

## Permanently Disposing of Waste

Since 2001, the site has been sending portions of its low-level radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site and Envirocare of Utah, mixed waste to Envirocare and transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico.

### Transuranic (TRU) Waste

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is the Department of Energy's facility for disposing of transuranic (TRU) waste from across the DOE Complex. SRS began shipping its TRU waste to WIPP in 2001, initially making about one shipment a month.

In 2004, SRS again dramatically accelerated its TRU waste shipping schedule. SRS is now making 24 shipments per month, compared to 15 per month the previous year. At this rate, the site expects to finish shipping the remaining 16,100 drums by 2006. This date, compared to the original target date of 2014, saves taxpayers approximately \$100 million.

When the Ship to WIPP program began, there were approximately 30,000 drums containing TRU waste in storage at SRS. In FY04, 239 shipments (which included shipment of the 10,000<sup>th</sup> drum of TRU waste) were made to WIPP. This number reflects approximately 50 percent of drum shipments, a milestone achieved significantly earlier than the original baseline schedule. A total of 447 shipments (13,900 drums) have been made since the Ship to WIPP Program began.

### Low-Level Waste

Due to the acceleration of excess facilities decommissioning, SRS disposed of over 26,000 cubic meters of low-level waste (LLW), an increase of 60 percent over the previous year. In addition, 1,512 cubic meters of legacy LLW was disposed resulting in essentially a zero backlog of LLW. This legacy was disposed of well ahead of the FY06 goal and is included in the above total. LLW shipments are sent to DOE's Nevada Test Site and to Envirocare of Utah.



*Loading TRUPACT II containers on TRU Pad 3 Burial Ground*

**An important part of SRS' strategy for safely and cost-effectively managing wastes is the use of qualified off-site treatment and disposal facilities for wastes that are technically or economically unsuitable for on-site disposal.**

## **Mixed Low Level Waste**

In 2004, SRS completed characterization, manifesting and shipment of 285.9 cubic meters of mixed waste for treatment and disposal. (Mixed Low Level Waste is waste that is both radioactive and hazardous.) Fifteen truckloads of waste were shipped to Envirocare of Utah for treatment by macroencapsulation or stabilization.