

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

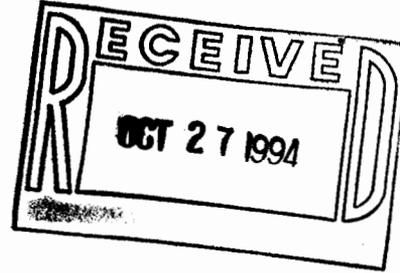
 Carlsbad Area Office
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

DATE: OCT 17 1994

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CAO:MLM 94-2296

SUBJECT: September 1994 Highlights

TO: Those on Attached List



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WIPP File

Transmitted for your information is the September 1994, Carlsbad Area Office's National Transuranic (TRU) Program Office (NTPO) highlights. This month's notable activities include:

- To comply with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Land Withdrawal Act of 1992, a preliminary draft of a Remote-Handled (RH) TRU Waste Management Plan is being developed to support RH TRU waste disposal in WIPP by 1999.
- In preparation for the opening of WIPP for disposal operations, a detailed Sites' Activities Logic Diagram is being drafted. The diagram will show what each generator/storage site needs to do to be ready when WIPP opens for disposal operations.
- In conjunction with the demonstration project on removal of DOE TRU from private facilities, the Small Quantity Sites Working Group narrowed the candidate receiver sites to two and the number of potential source sites to seven. All the potential sending sites have been contacted.

Please note that the next National TRU Waste Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 29-30, 1994, in San Antonio, Texas, followed by the National TRU Waste Update Meeting on December 1, 1994. If you have any items you wish to include on the agenda for the TRU Waste Update Meeting, please contact me at (505) 234-7467.

Bob
 Mark L. Matthews, P.E.
 Manager
 National TRU Program Office

Attachment



printed on recycled paper

941010.5



Addressees

-2-

OCT 17 1994

George Dials, CAO
Vernon Daub, CAO
Mike Daugherty, CAO
Kent Hunter, CAO
Mike McFadden, CAO
Robert Wise, CAO
Dennis Hurtt, CAO
Joe Lippis, CAO
Bob Spooner, CAO
Patty Baratti-Sallani, CAO
Della Conway, CAO

Addressees

Cunnane, Jim	ANL-E
Green, Dave	ANL-E
Schletter, R. M.	ANL-E
Sodano, Mike	ANL-E
Bacca, J. Paul	ANL-W
Dwight, Carla	ANL-W
McClellan, Grant	ANL-W
Vaughn, Mike E.	ANL-W
Lawson, Kathy	BCL
Baillieul, Tom	BCLDP
Haugen, Joel C.	CH
Lang, Ray	CH
Cheng, Sam C.	DAO
Neill, Robert	EEG
Arnold, Patrick	EG&G, RFP
O'Leary, Gerry A.	EG&G, RFP
Clements, Tom	EG&G, ID
Martin, Michael R.	EG&G, ID
Pound, Don, G.	EG&G, ID
Finney, Ray	EG&G, Mound
Grumbly, Tom	EM-1, HQ
Cowan, Steve	EM-30, HQ
Fucigna, Sandi	EM-30, HQ/APEX
Lytle, Jill E.	EM-30, HQ
Griffith, Andrew	EM-321, HQ
Mark, David	EM-321, HQ
Rhoderick, Jay	EM-321, HQ
Walter, Henry	EM-321, HQ
Zenkowich, Matt	EM-323, HQ
Bubar, Patrice	EM-33, HQ
Turi, Jim	EM-33, HQ
Williams, Jeff	EM-332, HQ
Frei, Mark	EM-34, HQ
Tonkay, Doug	EM-341, HQ
Bower, Bryan	EM-342, HQ
Schneider, Steven	EM-342, HQ
Van Camp, Scott	EM-342, HQ
Boda, Joe	EM-363, HQ
Frank, Clyde	EM-50, HQ
Benetti, Jim	EPA
Hinckley, Darrell G.	ID
Bean, Earl W.	LAAO
Vozella, Joseph	LAAO

Austin, Larry	LANL
Durr, Ed	LANL
Harper, John	LANL
Kosiewicz, Stanley	LANL
LeBrun, Bruce	LANL
Ledbetter, James	LANL
Haineback, Kem	LLNL
Espinosa, Judith	NMED
Ginanni, Joseph	NVO-WMD
Kearns, Roy	OAK
Roddy, Mac	ORO
Arakawa, Paul	ORNL, MMES
Gonzales, Carlos C.	REECo, NV
Bell, Melody	RFFO
Melberg, Timothy	RFFO
Guercia, Rudy	RL
Hennig, June	RL
Aker, Marlin	SNL
Massingill, Stan	SR
O'Rear, Michael G.	SR
Lipinski, Dick	WHC
Petersen, Chris A.	WHC
Cox, Carl	WID
Epstein, Joe	WID
Fitch, L. R.	WID
Garcia, J. J.	WID
Kouba, Steve	WID
Nevarez, Richard	WMD, AL
Daugherty, Brent	WSRC
Mentrup, Steve	WSRC
Frankiewicz, Steve	WTAC
Lott, Sheila A.	WTAC
Tillman, Jack	WTAC



NATIONAL TRU PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)

HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994



**Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
Carlsbad, New Mexico**

NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO) SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994

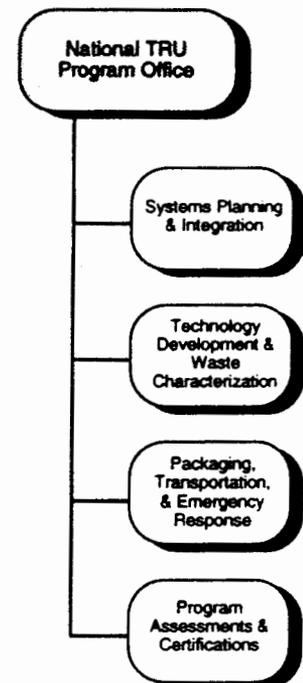
For additional information, please contact Mark Matthews, (505) 234-7467;
FAX: (505) 887-0292.

The Small Quantity Site Working Group continues to make progress in reviewing potential shipper/receiver sites. The number of potential shipper sites has been reduced from approximately 70 to 7. The number of candidate receiver sites has been reduced to Hanford and Savannah River. The proposed sites for shipping to Hanford are Energy Technology Engineering Center, Canoga Park, CA; General Atomics, San Diego, CA; General Electric Vallecitos Nuclear Center, Pleasanton, CA and Battelle Columbus Lab, Columbus, OH. The proposed sites for shipping to Savannah River are Babcock & Wilcox, Lynchburg, VA; Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, West Mifflin, PA; and National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD. A list of potential packagings is also being prepared. All the potential sending sites on the short list have been contacted to verify and exchange information.

NTPO participated in a meeting at DOE Headquarters to discuss the potential shipment of residues from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) to WIPP. The meeting was attended by representatives from EM-15, EM-30, EM-64, Rocky Flats Field Office/TRU Waste Management Division, and the NTPO. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues that must be resolved before the decision could be made to ship residues to WIPP for disposal as TRU waste. The following key points were agreed to: 1) residues would have to meet the WIPP/WAC, 2) shipment would have to meet applicable Department of Transportation and Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements, 3) WIPP's security classification must not be adversely affected, and 4) residues must not affect WIPP's schedule. The option to ship residues for disposal as waste is only one of several options being considered; no final decision has been made.

Detailed draft diagrams for the Sites' Activities Logic Diagram have been completed for two sites, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. The Sites' Activities Logic Diagram shows what each generator/storage site needs to do to be ready when WIPP opens for disposal operations. There will be one overall high-level diagram to show all sites and the schedule for each TRU facility. Each site will have its own individual diagram. Scheduled completion of Revision 0 of the Sites' Logic Diagram is November 30, 1994.

Andrew Griffith, EM-332, is the new Co-Chairman, with Mark Matthews, for the TRU Steering Committee.



**NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)
SYSTEM PLANNING & INTEGRATION
HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994**

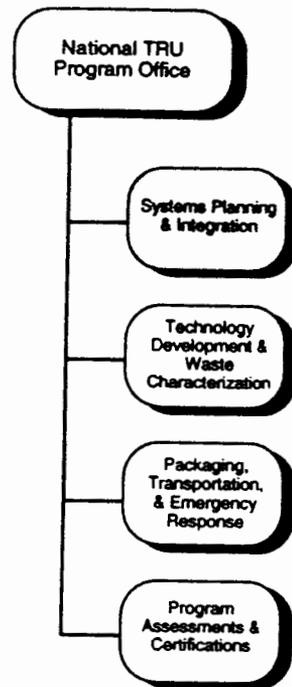
For additional information, please contact Joe Lippis, (505) 234-7473;
FAX: (505) 887-0292.

To comply with the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1992, a preliminary draft of a Remote-Handled (RH) TRU Waste Management Plan is being developed to support RH TRU waste disposal in WIPP by 1999. This plan will address the generation, storage, characterization, treatment, packaging/transportation, and disposal of RH TRU waste.

NTPO developed a NTP Summary Report for the Decision-Tracking Coordination Group Initiative, which was delivered to Headquarters at the end of September.

The NTPO continues to work on clarifying the definition of which radioactive wastes are authorized by law for emplacement at WIPP. The clarification is based on an analysis of relevant law and legislative history, which delineated a set of criteria that must be satisfied in order that radioactive waste can be eligible for emplacement. A brief synopsis of this analysis, the eligibility criteria, and a form for use by DOE sites to certify the eligibility of their radioactive wastes have been included in an Issue Paper. The Issue Paper will be distributed to the Steering Committee for review and comment in early October.

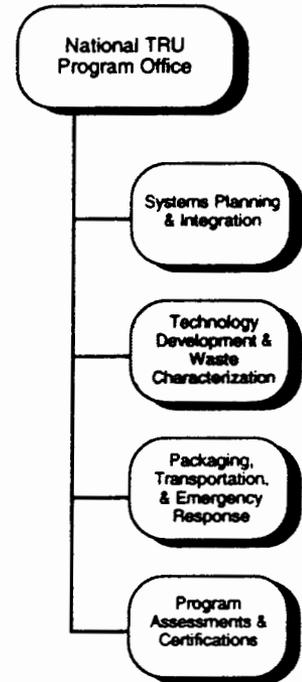
An archive of all federal and state law, as well as all legislative history (Committee Reports, hearings, and debates) relevant to WIPP is being assembled to serve as a reference center for the NTPO.



**NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT & WASTE CHARACTERIZATION
HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994**

For additional information, please contact Mark Matthews, (505) 234-7467, FAX: (505) 887-0292.

Site representatives from LANL, SRP, and the WIPP convened in Albuquerque, NM to meet with the radioassay methods Performance Demonstration Program (PDP) manager from INEL and the implementation subcontractor. The meeting reached consensus on a variety of issues including the format and content of the Program Plan. The scoring of the PDP was the only issue remaining unresolved. It is expected that a scoring system will be developed and presented along with the rest of the Program Plan at the NDA/NDE IWG meeting in Carlsbad, NM in October. A draft of the Program Plan will be transmitted to members of the NDA/NDE IWG in late October.



**NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)
PACKAGING, TRANSPORTATION, & EMERGENCY RESPONSE
HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994**

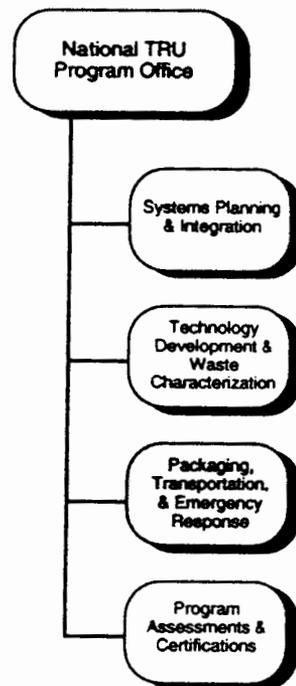
For additional information, please contact Bob Spooner, (505) 234-7474,
FAX: (505) 887-0292.

NTPO met with personnel from the Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) Transportation and Packaging department to discuss their potential use of RH 72B cask. Also discussed was the proposed Type B package for shipping TRU waste in volumes less than or equal to 55 gallons. One design criteria, resulting in a cost savings, is the use of existing TRUCON codes as approved in the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis for Packaging (SARP). WHC agreed to provide NTPO the opportunity to review conceptual drawings of their new Type B package.

A meeting of the TRUPACT-II Gas Generation Test Interface Working Group (IWG) was held in Albuquerque, NM on September 8 and 9, 1994. Representatives from seven DOE generator/storage sites were in attendance. The following topics were discussed: 1) status of cold testing at the INEL, 2) NRC questions about the Test Plan, 3) expanding the mandate of the IWG to include the Rocky Flat residues, 4) items to be completed before the start of hot testing, 5) the use of filtered heat sealed bags, 6) applicability of headspace gas sampling, and 7) alternate test apparatus. The IWG's next action will be to review the latest draft of the Test Standard Operating Procedure (TSOP). The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 1995 in Carlsbad, NM.

NTPO participated in a meeting at Mound Laboratories to discuss the use of TRUPACT-II to ship TRU materials from Mound. A determination of the packaging method required by the receiver site and whether there is a security issue related to shipping their material in the TRUPACT-II will be made by Mound. Discussions regarding the best approach to packaging the material, and obtaining NRC approval to use the TRUPACT-II will continue.

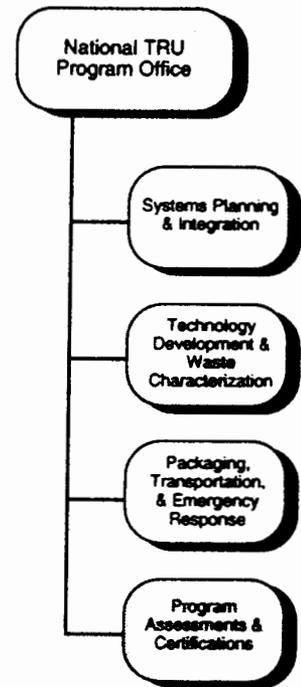
A pre-proposal conference for a TRU waste carrier contract procurement was held at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on September 1, 1994. Of the thirty-seven initial responses to the advertisement, six firms attended the conference. In October the Source Awards Panel will review the proposals that were submitted and the announcement will be made on November 16.



**NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)
PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS & CERTIFICATIONS
HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 1994**

For additional information, please contact Joe Lippis (acting), (505) 234-7473,
FAX: (505) 887-0292.

NTPO is initiating plans to conduct Program Assessment and Certification audits of generator/storage sites in FY 1995. The focus of these audits will be the Waste Acceptance Criteria, Revision 4 and will include TRUPACT-II Authorized Methods for Payload Compliance at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. This initial step will involve addressing items such as roles and responsibilities, schedules, audit plans, auditor checklists, notification letters, auditor training, and close-out of audit findings.



**NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE (NTPO)
Activities Calendar**

Date	Place	Event
10/4-6/94	Carlsbad, NM	Nondestructive Assay/ Nondestructive IWG Meeting (NTPO to coordinate and participate)
10/26-28/94	Augusta, GA	TRU Partnership WG Meeting (NTPO to present topic)
11/29-30/94	San Antonio, TX	Quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee Meeting (NTPO to coordinate and participate)
12/1/94	San Antonio, TX	National TRU Waste Update Meeting (NTPO to coordinate and participate)
