indication to align with the actual valve position, and performing an extent-of-condition evaluation before the facility manager exited the LCO. In accordance with the LCO for inoperability of the steam feed valve, operators also verified valves downstream were closed. In addition, the other safety-significant control valve (mercury adsorber inlet valve) refurbished in the recent outage was also verified to function/indicate correctly. Facility management is evaluating the need for further action to minimize likelihood of recurrence.

**Future Off Site Waste Treatment Project at AMWTP.** National Nuclear Security Administration personnel are evaluating AMWTP for treatment of some of its waste streams. On February 17, 2026, IEC management held a meeting to discuss logistics needed to maintain AMWTP systems operational to facilitate additional treatment of waste from other DOE sites. IEC management discussed required upgrades, which include improvements to the ventilation system, electronic control components, and personnel radiation protection controls. IEC personnel plan a future presentation to support the offsite waste treatment project plans.