

July 9, 2008



Ahead of Schedule, Unirradiated Light Water Breeder Reactor Shipments Disposed at the NTS

On July 2, 2008, approximately two months ahead of schedule, the final shipment of Unirradiated Light Water Breeder Reactor (ULWBR) material from the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) was disposed at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Radioactive Waste Management Site (RWMS). This was an outstanding accomplishment, as this was the first time this type of low-level radioactive waste was accepted for disposal at the NTS.



Workers offload ULWBR material from Idaho National Laboratory at the NTS Radioactive Waste Management Site.

Before this new waste type could be accepted, assessments were conducted to predict both short-term and long-term risks associated with ULWBR disposal. Safety analysis documentation was updated to include the new material. Nevada Site Office and National Security Technologies personnel, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy and counterparts in Idaho, began this process in early 2007. Since the only viable disposition alternative for the ULWBR waste was disposal at the NTS RWMS, this cooperation was integral to helping INTEC accomplish its Environmental Management goals. Shipments began arriving at the NTS in January 2008.

To endure the journey from Idaho to the NTS, the canisters of ULWBR material were loaded into a Super Tiger Cask, a shipping container designed to protect its contents during transportation. The 40 canisters were delivered to the NTS in 20 shipments. Early completion is significant, as certification to use the Super Tiger shipping container expires in September 2008.

The material was once associated with the Shippingport LWBR, a water-cooled, uranium-233/thorium-232 reactor developed to improve use of nuclear fuel resources. Before disposal at the NTS RWMS, the material remained in storage for 20 years in Idaho.

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