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INL shipment to close roads

BY JOURNAL STAFF

The Idaho National Laboratory's preparation of radioactive waste for shipment will result in road closures between Idaho Falls and Arco between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. every Thursday for the next 10 weeks.

Shipments will close U.S. 20 from the entrance of the Materials and Fuels Complex (MFC) west of Idaho Falls, U.S. 26 from one mile south of its junction with U.S. 20 south of INL and U.S. 20-26 from the INL access road north of the Big Lost River Rest Area east of Arco.

The waste is being readied for shipment to New Mexico sometime next year. It will be transported to the federal Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico, using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

INL officials expect the transfer of radioactive waste will be completed by Oct. 1. Officials from the Idaho Transportation Department advise motorists to avoid these highways during the Thursday closure hour.