

WASTE MANAGEMENT & ANALYTICAL SERVICES

Expectation:

Safely treat, store and dispose of solid wastes and liquid effluents; store cesium and strontium capsules; provide waste generator, environmental and waste minimization services; and manage and integrate analytical services, optimizing use of onsite and offsite laboratories.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Update:

- Submitted revised analytical and other procedures to the DOE Carlsbad Area Office to comply with new requirements for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B Permit from the New Mexico Ecology Department.
- Expect certification to begin shipping TRU waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant this spring, following a joint DOE/Environmental Protection Agency audit.



A worker repackages transuranic waste in the glovebox at the Waste Receiving and Processing (WRAP) facility. This quarter we performed non-destructive examinations of 118 drums, non-destructive assays of 27 drums, visual examinations of 24 drums and radiography of two boxes, and processed three drums through the repackaging/compaction glovebox at WRAP.

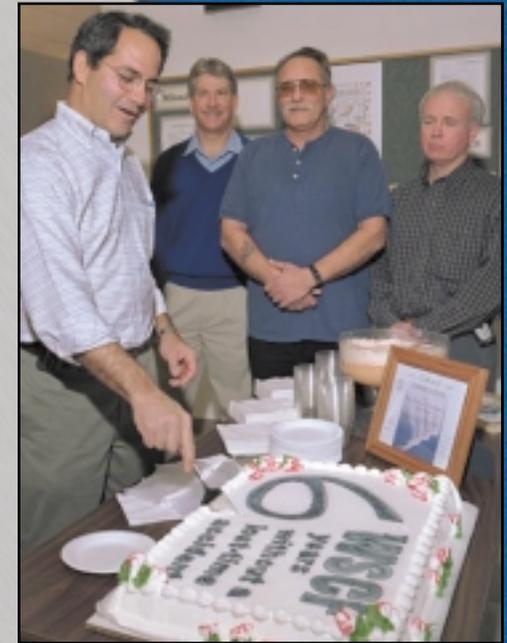
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Waste Treatment and Disposal Update:

- Shipped more than 42 cubic meters of mixed low-level waste to the local Allied Technology Group (ATG) facility for non-thermal treatment. This is the first of 1,060 cubic meters that will be shipped to ATG for treatment this year.
- ATG began non-thermal treatment operations in December. Treated waste will be returned to Hanford for disposal on Site.

Analytical Services Update:

- Completed in excess of 2,700 analyses at the Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility this quarter. These and analyses performed at the 222-S Labs supported cleanup projects throughout the Site, including the Office of River Protection (underground waste tanks).
- Cleaned up 2,600 cubic feet of space in the 222-S Laboratory to reduce radiation and contamination levels, lessening personal-protection requirements and reducing the risk to workers.



DOE Richland Operations Manager Keith Klein cuts cake for the 61 workers at the Waste Sampling and Characterization Facility celebrating six years without a lost day of work due to injury. The laboratory has not posted a lost-time accident since opening in October 1993.

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What's Next:

- Obtain certification and initiate shipments of transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
- Ramp-up shipments to the Allied Technology Group, and the rate of non-thermal treatment of mixed low-level waste.
- DOE was expected to issue a national Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement as we went to press. Consistent with a December announcement of "Preferred Alternatives," it will likely identify Hanford as a regional disposal site for DOE low-level and mixed low-level waste. Impacts of the Record of Decision will need to be assessed.



At left is the first Resource Conservation and Recovery Act-approved mixed-waste trench in DOE. It opened in 1999. In the center is the Waste Receiving and Processing facility and, at right, Hanford's Central Waste Complex.

FLUOR HANFORD