

Recommendation 357
TRU Shipments to WIPP

Background

During the multi-year WIPP shut down (February 2014 – December 2016), all shipments from all facilities had to stop. Before this delay, SRS was well on its way to total de-inventory of all legacy TRU. A portion of this legacy TRU still remains at SRS, as well as any newly generated TRU. However, a much larger inventory of TRU is being generated in the blend down of “non-MOX-able” plutonium. As we understand it now, very few shipments are planned annually to WIPP from SRS from all TRU sources at SRS (legacy, newly generated, and Pu Blend-down). Without the Pu blend down, this would not as big of an issue, but the Pu blend down will generate a very large number of shipments that will be ready for shipment in the near future. If the number of shipments from SRS to WIPP are not significantly increased in the near future this inventory will grow at SRS.

Recommendation

The SRS CAB recommends that DOE SRS work with WIPP to accelerate shipments from SRS to WIPP concentrating on legacy TRU packaged prior to February 2014.