



SRS's waste management facilities provide services to facilities and organizations across the site.

Materials Leaving South Carolina

In an effort to maintain accelerated transuranic (TRU) waste disposition, SRS instituted a team effort in 2006 that has utilized containment facilities in H, F and A areas, as well as started up a new facility in E Area, for TRU waste remediation.

This concentrated team effort is in addition to the stepped-up shipment schedule that continues to see up to six shipments per week leaving SRS, bound for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is DOE's facility for disposing of TRU waste from across the DOE complex. SRS made its first shipment of TRU waste to WIPP in 2001, initially making about one shipment a month. Thereafter, SRS increased its shipping schedule to 15 shipments per month and 24 shipments per month in 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively.

In 2006, SRS maintained its accelerated TRU waste shipment program, making 125 shipments. The total amount of TRU dispositioned was further accelerated by stringent characterization efforts that have seen more than 1,000 drums of waste, previously thought to be TRU, recharacterized as mixed low-level waste (MLLW). This re-characterization meant that this material did not have to be sent to WIPP but could instead be sent to the Nevada Test Site, which began receiving these materials in 2006.

At the current rate, SRS expects to complete shipment of its legacy drummed waste in 2008. This target date, compared to the original date, will save taxpayers about 100 million.

At the start of the SRS shipping program, about 28,000 legacy TRU waste drums (about 6,000 cubic meters) were stored at SRS. SRS has since shipped over 20,000 drums - over 4,300 cubic meters - to WIPP.

SRS also completed a commitment to DOE and SCDHEC, associated with receiving TRU waste from the Battelle Columbus site in West Jefferson, Ohio, helping this facility achieve early closure. In exchange for this commitment, SRS dispositioned more than 1,000 cubic meters of TRU waste in FY06.

Low-Level Waste

At SRS, the low-level waste (LLW) program primarily involves disposing of waste in shallow land disposal facilities and vaults, treating wastewater and shipping waste off site to commercial and other DOE facilities for disposal.

All legacy LLW has been completed, so newly generated waste is the only LLW that must be addressed. This waste is the result of D&D activities and work in radiological areas. As of the end of fiscal year 2006, SRS has disposed of 86,888 cubic meters of low-level waste

Additionally, SRS disposed of 368 cubic meters of LLMW to both NTS and EnergySolutions' Clive Site, and approximately 296 cubic meters of hazardous wastes to various offsite treatment and disposal sites.



Employees in F/H Labs conduct TRU drum remediation work.

Depleted Uranium Oxide

Depleted uranium oxide (DUO), a by-product of the F Area process, continued to leave South Carolina in 2006. DUO – a powder-like, low-level radioactive material that is stored in more than 33,000 55-gallon drums – is being sent by rail to EnergySolutions' Clive Site in Utah.

By the end of 2006, WSRC had shipped 7,971 of the 33,000 drums that scheduled to be dispositioned, including all shipments of low-enriched uranium oxide.

Depending on funding, shipments are expected to be completed by about 2008.

Contributed by Fran Poda, WSRC Public Affairs

A truck departs SRS with a load of mixed low-level waste, bound for the Nevada Test Site

