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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2014 9:27 AM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** LANL News: Los Alamos National Laboratory Resumes Transuranic Waste Shipments  
**Attachments:** first-wcs-shipment.jpg



## *News Release*

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**PHOTO ATTACHED**

# Los Alamos National Laboratory Resumes Transuranic Waste Shipments

## *Shipments Keep Lab on Track to Complete 3706 Campaign on Schedule*

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., April 2, 2014—Los Alamos National Laboratory resumed shipments of transuranic waste yesterday from Technical Area 54 Area G. The shipments are part of an accelerated shipping campaign to remove 3,706 cubic meters of transuranic waste stored aboveground at Area G by June 30, 2014. Nearly 3,200 cubic meters of the waste have already been removed since the 3706 campaign began in January 2012.

The waste was received at Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Andrews, Texas, where it will be temporarily staged until it can be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico for final disposal. Shipments to WIPP ceased following a February 5 underground truck fire and a February 14 radiological event. The temporary staging arrangement is part of an agreement between WCS and Nuclear Waste Partnership, the management and operating contractor at WIPP. The transuranic waste from Los Alamos to be stored at WCS meets their license requirements and has been coordinated and approved by the appropriate regulatory authorities.

“Our commitment to the State of New Mexico is to remove the waste stored aboveground so it would not pose a risk in the event of another wildfire in Los Alamos,” said Pete Maggiore, manager of the environmental programs office for the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos Field Office. “Staging the waste at WCS is the best option available to ensure the Lab meets its commitment without delay.”



Los Alamos has been ahead of schedule since the campaign began and estimates that approximately 100 shipments remain. After an initial ramp up, as many as 10 shipments per week will be scheduled to complete the campaign.

### **What is transuranic, or TRU, waste?**

Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, soil, and other items contaminated with small amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium. Each of these man-made elements has an atomic number greater than uranium.

About 90 percent of the current transuranic waste inventory is the result of decades of nuclear research and weapons production at the Laboratory.

**Photo Caption:** Los Alamos sent the first shipment to Waste Control Specialists on April 1.

- [first-wcs-shipment.jpg](#)

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Los Alamos enhances national security by ensuring the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile, developing technologies to reduce threats from weapons of mass destruction, and solving problems related to energy, environment, infrastructure, health, and global security concerns.

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