



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 continued a team effort in 2007 that utilizes facilities in two site areas for TRU waste remediation. SRS is now well on schedule to complete drum remediation in 2008 and shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in 2009.

Since the site began operations in the early 1950s, about 11,000 cubic meters of TRU waste accumulated on pads, covered over with dirt, awaiting final disposition. TRU waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, and other such items contaminated with radioactive elements, primarily plutonium, with an atomic number greater than uranium at specific concentrations.

WIPP, which opened in 1999, is DOE's facility for disposing of TRU waste from across the DOE complex. In 2001, SRS began shipping its TRU waste, which had to meet strict WIPP requirements. Liquids and aerosol cans, for example, are prohibited. Each drum had to be examined to ensure all its contents were allowable. Drums that passed these tests were characterized, packaged, and shipped to WIPP. Those that contained prohibited items were put aside to be dealt with later, when a facility was operational that could perform the remediation.

By 2005, drums that passed the initial tests were quickly being completed, and there was only one facility at SRS that was capable of remediating a limited number of drums and rendering them WIPP-acceptable. Remediation involves emptying a drum, picking among the contents to remove the prohibited items, and repacking it. SRS needed to develop other capabilities, and it did. In the space of one year, three other remediation facilities were constructed,

started up, worked off their available feed, and shut down. A fourth, located in F Canyon, is still running, and the finish line is in sight.

In 2007, SRS shipped 3,479 drums of TRU waste to WIPP and 347 drums of mixed low-level waste, which had originally been classified as TRU but was correctly reclassified during the SRS process, to the Nevada Test Site. By the end of 2007, a total of nearly 25,000 drums had been shipped.

At the current rate, SRS expects to complete remediation of its legacy drummed waste in 2008, and shipments in 2009. This target date, compared to the original date, shaves 26 years off the original baseline and saves \$100 million taxpayer dollars.

SRS also has 3,600 metric tons of legacy non-drummed waste, which is awaiting startup of a analysis process before it can be dispositioned.

Low-Level Waste

At SRS, the low-level waste (LLW) disposition program primarily involves disposing of waste in shallow land disposal facilities and vaults, and shipping waste off site to commercial and other DOE facilities for disposal. All legacy waste has been completed, so the site is keeping pace with current waste generation.

Since 2000, SRS has disposed of over 137 million cubic meters of LLW on site, at the Nevada Test Site, and at EnergySolutions' disposal facility in Clive, Utah.

Contributed by Fran Poda, WSRC Public Affairs



Employees load a container with TRU waste.

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

