**CAMPAIGN NAME:** TRU Waste Management at Area G

**LOCATION:** Area G, which covers 63 acres, lies inside Technical Area 54 at Los Alamos National Laboratory

**PROJECT PRIORITY:** Store, remediate and ship LANL's above-ground transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

**PROJECT GOAL:** Ensure contaminated waste from past LANL operations does not threaten human and environmental health

**ESTIMATED COMPLETION:** After 2028

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**HISTORY**

Technical Area 54 (TA-54) is Los Alamos National Laboratory’s (LANL) legacy waste management area. Opened in 1957, Area G is a site within TA-54 where LANL’s transuranic (TRU) and low-level waste is stored, characterized, remediated, and shipped offsite. The radioactive waste disposal areas include 32 pits, 194 shafts, and four trenches with depths ranging from 10 to 65 feet below the original ground surface.

**SAFETY SYSTEMS**

The TRU waste containers are stored in domes equipped with fire detection and air monitoring systems. The containers are routinely monitored and inspected. All TRU waste containers have HEPA filtration vents to help control pressure building up inside of them. Prior to shipment, the containers and their contents are independently, non-destructively analyzed and certified under a state- and Environmental Protection Agency-approved program meeting the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Waste Acceptance Criteria.

**SHIPPING WASTE OFFSITE**

Mobile loading operations are fully operational at Area G. This capability enables TRU waste to be shipped to WIPP in southern New Mexico, weather and schedule permitting. TRU waste containers, such as drums, standard waste boxes, and 10-drum overpacks, are secured inside DOE-approved robust shipping casks that have been tested under extreme conditions for the trip to WIPP.

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**TRU WASTE**

TRU waste is radioactive waste containing more than 100 nanocuries of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes per gram of waste, with half-lives greater than 20 years. Transuranic elements are those greater than uranium on the Periodic Table of Elements. All TRU waste at LANL is “contact-handled,” meaning it is handled directly by workers using protection.

**FEBRUARY 2019 STATUS**

- TRU waste shipments to WIPP have resumed
- The remediated nitrate salt drums have been treated and are awaiting shipment offsite
- Above-ground waste has been inventoried and a production plan has been developed
BY THE NUMBERS

- **3,812**: Containers of above-ground TRU waste to be removed from LANL
- **>30**: Minimum number of shipments to be made in fiscal year 2019
- **~500**: Estimated number of shipments to complete the TRU waste shipping campaign

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other waste management activities at Area G unrelated to the current TRU campaign include removal and remediation of suspected TRU waste from below-grade pits, shafts, and trenches. Work at Area G also includes preparing mixed low-level waste and low-level waste for disposal at approved facilities.

Waste Storage Domes at Area G