



Nevada Site Office News

News Media Contact:

Darwin J. Morgan, 702-295-3521

morgan@nv.doe.gov

Kevin J. Rohrer, 702-295-3521

rohrer@nv.doe.gov

For Immediate Release:

November 30, 2005

Legacy Transuranic Radioactive Waste Drum Shipping Campaign Completed

In November, the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, Environmental Management Transuranic Project completed the Nevada Test Sites (NTS) legacy transuranic radioactive waste drum shipping campaign, which began in January 2004. Marked by three shipments that departed from the Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex on November 9, a total of forty-eight (48) transuranic waste shipments (1,860 drums) were shipped without incident to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Since the 1970's, the legacy waste drums have been stored at the Nevada Test Site in 55-gallon and 85-gallon overpack drums and were destined for permanent disposal at WIPP. Most of the waste was generated by weapons research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and has been securely stored at the Nevada Test Site in a steel-framed, fabric-covered structure. In addition to the legacy drums, the project shipped classified transuranic waste drums generated from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado, which had been stored at the Nevada Test Site since the 1980s.

“The completion of Nevada Test Site legacy transuranic waste drum shipments to WIPP represents many years of hard work by our Environmental Management staff. This marks an important milestone in cleanup of the Nevada Test Site” said Kathy Carlson, Nevada Test Site Manager.

Contributors to the shipping campaign included: The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, the Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board, the California Highway Patrol, the Nevada Highway Patrol, the Nevada Division of Radiological Health Department, Bechtel Nevada, and the Central Characterization Project.

Transuranic waste contains man-made radioactive elements heavier than uranium, hence the name “trans” or “beyond” uranium. For more information and photographs of the Transuranic Waste Project at the Nevada Test Site, please visit our Internet web site at <http://www.nv.doe.gov/emprogrms/environment/wastemanagement/transuranic.htm>.

NSO-05-32

- 30 -