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hydrogeological, geochemical, and geo-mechanical characteristics of the host rock at a considerable depth. No radioactive material will be used during any of the testing for the borehole project.

● Unable to reach an agreement with the state over a waiver of a 1995 settlement agreement, the Department of Energy has canceled a shipment of spent nuclear fuel to Idaho National Laboratory, it was reported on October 23, 2015. The shipment was one of two deliveries of 25 spent fuel rods the DOE was proposing to send to INL as part of a research project on the characteristics and storage of spent fuel. Former Idaho governors Cecil Andrus and Phil Batt, architects of the 1995 Batt Agreement prohibiting the transfer of commercial spent nuclear fuel to INL, had opposed the shipments.

In December 2014, the DOE requested a waiver of the Batt Agreement. Idaho Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden indicated that the state would be willing to grant a conditional waiver if the DOE would take steps to resolve current noncompliance issues with the agreement. Those issues stem from the delay in the construction and operation of the site's Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU), which was supposed to begin treating nearly 900,000 gallons of liquid sodium—bearing waste in 2012.



A shipment of mixed, low-level waste from Hanford is secured for treatment and disposal. The DOE is researching the use of plasma mass filtering to separate and treat radioactive waste. Photo: DOE

