

Environmental Consequences

Impacts from other existing facility disposition alternatives would be lower.

Because facility disposition impacts would be small in all cases, and there is no means for minority or low-income populations to be disproportionately affected, no disproportionately high and adverse impacts would be expected for minority or low-income populations.

As noted in Section 5.3.8, public health impacts from facility disposition activities are based on projected airborne releases of radioactive and nonradioactive contaminants. Because prevailing winds are out of the southwest and northeast (see Section 4.7.1), contaminants released to the atmosphere from INTEC tend to be carried to the northeast (into the interior of the INEEL) or southwest (into the sparsely-populated area south and west of the INEEL). Minority populations tend to be concentrated south and east of INTEC, in urban areas like Pocatello and Idaho Falls and along the Interstate 15 corridor (see Figure 4-20). The Fort Hall Indian Reservation is also some 40 miles southeast of INTEC (see Figure 4-21). This suggests that minority and low-income populations would not experience higher exposure rates than the general population and that disproportionately high and adverse human health effects for minority or low-income populations would not occur as a result of facility disposition activities at INTEC.

5.3.10 UTILITIES AND ENERGY

Upon completion of waste processing operations, DOE would disposition surplus facilities. Disposition activities would result in the consumption of electricity, water, and fossil fuels, and the generation of wastewater.

Table 5.3-18 presents the utility and energy requirements for disposition of new facilities that would be built to support the waste processing alternatives. These facilities would be clean-closed in accordance with applicable permits or regulations.

Table 5.3-19 presents impacts for disposition of the Tank Farm and bin sets by closure alternative. Disposition of the Tank Farm and bin sets would be a long-term activity because facility

closure and operation as a disposal facility could last 20 to 35 years depending on the facility, closure method, and low-level waste fraction disposal option chosen. Closure of the remaining existing HLW generation, treatment, and storage facilities *would not be* long-term compared to the Tank Farm and bin sets.

Table 5.3-20 presents impacts for disposition of other existing facilities associated with HLW management.

5.3.11 WASTE AND MATERIALS

Waste would be produced as a result of disposition of new waste processing facilities. Table 5.3-21 summarizes total volumes of industrial, low-level, mixed low-level, and hazardous waste that would be generated from disposition of new facilities under each of the waste processing alternatives. As noted in Section 5.2.13, waste volumes have been conservatively estimated. Future regulatory changes could affect predicted waste volumes and, in the worst case, some reanalysis could be required to show that predicted impacts are bounding.

Generation of transuranic waste is not expected under disposition of any of these facilities. These facilities would be closed in accordance with the applicable permits or regulations, and closure activities would be typically between 1 to 5 years in duration. Although the No Action Alternative includes some minor construction actions, the evaluation of impacts presented here assumes it would involve no facility disposition activities.

Table 5.3-22 shows volumes of industrial, low-level, mixed low-level, and hazardous waste that would be generated by disposition of existing HLW management facilities. As with disposition of new facilities, generation of transuranic waste is not anticipated for any of the facilities. Waste generation estimates are presented by facility (or facility grouping) and disposition alternative. Disposition of the Tank Farm and bin sets represents the more complex activities and would be long-term actions, lasting upwards of 30 years, depending on the alternative. Because of these complexities, the Tank Farm and bin sets are being evaluated under each of