NM Committee Questions/Answers from the 12/5 meeting

How many gallons of waste are expected to be sent to the High Level Waste tanks in FY18? (Susan Corbett)

There is a yearly limit of 300,000 gallons of waste that H-Canyon is allotted to send to the High Level Waste tanks each year. So far in FY 18 we have generated approximately 7,500 gallons of high activity waste/low activity waste. Based on the projected operations of SNF processing , we expect to generate approximately 90,000 gallons of additional high activity/low activity waste.

How many cans of Pu down blend does SRS have ready for WIPP? (Dawn Gillas)

The site has 150 blended cans loaded into 75 Criticality Container Overpacks (CCOs) ready for WIPP characterization. These are not ready for shipment to WIPP until the WIPP certification process is completed.

What magnitude earthquake is the 235-F is used in the hazard analysis? (Susan Corbett)

The effects of an earthquake on a structure are a function of both the size of the earthquake (magnitude) and distance from the epicenter. SRS facilities are not designed for a specific earthquake magnitude but rather a seismic hazard defined as the maximum ground motion that is expected to occur over a certain period of time. The SRS seismic hazard includes both larger magnitude earthquakes that could occur in distant seismic zones and smaller earthquakes that could occur within and around SRS. According to DOE Orders and Standards, most nuclear facilities at SRS (including H Canyon), are designed for Performance Category 3 (PC-3) seismic hazards. A PC-3 seismic hazard represents a maximum ground motion that is expected no more frequently than approximately once every 2,500 years. Potential earthquakes considered in the PC-3 hazard at SRS include an **approximate magnitude 6.0 earthquake (on the Richter scale) near the SRS boundary and an approximate magnitude 7.5 earthquake near Charleston.** It is also important to note that under design basis seismic loads, nuclear facilities are designed to have relatively minimal damage to maintain confinement of radiological hazards as opposed to conventional commercial construction, which can see significant damage under design basis seismic loads but still allow occupants to safely evacuate.