RENEWAL APPLICATION
APPENDIX M2

GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

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RENEWAL APPLICATION
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GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

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GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

M2-1 Description of the Geologic Repository

Management, storage, and disposal of transuranic (**TRU**) mixed waste in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**) geologic repository is subject to regulation under Title 20 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 500 (**20.4.1.500 NMAC**)~~, Subpart V~~. The WIPP is a geologic repository mined within a bedded salt formation, which is defined in 20.4.1.100~~1~~ NMAC (incorporating 40 Code of Federal Regulations (**CFR**) §260.10) as a miscellaneous unit. As such, ~~HWMUs~~ Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (**HWDUs**) within the repository are eligible for permitting according to 20.4.1.100~~1~~ NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §260.10), and are regulated under 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 264, Subpart X, *Miscellaneous Units*).

As required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.601), the Permittees shall ensure that the environmental performance standards for a miscellaneous unit, which are applied to the ~~Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (**HWDUs**)~~HWDUs in the geologic repository, will be met.

The Disposal Phase will consist of receiving contact-handled (**CH**) and remote-handled (**RH**) TRU mixed waste shipping containers, unloading and transporting the waste containers to the Underground HWDUs, emplacing the waste in the Underground HWDUs, and subsequently achieving closure of the Underground HWDUs in compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations.

The WIPP geologic repository is mined within a 2,000 feet (ft) (610 meters (m))-thick bedded-salt formation called the Salado Formation. The Underground HWDUs (miscellaneous units) are located 2,150 ft (655 m) beneath the ground surface. TRU mixed waste management activities underground will be confined to the southern portion of the 120 acre (~~48.5~~48.6 hectares) mined area during the Disposal Phase. During the ~~initial~~ second term of this Permit, disposal of ~~containers of CH~~ TRU mixed waste will occur only in ~~the seven HWDUs designated as~~ Panels 5 through 8 and in any currently active panel ~~1-7~~ (~~See~~ Figure M2-1). RH TRU mixed waste disposal began~~may begin~~ in Panel 4. ~~In the future, the Permittees may request a P~~p~~ermit to dispose of containers of CH and RH TRU mixed waste in additional panels that meet the definition of the HWDU in Permit Module IV. In addition, t~~The Permittees may also request in the future a ~~P~~permit to allow disposal of containers of TRU mixed waste in ~~the north-south entries marked as E-300, E-140, W-30, and W-170, between S-1600 and S-3650. These~~ areas ~~are referred to as the disposal area access drifts and have been designated as~~ Panels 9 and 10 ~~in~~ (Refer to Figure M2-1). This Renewal Application ~~Permit, during its initial 10-year term, authorizes~~ allows for the excavation of Panels ~~2~~1 through 10 and the disposal of waste in Panels 1 through ~~7~~8.

Panels 1 through ~~7~~8 will consist of seven rooms and two access drifts each. Panels 9 and 10 have yet to be designed. Access drifts connect the rooms and have the same cross section (see Section M2-2a(3)). The closure system installed in each HWDU after it is filled will prevent anyone from entering the HWDU and will stop ventilation airflow. The point of compliance for air emissions from the Underground is Sampling Station VOC-A, as defined in Renewal Application Chapter N (~~Confirmatory~~ Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring Plan). Sampling Station VOC-A is the location where the concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the air emissions from the Underground HWDUs will be measured and then compared to the VOC concentration of concern as required in Renewal Application Chapter N. ~~by Permit Module IV.~~

Four shafts connect the underground area with the surface. The Waste Shaft Conveyance headframe and hoist are located within the Waste Handling Building (**WHB**). ~~and will be~~ The Waste Shaft conveyance is used to transport containers of TRU mixed waste, personnel, equipment, and materials to the disposal~~repository~~ horizon. ~~The waste hoist can also be used to transport personnel.~~ The Air Intake Shaft and the Salt Handling Shaft provide primary and secondary, respectively ventilation to all areas of the mine except for the Waste Shaft Station, which~~. This area~~ is ventilated by the Waste Shaft itself. The Salt Handling Shaft is also used to hoist mined salt to the surface and serves as the principal personnel and materials transport shaft. The Exhaust Shaft serves as a common exhaust air duct for all areas of the mine. The relationship between the WIPP surface facility, the four shafts, and the geologic disposal~~repository~~ horizon is shown on Figure M2-2.

The HWDUs identified as Panels 1 through ~~7~~8 (Figure M2-1) provide room for up to ~~4,582,750~~ 4,929,745 cubic feet (ft^3) (~~129,750~~139,340 cubic meters (m^3)) of CH TRU mixed waste. The CH TRU mixed waste containers ~~(typically, 7-packs and standard waste boxes (**SWBs**))~~ may be stacked up to three high across the width of the room.

Panels 4 through ~~7~~8 provide room for up to ~~70,100~~93,050 ft^3 (~~1,985~~2,635 m^3) of RH TRU mixed waste. RH TRU mixed waste may be disposed of in up to 730 boreholes per panel. ~~At a minimum, t~~These boreholes shall be drilled on nominal ~~eight~~8-foot (2.4 m) centers, horizontally, about mid-height in the ribs of a disposal room. The thermal loading from RH TRU mixed waste ~~shall~~ will not exceed 10 kilowatts per acre when averaged over the area of a panel, as shown in Renewal Application Appendix M3 (Drawing Number 51-W-214W Underground Facilities Typical Disposal Panel), plus ~~one hundred~~100 feet of each of a Panel's adjoining barrier pillars. See Table M2-1 for CH and RH TRU waste volume capacities for each Panel.

Detailed studies and evaluations of the natural environmental setting of the repository area ~~have been~~were part of the site selection and characterization process. ~~Detailed i~~Information regarding the climatic, geologic, and hydrologic characteristics of the WIPP facility and local vicinity ~~was~~ are provided in Addendum L1 ~~Section D-9a, and numerous Chapter D Appendices, of the WIPP Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997).~~ The WIPP facility is located in a sparsely populated area with site conditions favorable to isolation of TRU mixed waste from the biosphere. ~~Geologic and hydrologic characteristics of the site related to its TRU mixed waste isolation~~

~~capabilities are discussed in Section D-9a(1) of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997).~~

Hazard prevention programs are described in Renewal Application Chapter E. Contingency and emergency response actions to minimize impacts of unanticipated events, such as spills, are described in Renewal Application Chapter F (RCRA Contingency Plan). The closure plan for the WIPP facility is described in Renewal Application Chapter I (Closure Plan).

M2-2 Geologic Repository Design and Process Description

M2-2a Geologic Repository Design and Construction

The WIPP facility~~, when operated in compliance with the Permit, will~~ is designed and constructed to ensure safe operations and be protective of human health and the environment. As a part of the design validation process, geomechanical tests were conducted in Site and Preliminary Design Validation (**SPDV**) test rooms. During the tests, salt creep rates were measured. Separation of bedding planes and fracturing were also observed. Consequently, a ground-control strategy was implemented. The ground-control program at the WIPP facility mitigates the potential for roof or rib falls and maintains normal excavation dimensions, as long as access to the excavation is possible.

M2-2a(1) CH TRU Mixed Waste Handling Equipment

The following are the major pieces of equipment used to manage CH TRU waste in the geologic repository. A summary of equipment capacities, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC is included in Table M2-~~1~~2.

Facility Pallets

The facility pallet is a fabricated steel unit designed to support 7-packs, 3-packs, or 4-packs of drums, standard waste boxes (**SWBs**), or ten-drum overpacks (**TDOPs**), and has a rated load of 25,000 pounds (lbs~~.~~) (~~11,430~~11,340 kilograms (kg)). The facility pallet will accommodate up to four 7-packs, four 3-packs, or four 4-packs of drums, four SWBs (in two stacks of two units), or two TDOPs. Loads are secured to the facility pallet during transport to the emplacement area. Facility pallet~~s are~~for seven-pack of drums is shown in Figure M2-3. Fork pockets in the side of the pallet allow the facility pallet to be lifted and transferred by forklift to prevent direct contact between TRU mixed waste containers and forklift tines. This arrangement reduces the potential for puncture accidents. WIPP facility operational documents define the operational load of the facility pallet to ensure that the rated load of a facility pallet is not exceeded.

Backfill

Magnesium oxide (**MgO**) ~~will be~~is used as a backfill ~~in order~~ to provide chemical control over the solubility of radionuclides in order to comply with the requirements of 40 CFR §191.13. The MgO backfill ~~will be~~is purchased prepackaged in the proper containers for emplacement in the underground. Purchasing prepackaged backfill eliminates handling and placement problems associated with bulk materials, such as dust creation. In addition, prepackaged materials ~~will be~~ are easier to emplace, thus reducing potential worker exposure to radiation. Should a backfill container be breached, MgO is benign and cleanup is simple. No hazardous waste would result from a spill of backfill.

The MgO backfill ~~will be~~is managed in accordance with Specification D-0101 (MgO Backfill Specification) and WP05-WH1025 (CH Waste Downloading and Emplacement). These documents are kept on file at the WIPP facility by the Permittees. Backfill ~~will be~~is handled in accordance with standard operating procedures. Typical emplacement configurations are shown in Figure M2-4~~s M2-5 and M2-5a~~. Backfill may also be emplaced on racks which allow for orderly stacking (Figure M2-5). Quality control ~~will be~~is provided within standard operating procedures to record that the correct number of sacks ~~are~~ is placed and that the condition of the sacks is acceptable.

Backfill placed in this manner is protected until exposed when sacks are broken during creep closure of the room and compaction of the backfill and waste. Backfill in sacks utilizes existing techniques and equipment and eliminates operational problems such as dust creation and introducing additional equipment and operations into waste handling areas. There are no mine operational considerations (e.g., ventilation flow and control) when backfill is placed in this manner.

<u>The Waste Shaft Conveyance</u>

The hoist systems in the shafts and all shaft furnishings are designed to resist the dynamic forces of the hoisting system and to withstand a design-basis earthquake of 0.1 g. ~~Appendix D2 of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997) provided engineering design-basis earthquake report which provides the basis for seismic design of WIPP facility structures.~~ The ~~w~~Waste ~~h~~Hoist is equipped with a control system that will detect malfunctions or abnormal operations of the hoist system (such as overtravel, overspeed, power loss, circuitry failure, or starting in a wrong direction) and will trigger an alarm that automatically shuts down the hoist.

The ~~w~~Waste ~~h~~Hoist is a multirope, friction-type hoist that moves the Waste Shaft Conveyance ~~and is a multirope, friction-type hoist~~. A counterweight is used to balance the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance. The W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance (outside dimensions) is 30 ft (9 m) high by 10 ft (3 m) wide by 15 ft (4.5 m) deep and can carry a payload of 45 tons (40,824 kg). During loading and unloading operations, it is steadied by fixed guides. The Waste H~~h~~oist's maximum rope speed is 500 ft (152.4 m) per minute.

The Waste Hoist moves the Waste Shaft Conveyance in the desired direction and at the desired speed. The Waste ~~Shaft h~~Hoist ~~system~~ has two sets of brakes, with two units per set, which hold the conveyance when the motor brings it to a stop. ~~plus a motor that is normally used to stop the hoist.~~ The brakes are designed so that either set, acting alone, can stop a fully loaded conveyance under normal operating and documented upset~~all emergency~~ conditions.

The Underground Waste Transporter

The U~~u~~nderground W~~w~~aste T~~t~~ransporter is a commercially available diesel-powered tractor. The trailer was designed specifically for the WIPP for transporting facility pallets from the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance to the Underground HWDU in use. This transporter is shown in Figure M2-6.

Underground Forklifts

The CH TRU mixed waste containers loaded on slipsheets ~~will be~~are removed from the facility pallets using forklifts with a push-pull attachment (Figure M2-7) attached to the forklift-truck front carriage. The push-pull attachment grips the edge of the slipsheet (on which the waste containers sit) to pull the containers onto the platen. After the forklift moves the waste containers to the emplacement location, the push-pull attachment pushes the containers into position. The use of the push-pull attachment prevents direct contact between waste containers and forklift tines. The SWBs and TDOPs may also be removed from the facility pallet by using forklifts equipped with special adapters for these containers. These special adapters ~~will~~ prevent direct contact between SWBs or TDOPs and forklift tines. ~~In addition, t~~The low clearance forklift that is used to emplace MgO may be used to emplace waste, if necessary.

M2-2a(2) Shafts

The WIPP facility uses four shafts: the Waste Shaft, the Salt Handling Shaft, the Air Intake Shaft, and the Exhaust Shaft. These shafts are vertical openings that extend from the surface to the repository level.

The Waste Shaft is located beneath the WHB and is 19 to 20 ft (5.8 to 6.1 m) in diameter. The Salt Handling Shaft, located north of the Waste Shaft beneath the salt handling headframe, is 10 to 12 ft (3 to ~~3.6~~3.7 m) in diameter. Salt mined from the repository horizon is removed through the Salt Handling Shaft. The Salt Handling Shaft is the main personnel and materials hoist and also serves as a secondary-supply air duct for the underground areas. The Air Intake Shaft, northwest of the WHB, varies in diameter from 16 ft 7 in. (~~4.51~~5.0 m) to 20 ft 3 in. (~~6.19~~6.17 m) and is the primary source of fresh air underground. The Exhaust Shaft, east of the WHB, is 14 to 15 ft (4.3 to 4.6 m) in diameter and serves as the exhaust duct for the underground air.

Openings excavated in salt experience closure because of salt creep (or time-dependent deformation at constant load). The closure affects the design of ~~all of~~ the openings discussed in this section. Underground excavation dimensions, therefore, are nominal, because they change with time. The unlined portions of the shafts have larger diameters than the lined portions, which allows for closure caused by salt creep. Each shaft includes a shaft collar, a shaft lining, and a shaft key section. ~~The Final Design Validation Report in Appendix D1 of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997) discusses the shafts and shaft components in greater detail.~~

The reinforced-concrete shaft collars extend from the surface to the top of the underlying consolidated sediments. Each collar serves to retain adjacent unconsolidated sands and soils and to prevent surface runoff from entering the shafts. The shaft linings extend from the base of the collar to the top of the salt beds approximately 850 ft (259 m) below the surface. Grout injected behind the shaft lining retards water seeping into the shafts from water-bearing formations, and the liner is designed to withstand the natural water pressure associated with these formations. The shaft liners are concrete, except in the Salt Handling Shaft, where a steel shaft liner ~~has been~~is grouted in place.

The shaft key is a circular reinforced concrete section emplaced in each shaft below the liner in the base of the Rustler Formation (Rustler) and extending about 50 ft (~~15~~15.2 m) into the Salado Formation (**Salado**). The shaft key functions to resist lateral pressures and assures that the liner will not separate from the host rocks or fail under tension. This design feature also aids in preventing the shaft from becoming a route for groundwater flow into the underground facility.

On the inside surface of each shaft, excluding the Salt Handling Shaft, there are three water collection rings: one just below the Magenta Dolomite Member of the Rustler (Magenta), one just below the Culebra Dolomite Member of the Rustler (Culebra), and one at the lowermost part of the key section. These collection rings will collect water that may seep into the shaft through the liner. The Salt Handling Shaft has a single water collection ring in the lower part of the key section. Water collection rings are drained by tubes to the base of the shafts where the water is accumulated.

From the standpoint of predicting the performance of the waste within the WIPP repository, the WIPP shafts and other underground facilities are~~, for all practical purposes,~~ dry, and the impacts of moisture are minimal. Minor quantities of water (which accumulate in some shaft sumps) are insufficient to affect the waste disposal area. This water is collected, brought to the surface, and disposed of in accordance with current standards and regulations.

The Waste Shaft is protected from precipitation by the roof of the waste shaft conveyance headframe tower. The Exhaust Shaft is configured at the top with a 14 ft- (4.3 m-) diameter duct that diverts air into the exhaust filtration system or to the atmosphere, as appropriate. The Salt Handling and Air Intake Shaft collars are open except for the headframes. Rainfall into the shafts is evaporated by ventilation air.

M2-2a(3) Subsurface Structures

The subsurface structures in the repository, located at 2,150 ft (655 m) below the surface, include the HWDUs, the northern experimental areas, and the support areas. ~~Renewal Application Appendix D3 of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997) provided~~ Figure M2-2 provides details of the underground layout. Figure M2-8 shows the proposed waste emplacement configuration for the HWDUs.

The status of important underground equipment, including fixed fire-protection systems, the ventilation system, and contamination detection systems, will be monitored by a central monitoring system, located in the Support Building adjacent to the WHB. Backup power will be provided as discussed in Renewal Application Chapter E (Preparedness and Prevention). The subsurface support areas are constructed and maintained to conform to Federal mine safety codes.

Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (HWDUs)

During the ~~initial~~ terms of this and the preceding Permit, the volume of CH TRU mixed waste emplaced in the repository will not exceed ~~4,582,750~~4,920,745 ft^3 (~~129,750~~139,340 m^3) and the volume of RH TRU mixed waste shall not exceed ~~70,100~~93,050 ft^3 (~~1,985~~2,635 m^3). CH TRU mixed waste will be disposed of in up to ~~7~~four Underground HWDUs identified as Panels ~~1~~5 through ~~7~~8 and in any currently active panel. The RH TRU mixed waste may be disposed of in Panels 4 through ~~7~~8.

Main entries and cross cuts in the repository provide access and ventilation to the HWDUs. The main entries link the shaft pillar/service area with the TRU mixed waste management area and are separated by pillars. Normal entries are 12 ~~ft (3.7 m)~~ to 13 ft (3.7 to 4.0 m) high and 14 ~~ft (4.3 m)~~ to 16 ft (4.3 to 4.9) wide. Each of the Underground HWDUs labeled Panels 1 through 8~~7~~ will have seven rooms. The locations of these HWDUs are shown in Figure M2-1. The rooms will have nominal dimensions of 13 ft ~~(4.0 m)~~ high by 33 ft (10 m) wide by 300 ft (91 m) long and will be supported by 100 ft- (30 m-) wide pillars.

~~As currently planned, future permits may allow disposal of TRU mixed waste containers in three additional panels, identified as Panels 8, 9, and 10. Disposal of TRU mixed waste in Panels 8, 9, and 10 is prohibited under this Permit.~~ If needed in the future for waste disposal ~~waste volumes disposed of in the eight panels fail~~ to reach the stated ~~design~~ capacity, the Permittees may request a ~~Permit~~modification to allow disposal of TRU mixed waste in the four main entries and crosscuts adjacent to the waste panels (referred to as the disposal area access drifts). These areas are labeled Panels 9 and 10 in Figure M2-1. ~~This Permit allows only the c~~Construction of Panels 9 and 10 was authorized by the first 10-year term of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit **(HWFP)** ~~and prohibits disposal of TRU mixed waste in Panels 9 and 10~~. A permit modification or future permit would be submitted describing the condition of those drifts and the controls exercised for personnel safety and environmental protection while disposing of waste in these areas. These areas have the following nominal dimensions:

E-300, W-30 and W-170 ~~will be mined to be~~ are14 ft (4.3 m) to ~~16~~20 ft (~~4.9~~7.0 m) wide and 12 ft (3.7 m) to 13 ft (4.0 m) high
E-140 is mined to 25 ft (7.6 m) wide by 13 ft (4 m) to 20 ft (7.0 m) high
~~W-030 and W-170 will be similar to E-300.~~

~~All~~Panels 9 and 10 extend from S-1600 to S-3650 (i.e., ~~2050~~2,050 ft long ~~[~~(625 m)~~]~~). Crosscuts (east-west entries) ~~will be~~are nominally 14 ft (4.3m) to 20 ft (6.1 m) wide by 13 ft (4 m) high by 470 ft (143 m) long. The layout of these excavations is shown on Figure M2-1.

~~Panel 1 is the first HWMU to be used for waste disposal and was excavated from 1986 through 1988. The panels may be mined in the following order:~~

~~Panel 10 (disposal area access drift)~~

~~Panel 2~~
~~Panel 9 (disposal area access drift)~~
~~Panel 3~~
~~Panel 4~~
~~Panel 5~~
~~Panel 6~~
~~Panel 7~~
~~Panel 8~~

Underground Facilities Ventilation System

The U~~u~~nderground F~~f~~acilities V~~v~~entilation S~~s~~ystem ~~will~~ provides a safe and suitable environment for underground operations during normal WIPP facility operations. The underground system is designed to provide control of potential airborne contaminants in the event of an accidental release or an underground fire.

The main U~~u~~nderground Facilities V~~v~~entilation S~~s~~ystem is divided into four separate flows (Figure M2-9): one flow serving the mining areas, one serving the northern experimental areas, one serving the disposal areas, and one serving the Waste Shaft and station area. The four main airflows are recombined near the bottom of the Exhaust Shaft, which serves as a common exhaust route from the underground ~~level~~ to the surface.

Underground Ventilation System Description

The underground ventilation system consists of six centrifugal exhaust fans, two identical high-efficiency particulate air (**HEPA**)-filter assemblies arranged in parallel, isolation dampers, a filter bypass arrangement, and associated ductwork. The six fans, connected by the ductwork to the underground exhaust shaft so that they can independently draw air through the Exhaust Shaft, are divided into two groups. One group consists of three main ~~exhaust~~ fans, two of which are ~~utilized~~used to provide the nominal air flow of 425,000 standard ft^3 per min (**SCFM**) throughout the WIPP facility underground during normal operation. One main fan may be operated in the alternate mode to provide 260,000 SCFM underground ventilation flow. These fans are located near the Exhaust Shaft. The second group consists of the remaining three filtration fans, ~~and~~ each of which can provide 60,000 SCFM of air flow. These fans, located at the Exhaust Filter Building, are capable of being employed ~~during the~~either in filtration mode, where exhaust is diverted through HEPA filters, or in the reduced or minimum ventilation mode where air is not drawn through the HEPA filters. In order to ensure the miscellaneous unit environmental performance standards are met, a minimum running annual average exhaust rate of 260,000 SCFM ~~will be~~is maintained.

The underground mine ventilation is designed to supply sufficient quantities of air to all areas of the repository. During normal operating mode (simultaneous mining and waste emplacement operations), approximately 140,000 actual ft^3 per minute (~~3,962~~3,964 m^3~~)~~ per minute) can be supplied to the panel area. This quantity is necessary ~~in order~~ to support the level of activity and the ~~pieces of~~ diesel equipment that ~~are~~is expected to be in operation.

At any given time during waste emplacement activities, there may be significant activities in multiple rooms in a panel. For example, one room may be receiving CH TRU mixed waste containers, another room may be receiving RH TRU mixed waste canisters, and the drilling of RH TRU mixed waste emplacement boreholes may be occurring in yet another room. The remaining rooms in a panel ~~will either be~~are completely filled with waste; ~~be~~are idle, awaiting waste handling operations; or are being prepared for waste receipt. A minimum ventilation rate of 35,000 SCFM~~scfm~~ (~~990~~991 m^3) per minute will be maintained in each room where waste disposal is taking place when workers are present in the room. This quantity of air is required to support the numbers and types of diesel equipment ~~that are expected to be~~typically in operation in the area, to support the underground personnel working in that area, and to exceed a minimum air velocity of 60 ft per minute (~~18~~18.3 m~~)~~ per minute) as specified in ~~the~~ Renewal Application Chapter Q (WIPP Mine Ventilation Rate Monitoring Plan)~~. The remainder of the air is needed in order to account for air leakage through inactive rooms.~~

Air ~~will be~~is routed into a panel from the intake side~~.~~ and then ~~Air is routed~~ through the individual rooms within a panel using underground bulkheads and air regulators. Bulkheads are constructed by erecting framing of rectangular steel tubing and screwing galvanized sheet metal to the framing. Bulkhead members use telescoping extensions ~~that are~~ attached to framing and the salt which adjust to creep. Rubber or sheet metal attached to the bulkhead on one side and the salt on the other completes the seal of the ventilation. Where controlled airflow is required, a louver-style damper ~~on~~or a slide-gate (sliding panel) regulator is installed ~~on~~in the bulkhead. Personnel and vehicle access is ~~available~~provided as necessary through ~~most~~doors built into bulkheads~~, and vehicular access is possible through selected bulkheads~~. ~~Vehicle roll-up doors in the panel areas are not equipped with warning bells or strobe lights since these doors are to be used for limited periodic maintenance activities in the return air path.~~ Flow is also controlled using brattice cloth barricades. These consist of chainlink fence that is bolted to the salt and covered with brattice cloth~~;~~ and are used in instances where the only flow control requirement is to block the air. A brattice cloth air barricade is shown in Figure M2-10~~11~~. Ventilation ~~will be~~is maintained ~~only~~ in ~~all~~ active rooms within a panel until waste emplacement activities are completed and the panel-closure system is installed. ~~The air will be routed simultaneously through all the active rooms within the panel.~~ The rooms that are filled with waste ~~will be~~are isolated from the ventilation system, while the rooms that are actively being filled will receive a minimum of 35,000 SCFM of air when workers are present to assure worker safety. After all rooms within a panel are filled, the panel will be closed using a closure system described in Renewal Application Chapter I (Closure Plan) and Renewal Application Appendix I1 (Detailed Design Report for an Operation Phase Panel Closure System).

Once a disposal room is filled, it ~~and~~ is ~~no longer needed for emplacement activities, it will be~~ barricaded against entry and isolated from the mine ventilation system by ~~removing the air regulator bulkhead and~~ constructing chain link/brattice cloth barricades at each end. There is no requirement for air for these rooms since personnel and/or equipment will not be in these areas.

The ventilation path for the waste disposal side is separated from the mining side by means of air locks, bulkheads, and salt pillars. A pressure differential is maintained between the mining side and the waste disposal side ~~to ensure~~such that any leakage is towards the disposal side. The pressure differential is produced by the surface fans in conjunction with the underground air regulators.

Underground Ventilation ~~Modes of~~ Operation

The underground ventilation system is designed to perform under two types of operation: normal (the HEPA exhaust filtration system is bypassed), and filtered (the exhaust is filtered through the HEPA filtration system, if radioactive contaminants are detected or suspected~~,~~).

~~Overall, there are six possible modes of~~Generally, the Permittees will use one of the following exhaust fan alignments~~operation~~:

- 2 main fans in unfiltered operation
- 1 main fan in unfiltered operation
- 1 filtration fan in filtered operation
- 1 filtration fan in unfiltered operation
- 2 filtration fans in unfiltered operation
- 1 main and 1 filtration fan ~~(unfiltered)~~ in unfiltered operation

Under some circumstances (such as power outages and maintenance activities~~, etc.~~), all mine ventilation may be discontinued for short periods of time.

Under~~In the~~ normal ~~mode~~operation, two of the three main ~~surface exhaust~~ fans, located near the Exhaust Shaft, will provide continuous ventilation of the underground ~~areas~~. All underground flows join at the bottom of the Exhaust Shaft before discharge to the atmosphere.

Outside air will be supplied to the mining areas and the waste disposal areas through the Air Intake Shaft, the Salt Handling Shaft, and access entries. A small quantity of outside air will flow down the Waste Shaft to ventilate the Waste Shaft station. The ventilation system is designed to operate with the Air Intake Shaft as the primary source of fresh air. Under these circumstances, sufficient air will be available to simultaneously conduct all underground operations (e.g., waste handling, mining, experimentation, and support). Ventilation may be supplied by operating one main exhaust fan, or one or two filtration exhaust fans, or ~~an~~a combination of the three.

If the nominal flow of 425,000 SCFM (~~12,028~~12,035 m^3/min) is not available (i.e., only one of the main ventilation fans is available) underground operations may proceed, but the number of activities that can be performed in parallel may be limited depending on the quantity of air available. Ventilation may be supplied by operating one or two of the filtration exhaust fans. To accomplish this, the isolation dampers ~~will be~~are opened, which will ~~permit~~route air ~~to flow~~ from the main exhaust duct to the filter outlet plenum. The filtration fans may also be operated to bypass the HEPA plenum. The isolation dampers of the filtration exhaust fan(s) to be employed will be opened, and the selected fan(s) will be switched on. ~~In this mode,~~When the ventilation is aligned in this manner, the Permittees limit underground operations ~~will be limited, because filtration exhaust fans cannot provide sufficient airflow to support the use of diesel equipment~~.

~~In the filtration mode~~When the fans are aligned for filtration, the exhaust air will pass through one of two identical filter assemblies, with only one of the three Exhaust Filter Building filtration fans operating (all other fans are stopped). This system provides a means for removing the airborne particulates that may contain radioactive and hazardous waste contaminants in the reduced exhaust flow before they are discharged through the exhaust stack to the atmosphere. ~~The filtration mode~~Filtration is activated manually or automatically if the radiation monitoring system detects abnormally high concentrations of airborne radioactive particulates (for example, an alarm is received from the continuous air monitor in the exhaust drift of the active waste panel) or a waste handling incident with the potential for a waste container breach is observed. The filtration mode is not initiated by the release of gases such as VOCs.

~~Underground Ventilation Normal Mode Redundancy~~

~~The underground ventilation system has been provided redundancy in normal ventilation mode by the addition of a third main fan. Ductwork leading to that new fan ties into the existing main exhaust duct. Documentation for this addition of a third fan and associated ductwork will be submitted to NMED before receipt of TRU mixed waste.~~

Electrical System

The WIPP facility uses electrical power (utility power) supplied by the regional electric utility company. If there is a loss of utility power, TRU mixed waste handling and related operations will cease.

Backup~~,~~ alternating current power ~~will be~~is provided on site by one of two redundant 1,100-kilowatt diesel generators. These units provide 480-volt power with a high degree of reliability. Each of the diesel generators can carry predetermined equipment loads while maintaining additional power reserves. Predetermined loads include lighting and ventilation for underground facilities, lighting and ventilation for the TRU mixed waste handling areas, and the Air Intake Shaft hoist. The diesel generator can be brought on line within 30 minutes either manually or from the control panel in the Central Monitoring Room (**CMR**).

Uninterruptible power supply **(UPS)** units are also on line providing power to predetermined monitoring systems. These UPS systems ensure that the power to the radiation detection system for airborne contamination, the local processing units, the computer room, and the CMR ~~will~~is always ~~be~~ available, even during the interval between the loss of off-site power and initiation of backup diesel generator power.

M2-2a(4) RH TRU Mixed Waste Handling Equipment

The following ~~are~~sections describe the major pieces of equipment used to manage RH TRU mixed waste in the geologic repository. A summary of equipment capacities is included in Table M2-3.

<u>The Facility Cask Transfer Car</u>

The Facility Cask Transfer Car is a self-propelled rail car (Figure M2-11~~14~~) that operates between the Facility Cask Loading Room and the geologic repository. After the Facility Cask is loaded, the Facility Cask Transfer Car moves onto the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance and is then transported underground. At the underground waste shaft station, the Facility Cask Transfer Car proceeds away from the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance to provide forklift access to the Facility Cask.

<u>Horizontal Emplacement and Retrieval Equipment</u>

The Horizontal Emplacement and Retrieval Equipment (**HERE**) (Figure M2-12~~15~~) emplaces canisters into a borehole in a room wall of an Underground HWDU. Once the canisters have been emplaced, the HERE then fills the borehole opening with a shield plug.

M2-2b <u>Geologic Repository Process Description</u>

Prior to receipt of TRU mixed waste at the WIPP facility, waste handling operators will be thoroughly trained in the safe use of TRU mixed waste handling and transport equipment. The training will include both classroom training and on-the-job training.

<u>RH TRU Mixed Waste Emplacement</u>

The Facility Cask Transfer Car is loaded onto the ~~w~~Waste ~~s~~Shaft ~~c~~Conveyance and is lowered to the waste shaft station underground and then unloaded. At the waste shaft station underground, the Facility Cask is moved from the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance by the Facility Cask Transfer Car (Figure M2-13~~16~~). A forklift is used to remove the Facility Cask from the Facility Cask Transfer Car and to transport the Facility Cask to the Underground HWDU. There, the Facility Cask is placed on the HERE (Figure M2-14~~17~~). The HERE is used to emplace the RH TRU mixed waste canister into the borehole. The borehole ~~will be~~is visually inspected for obstructions prior to aligning the HERE and emplacement of the RH TRU mixed waste canister. The Facility Cask is moved forward to mate with the shield collar, and the transfer carriage is advanced to mate with the rear Facility Cask shield valve. The shield valves on the Facility Cask are opened, and the transfer mechanism advances to push the canister into the borehole. After retracting the transfer mechanism into the Facility Cask, the forward shield valve is closed, and the transfer mechanism is further retracted into its housing. The transfer mechanism is moved to the rear, and the shield plug carriage containing a shield plug is placed on the emplacement machine. The transfer mechanism is used to push the shield plug into the Facility Cask. The front shield valve is opened, and the shield plug is pushed into the borehole (Figure M2-15~~18~~). The transfer mechanism is retracted, the shield valves ~~close~~ on the Facility Cask are closed, and the Facility Cask is removed from the HERE. If waste cannot be emplaced within 72 hours of downloading it will be transferred back to the surface for storage.

A shield plug is a concrete-filled cylindrical steel shell (Figures M2-16~~21~~ and M2-17) approximately 61 inches~~.~~ (1.55 m) long and 29 inches~~. in~~(0.74 m) diameter, made of concrete shielding material inside a 0.24-inch~~.~~(0.01 m) thick steel shell with a removable pintle at one end. Each shield plug has integral forklift pockets and weighs approximately 3,750 lbs. The shield plug is inserted with the pintle end closest to the HERE to provide the necessary shielding , limiting the borehole radiation dose rate at 30 cm to less than 10 mrem per hour for a canister surface dose rate of 100 rem/hr . Additional shielding is provided at the direction of the Radiological Control Technician based on dose rate surveys following shield plug emplacement. This additional shielding is provided by the manual emplacement of one or more shield plug supplemental shielding plates and a retainer (Figures M2-16~~19~~ and M2-18~~20~~).

The amount of RH TRU mixed waste disposal in the walls of each panel is limited based on thermal and geomechanical considerations and shall not exceed 10 kilowatts per acre as described in Renewal Application Appendix M2-1. RH TRU mixed waste emplacement boreholes ~~shall be~~are drilled in the ribs of the panels at a nominal spacing of 8 ft (2.4 m) center-to-center, horizontally.

Renewal Application Appendix M1 (Container Storage), Figures M1-~~26~~28 and M1-~~27~~29 are flow diagrams of the RH TRU mixed waste handling process for the RH-TRU 72-B and CNS 10-160B casks, respectively.

CH TRU Mixed Waste Emplacement

CH TRU mixed waste containers ~~will~~ arrive by tractor-trailer at the WIPP facility in sealed shipping containers (e.g., TRUPACT-IIs or HalfPACTs), at which time they ~~will~~ undergo security and radiological checks and shipping documentation reviews. The trailers carrying the shipping containers ~~will be~~are stored temporarily at the Parking Area Container Storage Unit (Parking Area Unit). A forklift ~~will~~ removes the ~~Contact Handled~~CH Packages from the transport trailers and ~~will~~ transports them into the ~~Waste Handling Building~~WHB Container Storage Unit for unloading of the waste containers. Each TRUPACT-II may hold up to two 7-packs, two 4-packs, two 3-packs, two SWBs, or one TDOP. Each HalfPACT may hold up to seven 55-gal ~~(208 L)~~ drums, one SWB, or four 85-gal ~~(321 L)~~ drums. An overhead bridge crane ~~will be~~is used to remove the waste containers from the ~~Contact Handled~~CH Packages~~ing~~ and place them on a facility or containment pallet. Each facility pallet has two recessed pockets to accommodate two sets of 7-packs, two sets of 3-packs, two sets of 4-packs, two SWBs stacked two-high, or two TDOPs. Each stack of waste containers ~~will be~~is secured prior to transport underground (see Figure M2-3). A forklift or the facility transfer vehicle ~~will~~ transports the loaded facility pallet to the conveyance loading room adjacent to the Waste Shaft. The facility transfer vehicle ~~will be~~is driven onto the ~~w~~Waste ~~s~~Shaft ~~c~~Conveyance deck, where the loaded facility pallet ~~will be~~is transferred to the W~~w~~aste S~~s~~haft C~~c~~onveyance, and the facility transfer vehicle ~~will be~~is backed off. Containers of CH TRU mixed waste (55-gal ~~(208 L)~~ drums, SWBs, 85-gal ~~(321 L)~~ drums, 100-gal ~~(379 L)~~ drums, and TDOPs) can be handled individually, if needed, using the forklift and lifting attachments (i.e., drum handlers, parrot beaks).

The loaded facility pallet is placed on the Waste Shaft Conveyance and lowered ~~The waste shaft conveyance will lower the loaded facility pallet~~ to the underground. At the waste shaft station, the CH TRU underground transporter ~~will~~ backs up to the ~~w~~Waste ~~s~~Shaft ~~c~~Conveyance, and the facility pallet will be transferred from the ~~w~~Waste ~~s~~Shaft ~~c~~Conveyance onto the transporter (see Figure M2-6). The transporter will then move the facility pallet to the appropriate Underground

HWDU for emplacement. If, at this point, waste cannot be emplaced within 72 hours the waste will be returned to the surface for storage.

A forklift in the HWDU near the waste stack ~~will be~~is used to remove the waste containers from the facility pallets and to place them in the waste stack using a push-pull attachment. The waste ~~will be~~is emplaced room by room in Panels 1 through ~~7~~8 and any other active disposal room. Each panel will be closed off when filled. If a waste container is damaged during the Disposal Phase, it will be immediately overpacked or repaired. The CH TRU mixed waste containers will be continuously vented. The filter vents will allow aspiration, preventing internal pressurization of the container and minimizing the buildup of flammable gas concentrations.

Once a waste panel is mined and any initial ground control established, flow regulators ~~will be~~are constructed to assure adequate control over ventilation during waste emplacement activities. The first room to be filled with CH TRU mixed waste during this term ~~will be~~is Room 7, which is the ~~one~~room ~~that is~~ farthest from the main access ways. A ventilation control point will be established for Room 7 just outside the exhaust side of Room 6. This ventilation control point ~~will~~ consists of a bulkhead with a ventilation regulator. When RH TRU mixed waste canister emplacement is completed in a room, CH TRU mixed waste emplacement can begin in that room. Stacking of CH waste ~~will~~ typically begins at the ventilation control point and proceeds down the access drift, through the room and up the intake access drift until the entrance of Room 6 is reached. At that point, a brattice cloth and chain link barricade ~~will be~~is emplaced. This process will be repeated for Room 6, and so on until Room 1 is filled. At that point, the panel closure system ~~will be~~is ~~constructed~~initiated.

The emplacement of CH TRU mixed waste into the HWDUs ~~will~~is typically ~~be~~ in the order received in the underground ~~and unloaded from the Contact Handled Packaging~~. There is no specification for the amount of space to be maintained between the waste containers themselves, or between the waste containers and the walls. Containers ~~will be~~are stacked in such a way as ~~the best manner~~ to provide maximum stability for the stack (which is up to three containers high) and to make best use of available space. It is anticipated that the space between the wall and the container could be from 8 to 18 in. (20 to 46 cm). This space is a function of disposal room wall irregularities, container type, and sequence of emplacement. Bags of backfill ~~will~~may occupy some of this space. Space is required over the stacks of containers to assure adequate ventilation for waste handling operations. ~~A~~ Under normal operating conditions, a minimum of 16 in. (41 cm) ~~was specified in the Final Design Validation Report (Appendix D1, Chapter 12 of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997))~~ is maintained to provide adequate ~~to maintain~~ air flow. Typically, the space above a stack of containers ~~will be~~is 36 to 48 in. (~~90~~91 to 122 cm). However 18 in. (0.~~45~~46 cm) will contain backfill material consisting of bags of ~~Magnesium Oxide (~~MgO~~)~~. Figure M2-8 shows a typical container configuration, although this figure does not mix containers on any row. Such mixing, while inefficient, ~~will be~~is allowed to assure timely movement of waste into the underground. No aisle space ~~will be~~is maintained for personnel access to emplaced waste containers. No roof maintenance behind stacks of waste is planned.

The anticipated schedule for the filling of each of the Underground HWDUs known as Panels ~~1~~5 through ~~7~~8 is shown in Renewal Application Chapter I, Table I-1. Panel closure in accordance with the Closure Plan in Renewal Application Chapter I and Renewal Application Appendix I1 (Detailed Design Report for an Operation Phase Panel Closure System) is estimated to require an additional 150 days.

Figure M2-19~~12~~ is a flow diagram of the CH TRU mixed waste handling process.

M2-3 Waste Characterization

TRU mixed waste characterization is described in Renewal Application Chapter B (Waste Analysis Plan).

M2-4 Treatment Effectiveness

TRU mixed waste treatment, as defined in 20.4.1.100~~1~~ NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §260.10), for which a permit is required, will not be performed at the WIPP facility.

M2-5 Maintenance, Monitoring, and Inspection

M2-5a Maintenance

M2-5a(1) Ground-Control Program

The ground-control program at the WIPP facility will ensure that any room in an HWDU in which waste ~~will be~~is placed will be sufficiently supported. ~~to assure c~~Compliance with the applicable portions of the Land Withdrawal Act (**LWA**)~~, which~~ requires a regular review of roof-support plans and practices by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (**MSHA**). Roof Support is installed to the requirements of 30 CFR §57, Subpart B.

M2-5b Monitoring

M2-5b(1) Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring for the WIPP Underground HWDUs ~~will be~~is conducted in accordance with ~~Module V and~~ Renewal Application Chapter L (WIPP Detection Monitoring Program Plan)~~of this permit~~.

M2-5b(2) Geomechanical Monitoring

The geomechanical monitoring program at the WIPP facility is an integral part of the ground-control program (See Figure M2-20~~13~~). HWDUs~~,~~ and associated drifts, ~~and geomechanical test rooms will be~~ are monitored to provide confirmation of structural integrity. Geomechanical data on the performance of the repository shafts and excavated areas ~~will be~~is collected as part of the geotechnical field-monitoring program. The results of the geotechnical investigations ~~will be~~is reported annually. The report will describe monitoring programs and geomechanical data collected during the previous year.

M2-5b(2)(a) Description of the Geomechanical Monitoring System

The Geomechanical Monitoring System (**GMS**) provides in situ data to support the continuous assessment of the design for underground facilities. Specifically, the GMS provides for:

- Early detection of conditions that could affect operational safety
- Evaluation of disposal room closure that ensures adequate access
- Guidance for design modifications and remedial actions
- Data for interpreting the behavior of underground openings, in comparison with established design criteria

The instrumentation in Table M2-~~2~~4 is available for use in support of the geomechanical program.

The minimum instrumentation for each of the eight panels ~~will be~~is one borehole extensometer installed in the roof at the center of each disposal room. The roof extensometers ~~will~~ monitors the dilation of the immediate salt roof beam and possible bed separations along clay seams. Additional instrumentation ~~will be~~is installed as conditions warrant.

~~Remote p~~Polling of the geomechanical instrumentation will be performed at least once every month. This frequency may be increased to accommodate any changes that may develop.

The results from the remotely read instrumentation will be evaluated after each scheduled polling. Documentation of the results will be provided annually in the Geotechnical Analysis Report.

Data from ~~remotely read~~ instrumentation ~~will be~~is maintained as part of a geotechnical instrumentation system. The instrumentation system provides for data maintenance, retrieval, and presentation. The Permittees ~~will~~ retrieve the data from the instrumentation system and verify data accuracy by confirming the measurements were taken in accordance with applicable instructions and equipment calibration is known. Next, the Permittees ~~will~~ review the data after each polling to assess the performance of the instrument and of the excavation. Anomalous data ~~will be~~are investigated to determine the cause (instrumentation problem, error in recording, changing rock conditions). The Permittees ~~will~~ calculate various parameters such as the change between successive readings and deformation rates. This assessment ~~will be~~is reported to the Permittees' cognizant ground control engineer and operations personnel. The Permittees ~~will~~ investigate unexpected deformation to determine if remediation is needed.

The stability of an open panel excavation is generally determined by the rock deformation rate. The excavation may be unstable when there is a continuous increase in the deformation rate that cannot be controlled by the installed support system. The Permittees will evaluate the performance of the excavation. These evaluations assess the effectiveness of the roof support system and estimate the stand-up time of the excavation. If an open panel shows the trend is toward adverse (unstable) conditions, the results ~~will be~~are reported to determine if it is necessary to terminate waste disposal activities in the open panel. This report of the trend toward adverse conditions in an open HWDU will also be provided to the Secretary of the NMED within seven (7) calendar days of issuance of the report.

M2-5b(2)(b) System Experience

~~Much experience in the use of geomechanical instrumentation was gained as the result of performance monitoring of Panel 1, which began at the time of completion of the panel excavation in 1988. The monitoring system installed at that time involved simple measurements and observations (e.g., vertical and horizontal convergence rates, and visual inspections). Minimal maintenance of instrumentation is required, and the instrumentation is easily replaced if it malfunctions. Conditions throughout Panel 1 are well known. The monitoring program continues to provide data to compare the performance of Panel 1 with that established elsewhere in the underground. Panel 1 performance is characterized by the following:~~

- ~~The development of bed separations and lateral shifts at the interfaces of the salt and the clays underlying the anhydrites "a" and "b."~~
- ~~Room closures. A closure due only to the roof movement will be separated from the total closure.~~
- ~~The behavior of the pillars.~~
- ~~Fracture development in the roof and floor.~~
- ~~Distribution of load on the support system.~~

Much experience in the use of geomechanical instrumentation has been gained during repository operations. ~~Roof c~~Conditions are assessed from observation boreholes and extensometer measurements. Measurements of room creep closure, rock displacements, and observations of fracture development in the immediate roof beam are made and used to evaluate the performance of a panel. ~~A description of the Panel 1 monitoring program was~~ This process was presented to the members of the Geotechnical Experts Panel (in 1991) who concurred that it was adequate to determine deterioration within the rooms and ~~that it~~ will provide early warning of deteriorating conditions.

The assessment and evaluation of the condition of WIPP excavations is an interactive, continuous process using the data from the monitoring programs. Criteria for corrective action are continually reevaluated and reassessed based on total performance to date. Actions taken are based on these analyses and planned utilization of the excavation. Because WIPP excavations are in a natural geologic medium, there is inherent variability from point to point. The principle adopted is to anticipate potential ground control requirements and implement them in a timely manner rather than to wait until a need arises.

M2-5b(3) Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring

The volatile organic compound monitoring program for the WIPP Underground HWDUs ~~will be~~is conducted in accordance with ~~Module IV and~~ Renewal Application Chapter N (Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring Plan) ~~of this permit~~.

M2-5b(4) Hydrogen and Methane Monitoring

The hydrogen and methane monitoring program for the WIPP Underground HWDUs is conducted in accordance with Renewal Application Chapter N1 (Hydrogen and Methane Monitoring Plan).

M2-5c Inspection

The inspection of the WIPP Underground HWDUs will be conducted in accordance with ~~Module II and~~ Renewal Application Chapter D (Inspection Schedule and Process) ~~of this permit~~.

~~References~~

~~DOE, 1997. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B Permit Application, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Carlsbad, New Mexico, Revision 6.5, 1997.~~

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TABLES

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TABLE M2-1
DISPOSAL CAPACITIES FOR UNDERGROUND HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL UNITS

Description[1]	**Waste Type**	**Maximum Capacity**[2]	**Container Equivalent**	**Final Waste Volume**
Panel 1	CH TRU	636,000 ft^3 (18,000 m^3)		370,800 ft^3 (10,500 m^3)
Panel 2	CH TRU	636,000 ft^3 (18,000 m^3)		635,600 ft^3 (17,998 m^3)
Panel 3	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		603,600 ft^3 (17,092 m^3)
Panel 4	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		
	RH TRU	12,570 ft^3 (356 m^3)	400 RH TRU Canisters	
Panel 5	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		
	RH TRU	15,720 ft^3 (445 m^3)	500 RH TRU Canisters	
Panel 6	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		
	RH TRU	18,860 ft^3 (534 m^3)	600 RH TRU Canisters	
Panel 7	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		
	RH TRU	22,950 ft^3 (650 m^3)	730 RH TRU Canisters	
Panel 8	CH TRU	662,150 ft^3 (18,750 m^3)		
	RH TRU	22,950 ft^3 (650 m^3)	730 RH TRU Canisters	
Total	CH TRU	5,244,900 ft^3 (148,500 m^3)		
	RH TRU	93,050 ft^3 (2,635 m^3)	2960 RH TRU Canisters	

[1] The area of each panel is approximately 124,150 ft^2 (~~11,533~~11,534 m^2).
[2] "Maximum Capacity" is the maximum volume of TRU mixed waste that may be emplaced in each panel. The maximum repository capacity of "6.2 million cubic feet of transuranic waste" is specified in the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (Pub. L. 102-579, as amended).

TABLE M2-~~1~~2
CH TRU MIXED WASTE HANDLING EQUIPMENT CAPACITIES

CAPACITIES FOR EQUIPMENT	
Facility Pallet	25,000 lbs.
Facility Transfer Vehicle	26,000 lbs.
Underground transporter	28,000 lbs.
Underground fork lift	12,000 lbs.
MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS OF CONTAINERS	
Seven-pack of 55-gallon drums	7,000 lbs.
Four-pack of 85-gallon drums	4,500 lbs.
Three-pack of 100-gallon drums	3,000 lbs.
Ten-drum overpack	6,700 lbs.
Standard waste box	4,000 lbs.
MAXIMUM NET EMPTY WEIGHTS OF EQUIPMENT	
TRUPACT-II	13,140 lbs.
HalfPACT	10,5000 lbs.
Facility pallet	4,120 lbs.

TABLE M2-3
RH TRU MIXED WASTE HANDLING EQUIPMENT CAPACITIES

CAPACITIES FOR EQUIPMENT	
41-Ton Forklift	82,000 lbs
MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHTS OF RH TRU CONTAINERS	
RH TRU Facility Canister	10,000 lbs
55-Gallon Drum	1,000 lbs
RH TRU Canister	8,000 lbs
MAXIMUM NET EMPTY WEIGHTS OF EQUIPMENT	
Facility Cask	67,700 lbs

TABLE M2-~~2~~4
INSTRUMENTATION USED IN SUPPORT OF THE GEOMECHANICAL MONITORING SYSTEM

INSTRUMENT TYPE	FEATURES	PARAMETER MEASURED	RANGE
Borehole Extensometer	The extensometer provides for monitoring the deformation parallel to the borehole axis. Units suitable for up to 5 measurements anchors in addition to the reference head. Maximum borehole depths shall be 50 feet.	Cumulative Deformation	0-2 inches
Borehole Television Camera	Closed circuit television may be used for monitoring areas otherwise inaccessible, such as boreholes or shafts.	Video Image	N/A
Convergence Points and Tape Extensometers	Mechanically anchored eyebolts to which a portable tape extensometer is attached.	Cumulative Deformation	2-50 feet
Convergence Meters	Includes wire and sonic meters. Mounted on rigid plates anchored to the rock surface.	Cumulative Deformation	2-50 feet
Inclinometers	Both vertical and horizontal inclinometers are used. Traversing type of system in which a probe is moved periodically through casing located in the borehole whose inclination is being measured.	Cumulative Deformation	0-30 degrees
Rock Bolt Load Cells	Spool type units suitable for use with rock bolts. Tensile stress is inferred from strain gauges mounted on the surface of the spool.	Load	0-300 kips
Earth Pressure Cells	Installed between concrete keys and rock. Preferred type is a hydraulic pressure plate connected to a vibrating wire transmitter.	Lithostatic Pressure	0-1000 psi
Piezometer Pressure Transducers	Located in shafts and of robust design and construction. Periodic checks on operability required.	Fluid Pressure	0-500 psi
Strain Gauges	Installed within the concrete shaft key. Suitably sealed for the environment. Two types used~~–~~ – surface mounted and embedded.	Cumulative Deformation	0-3000 µin/in (embedded) 0-2500 µin/in (surface)

FIGURES

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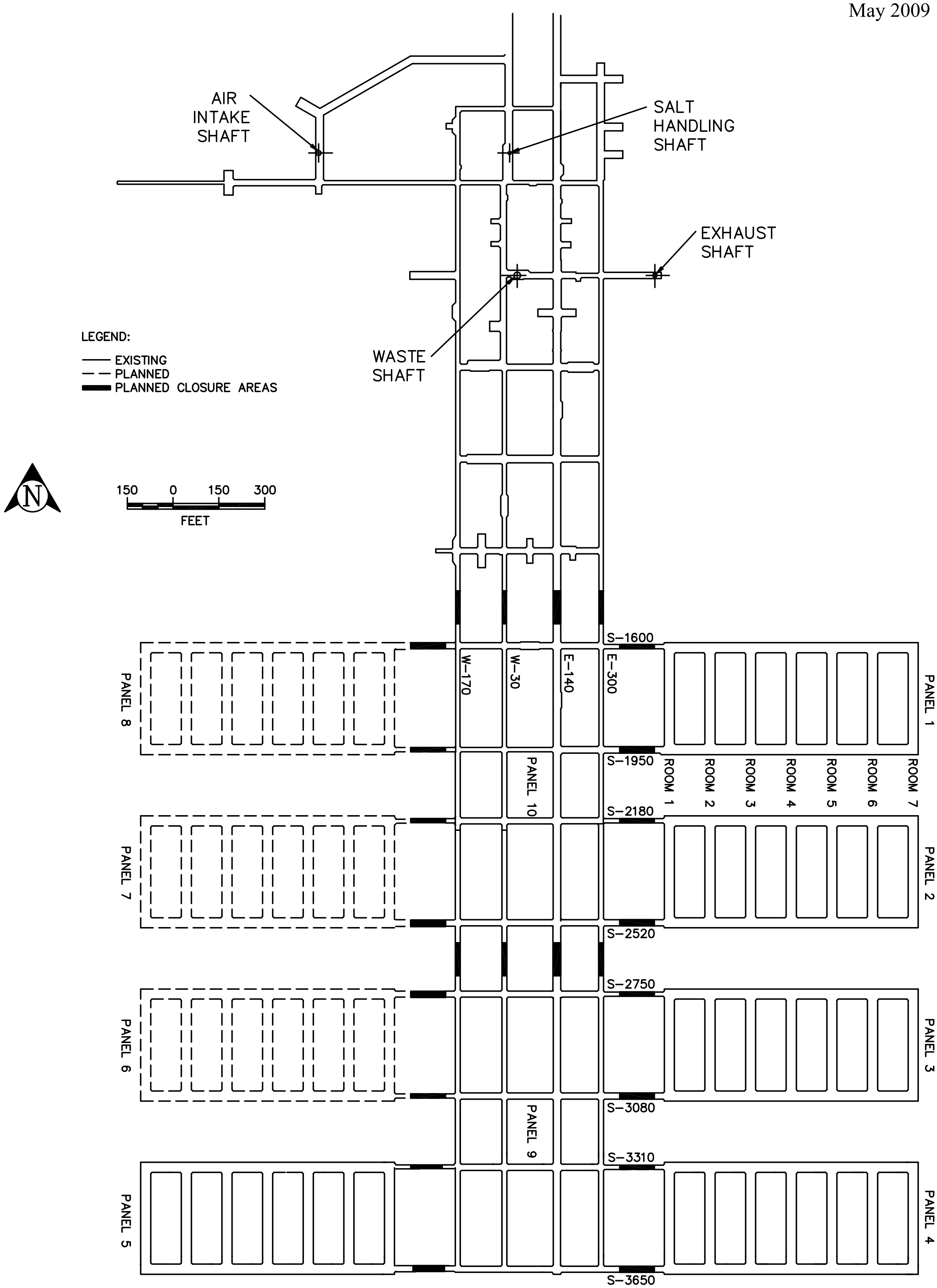


Figure M2-1
~~Repository~~Disposal Horizon

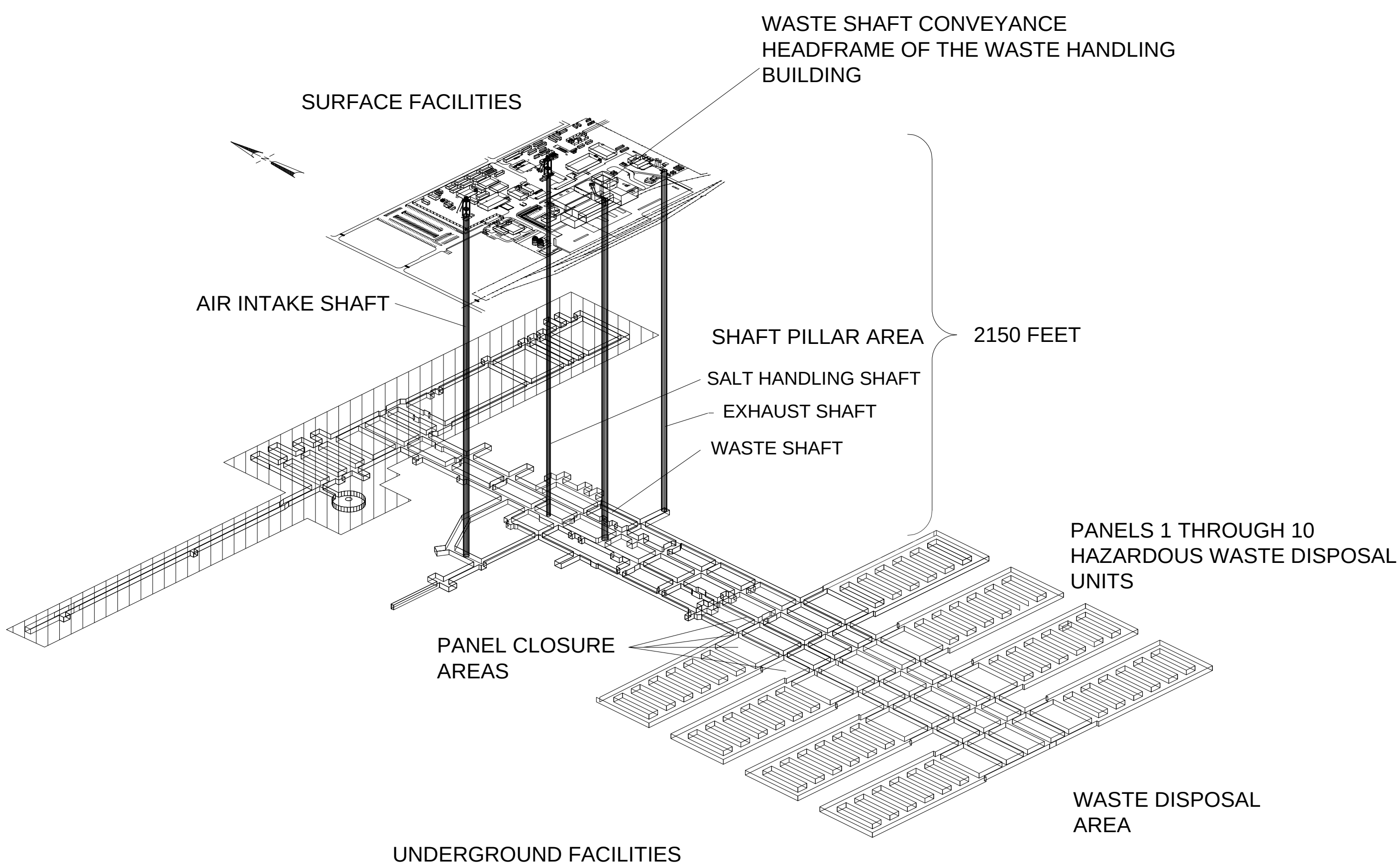


Figure M2-2
Spatial View of the Miscellaneous Unit and Waste Handling Facility

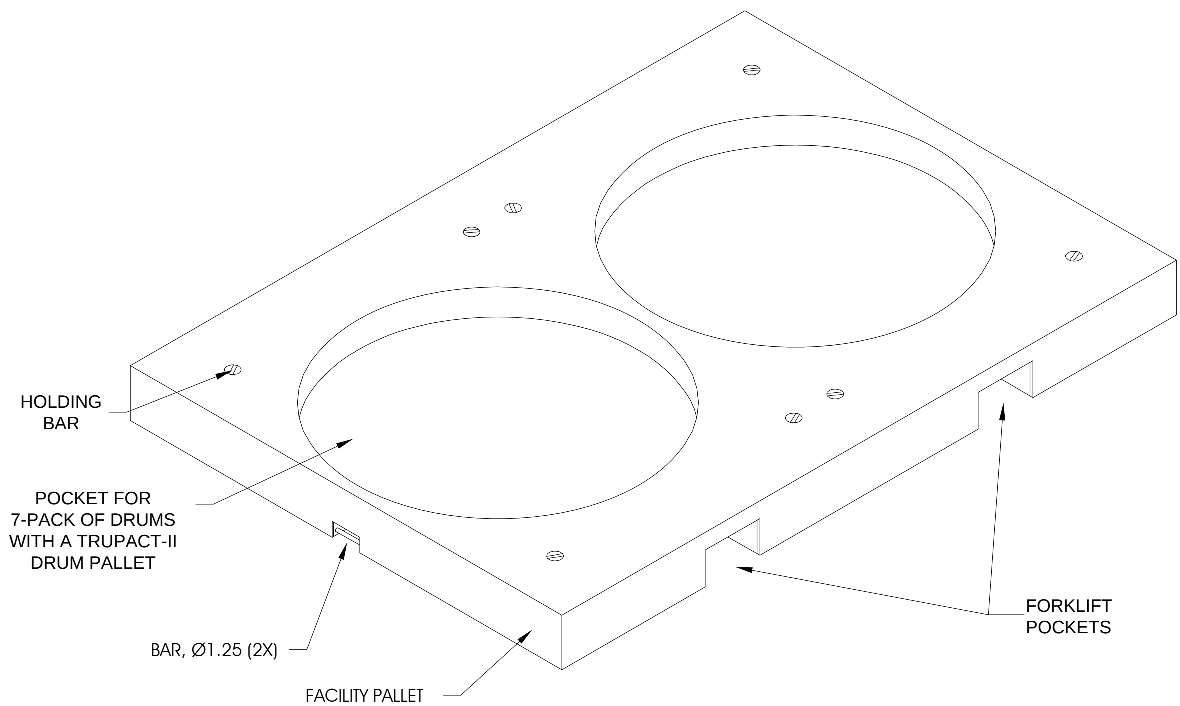


Figure M2-3
Facility Pallet for Seven-Pack of Drums

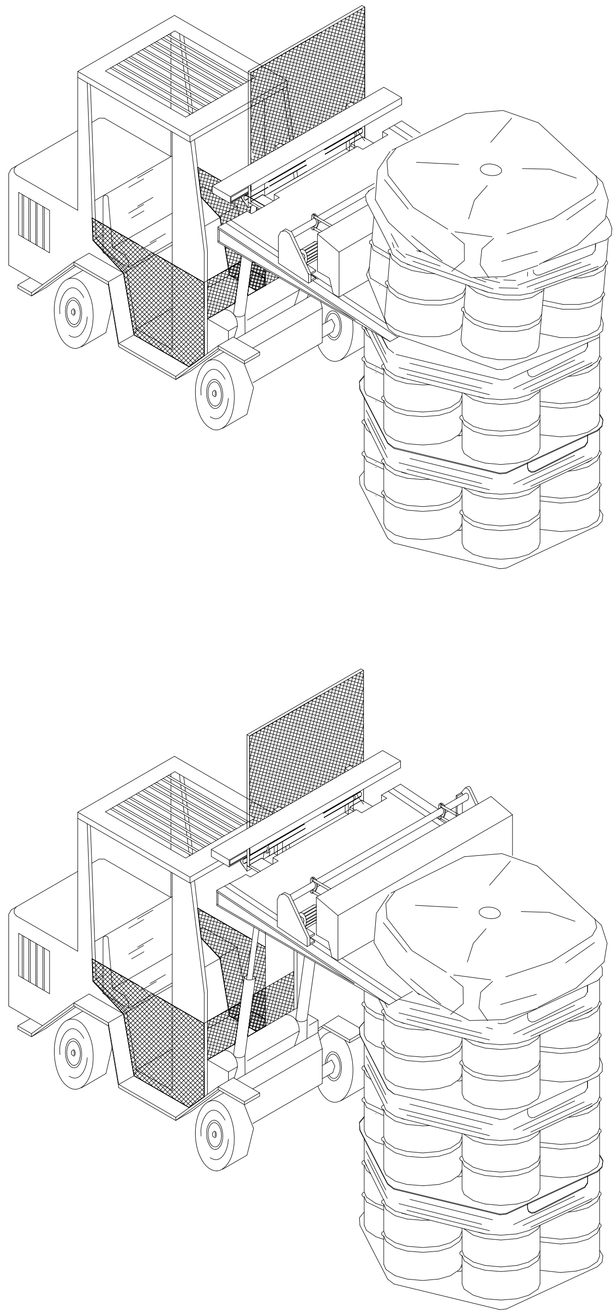


Figure M2-~~5~~4
Typical Backfill Sacks Emplaced on Drum Stacks

Figure M2-5~~a~~

MgO on a Backfill Rack in the Underground~~Potential MgO Emplacement Configurations~~

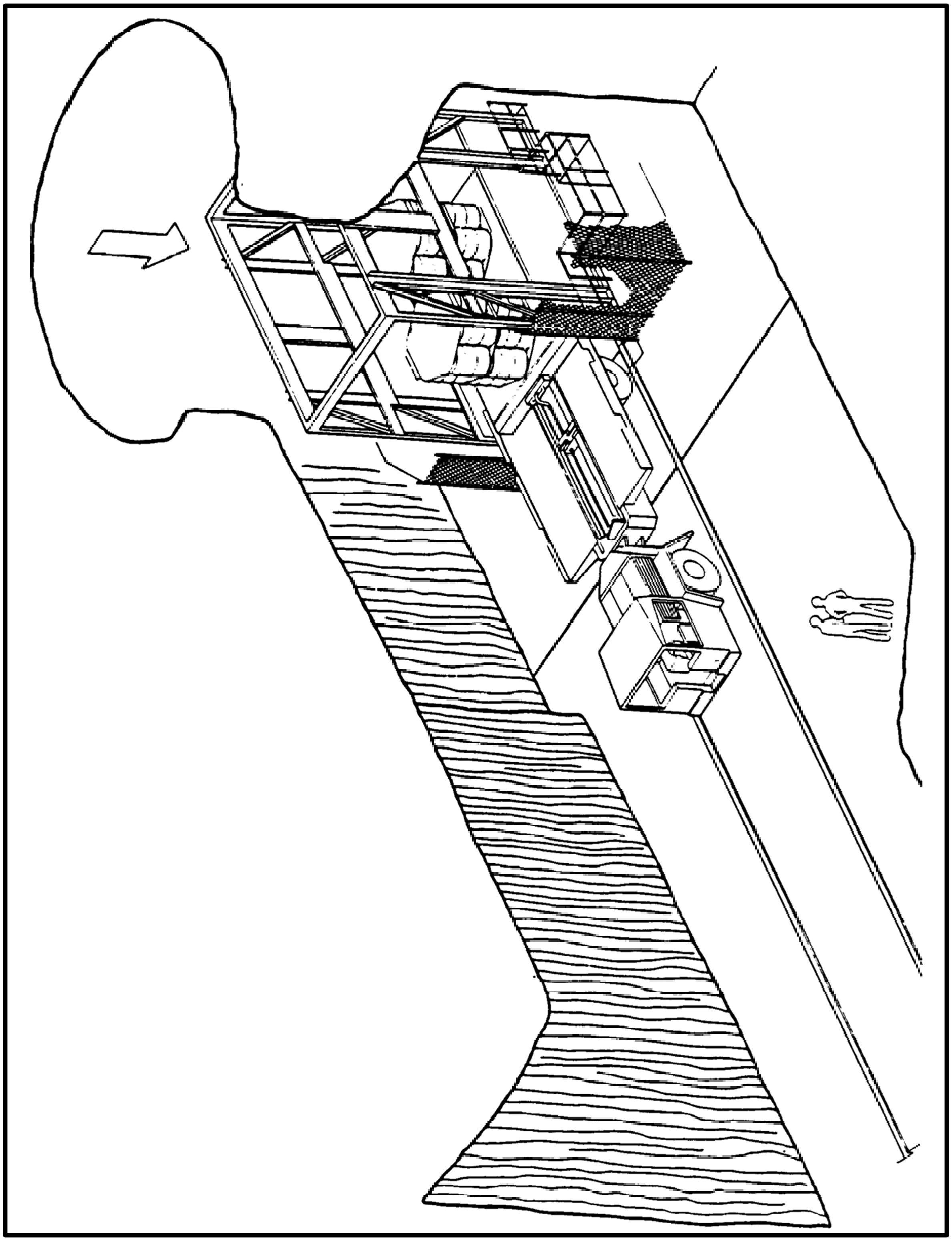


Figure M2-6
Waste Transfer Cage to Transporter

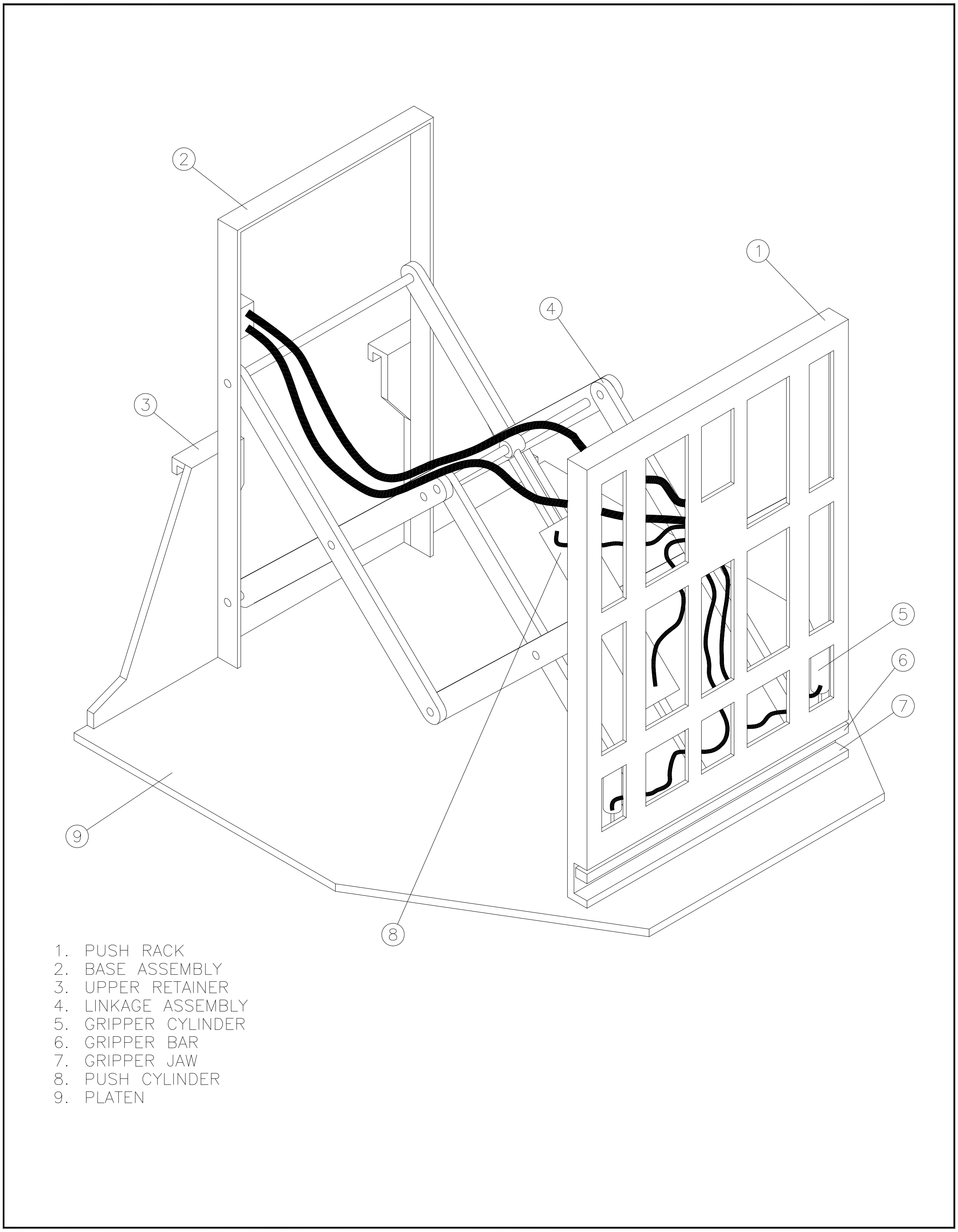


Figure M2-7
Example of a Push-Pull Attachment to Forklift to Allow
Handling of Waste Containers

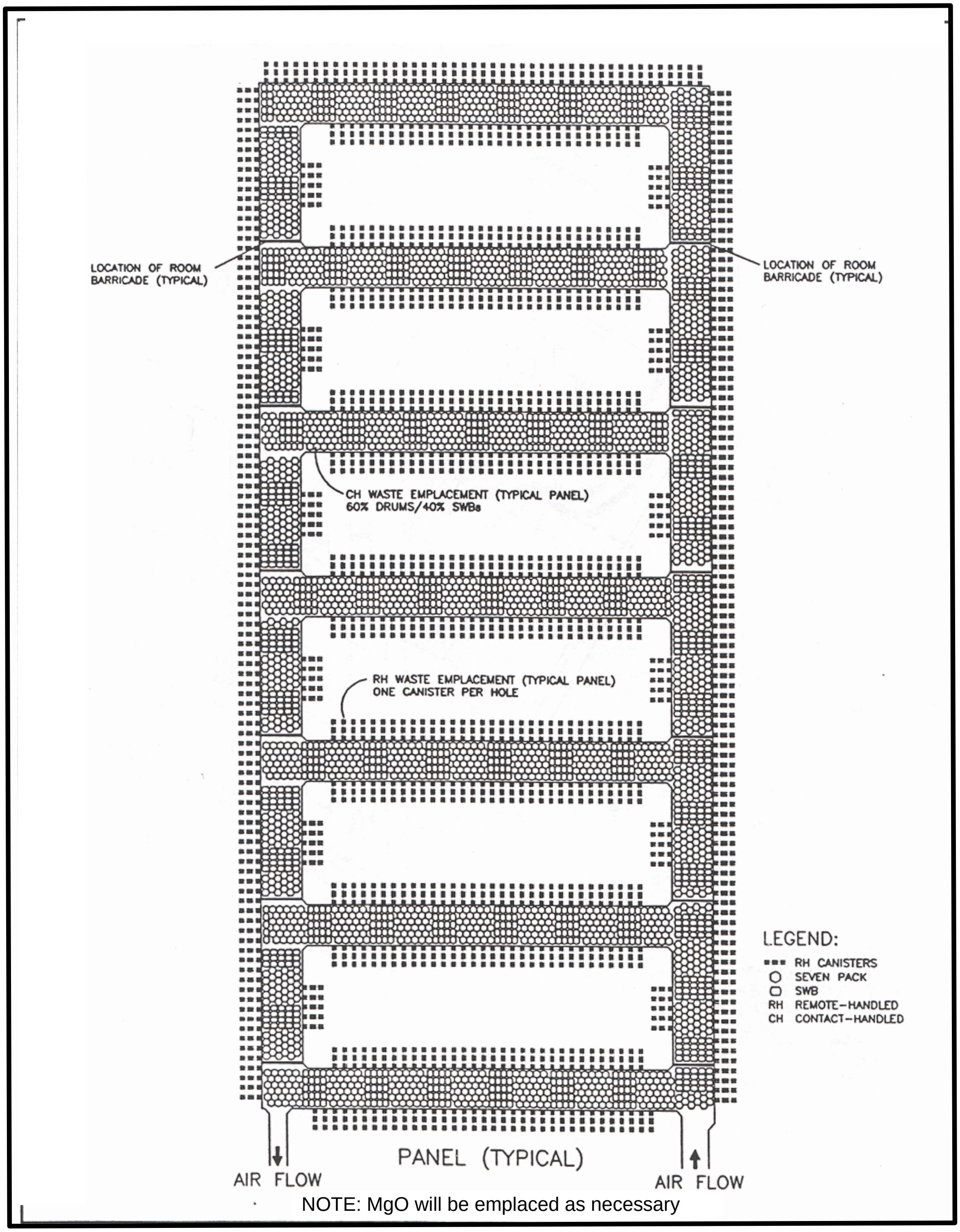


Figure M2-8
Typical RH and CH ~~Transuranic~~TRU Mixed Waste Container Disposal Configuration

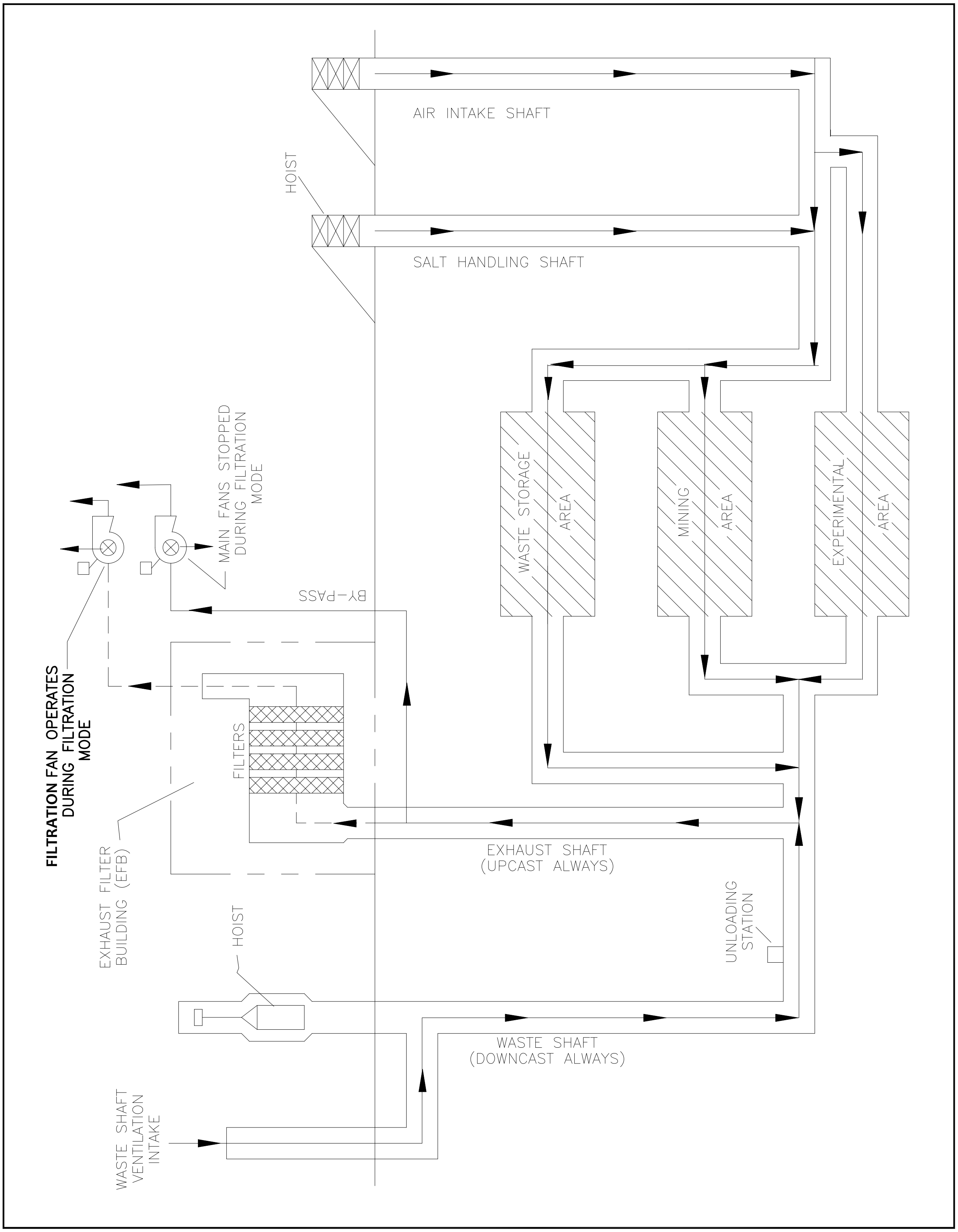


Figure M2-9
Main Underground Ventilation System Airflow

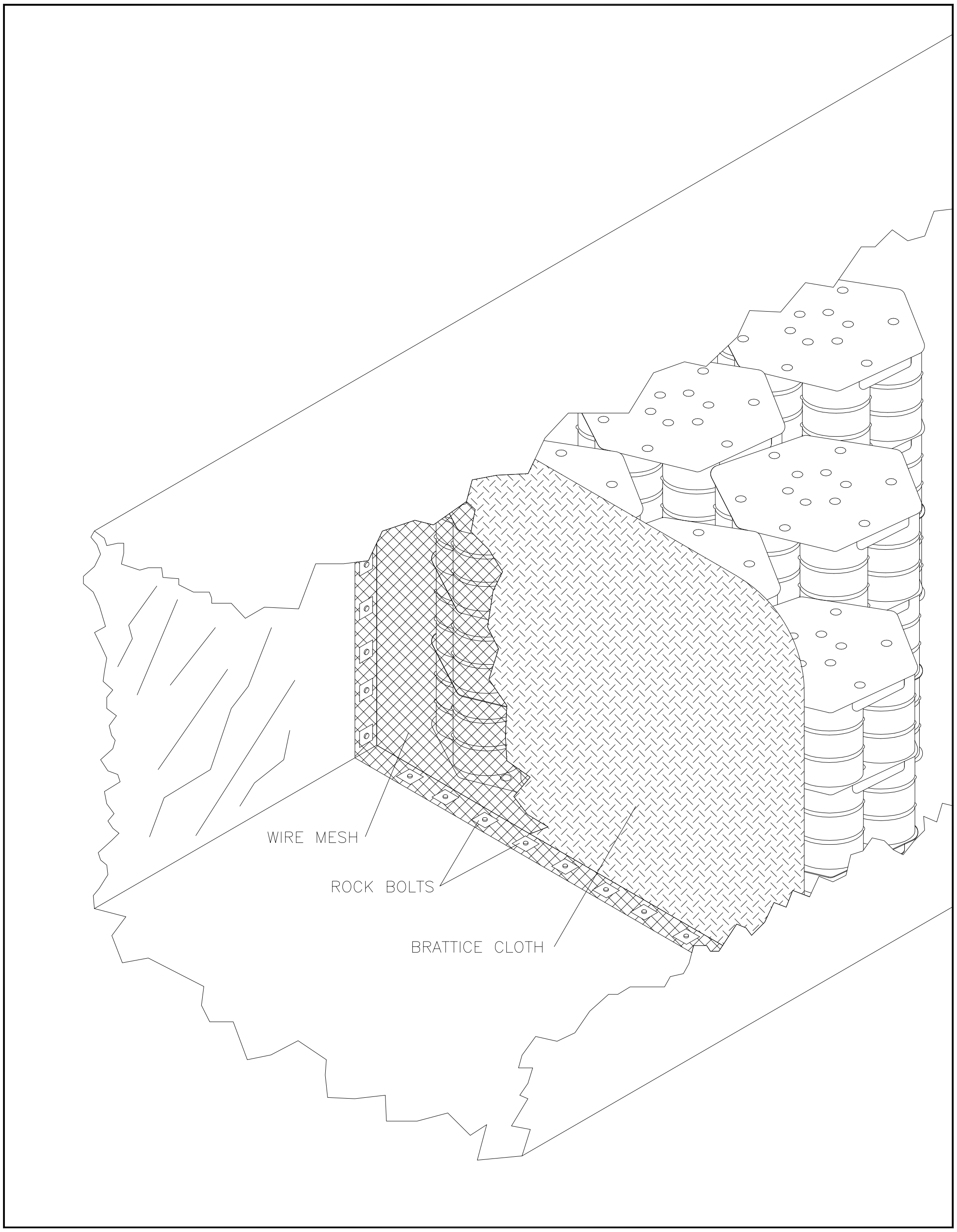


Figure M2-~~11~~10
Typical Room Barricade

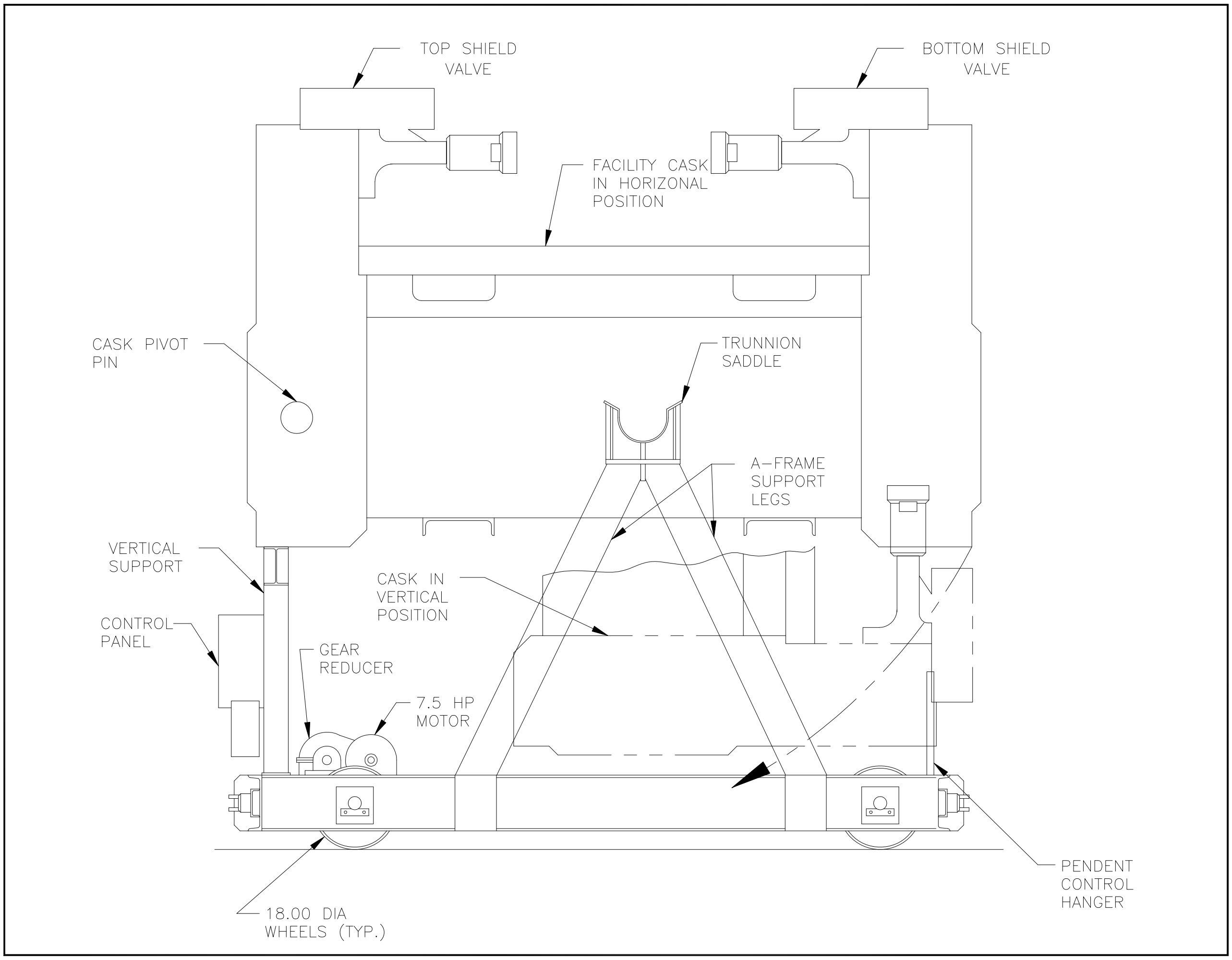


Figure M2-~~14~~11
Facility Cask Transfer Car (Side View)

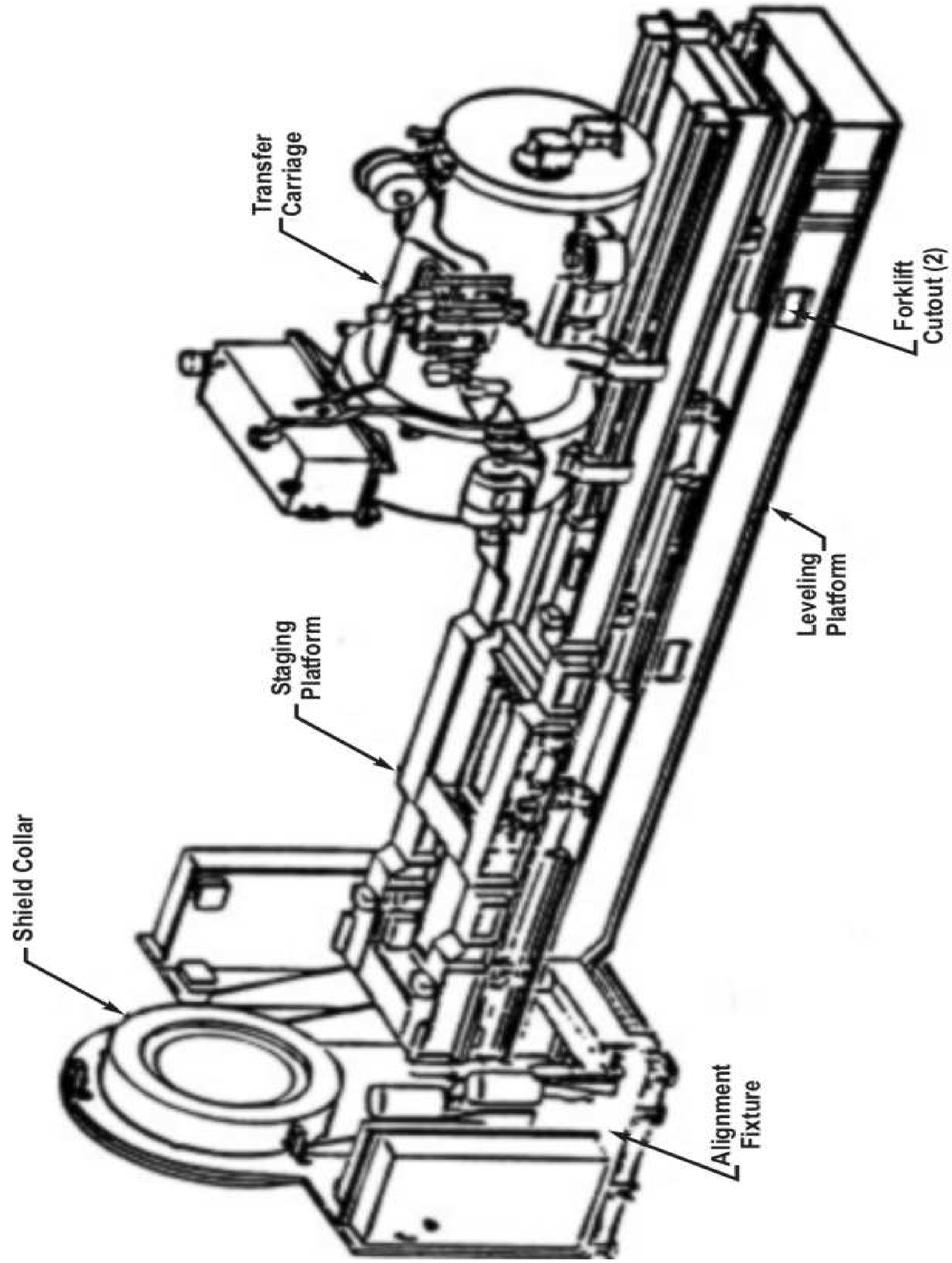


Figure M2-~~15~~12
Horizontal Emplacement and Retrieval Equipment

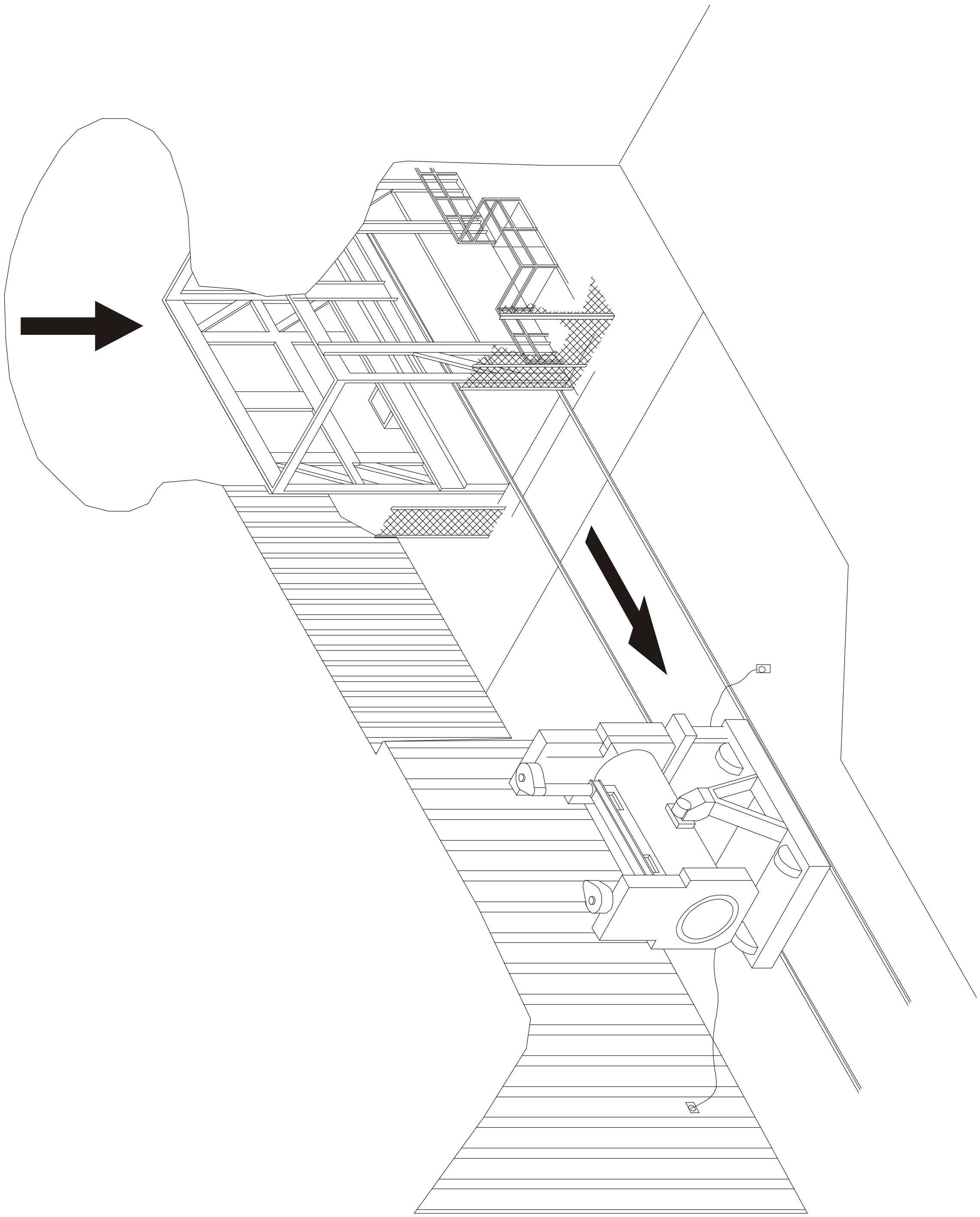


Figure M2-~~16~~13
RH TRU Waste Facility Cask Unloading from Waste Shaft Conveyance

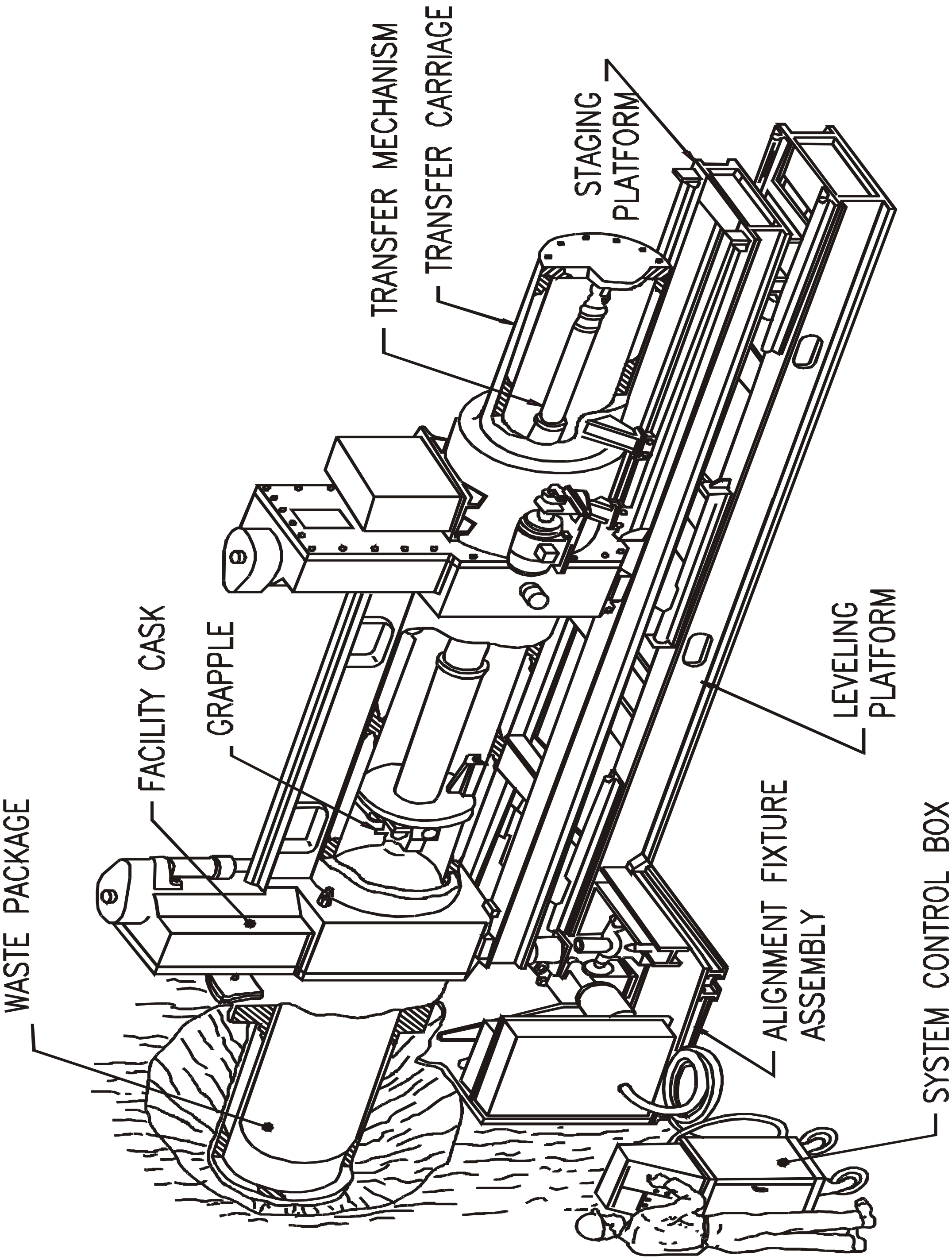


Figure M2-~~17~~14
Facility Cask Installed on the Horizontal Emplacement Retrieval Equipment

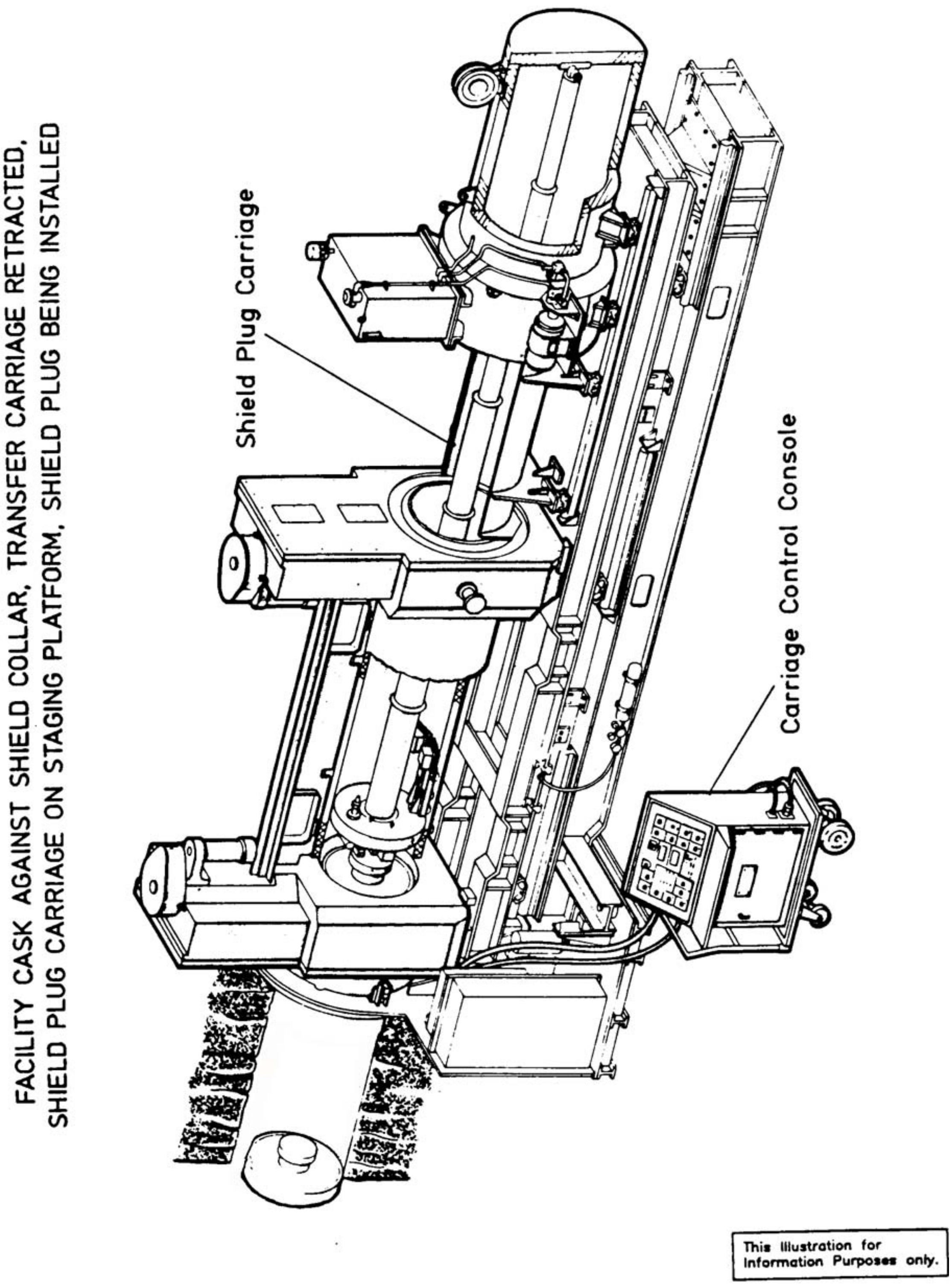
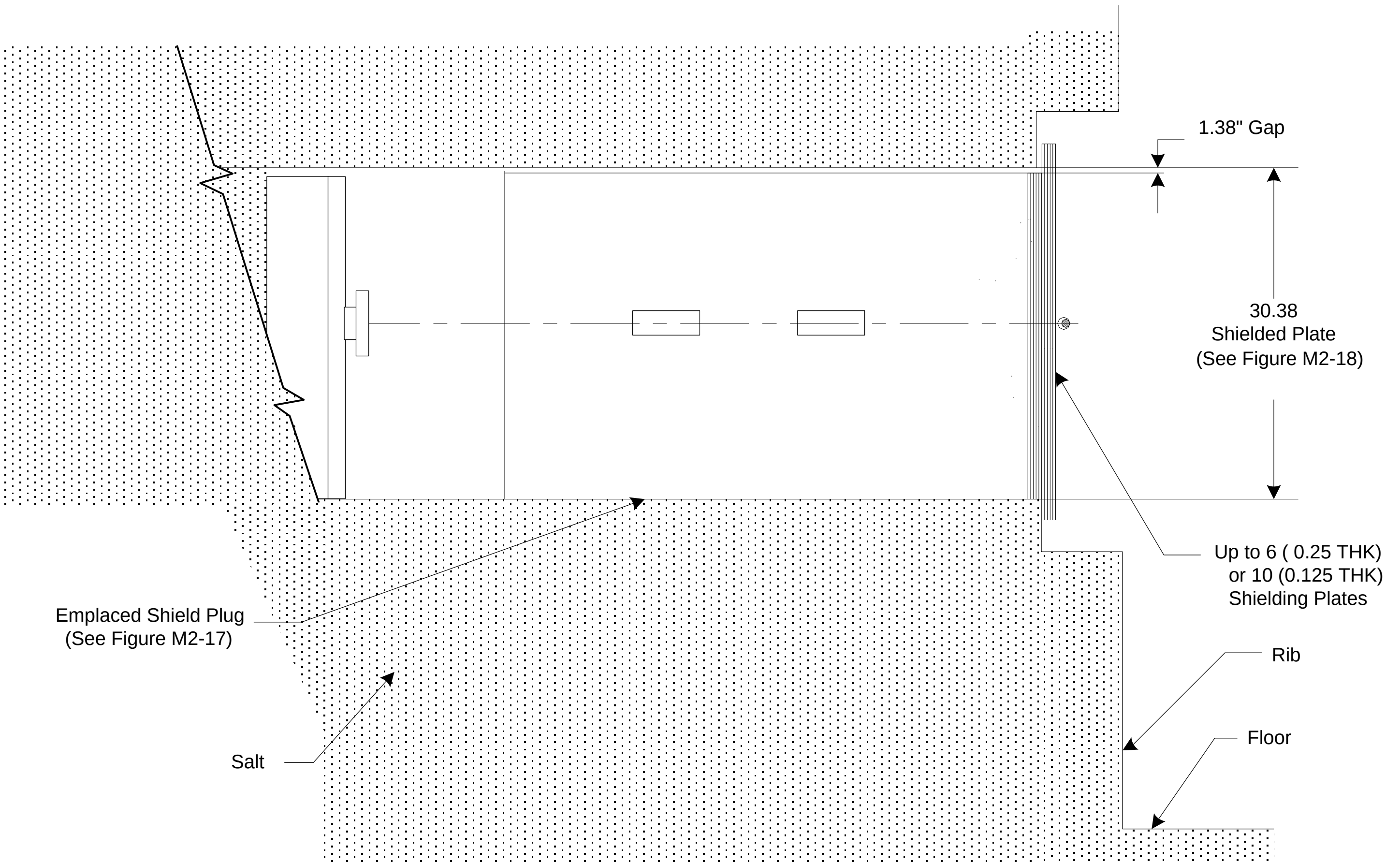
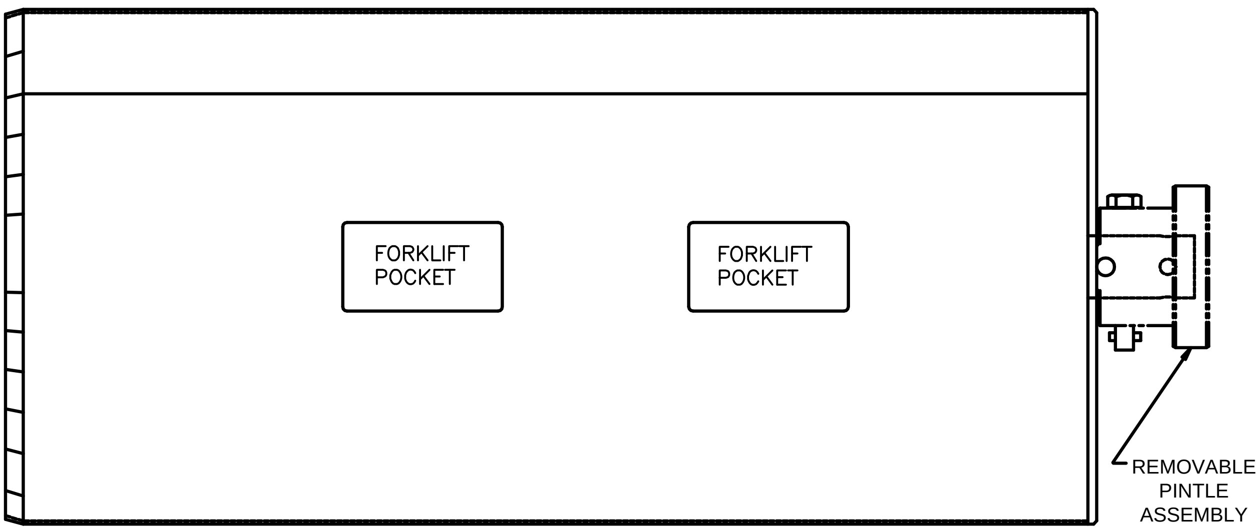


Figure M2-~~18~~15
Installing Shield Plug



Section of Bore Hole Showing The Shield and
Supplemental Shielding Plate(s)

Figure M2-~~19~~16
Shield Plug Supplemental Shielding Plate(s)



TYPICAL DIMENSION: APPROXIMATELY 29 INCHES DIAMETER X 61 INCHES SHIELDING LENGTH

Composition: Cylindrical steel shell filled with concrete
Weight: Approximately 3750 pounds

Figure M2-17
Shield Plug Configuration

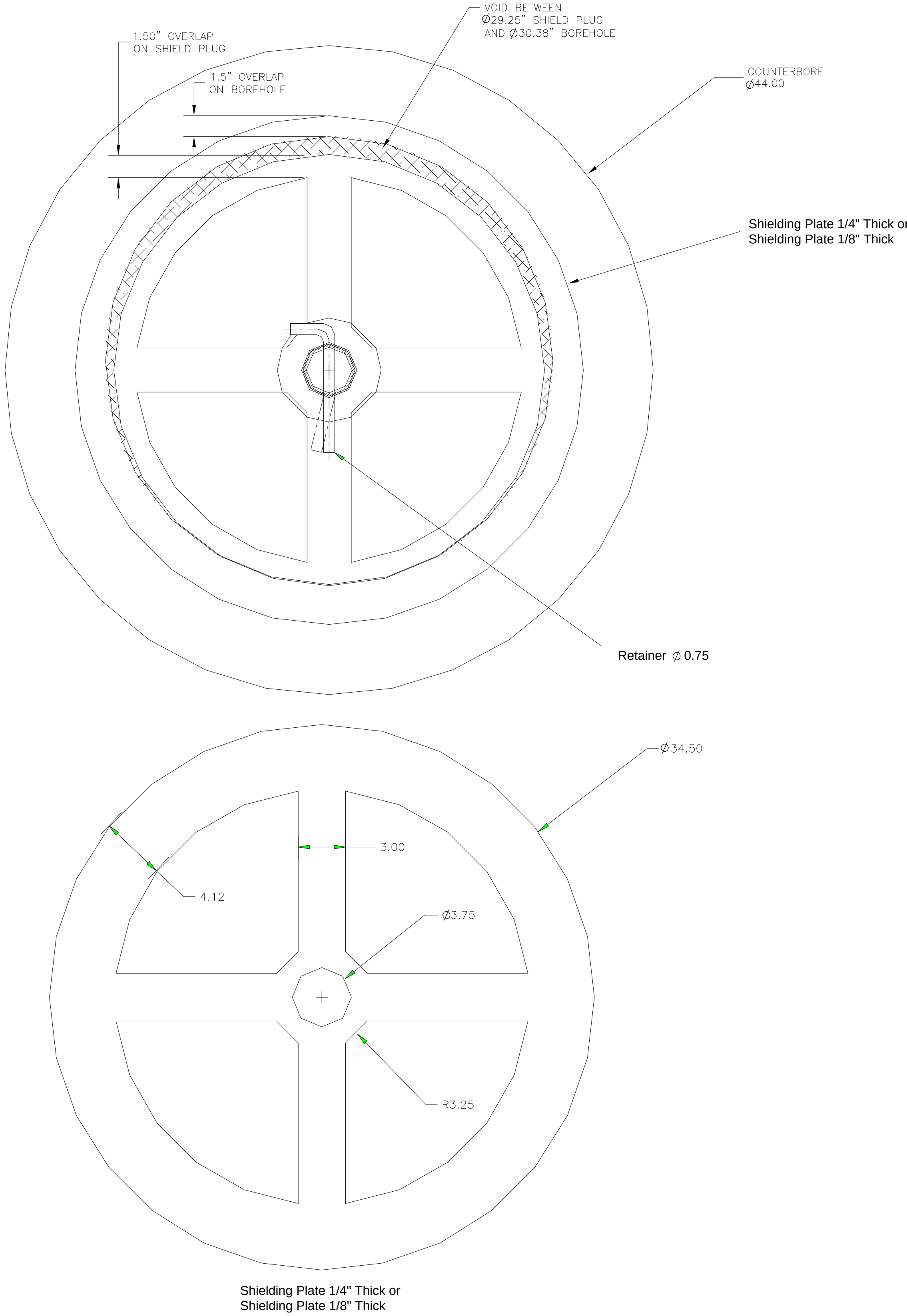


Figure M2-~~20~~18
Shielding Layers to Supplement RH Borehole Shield Plugs

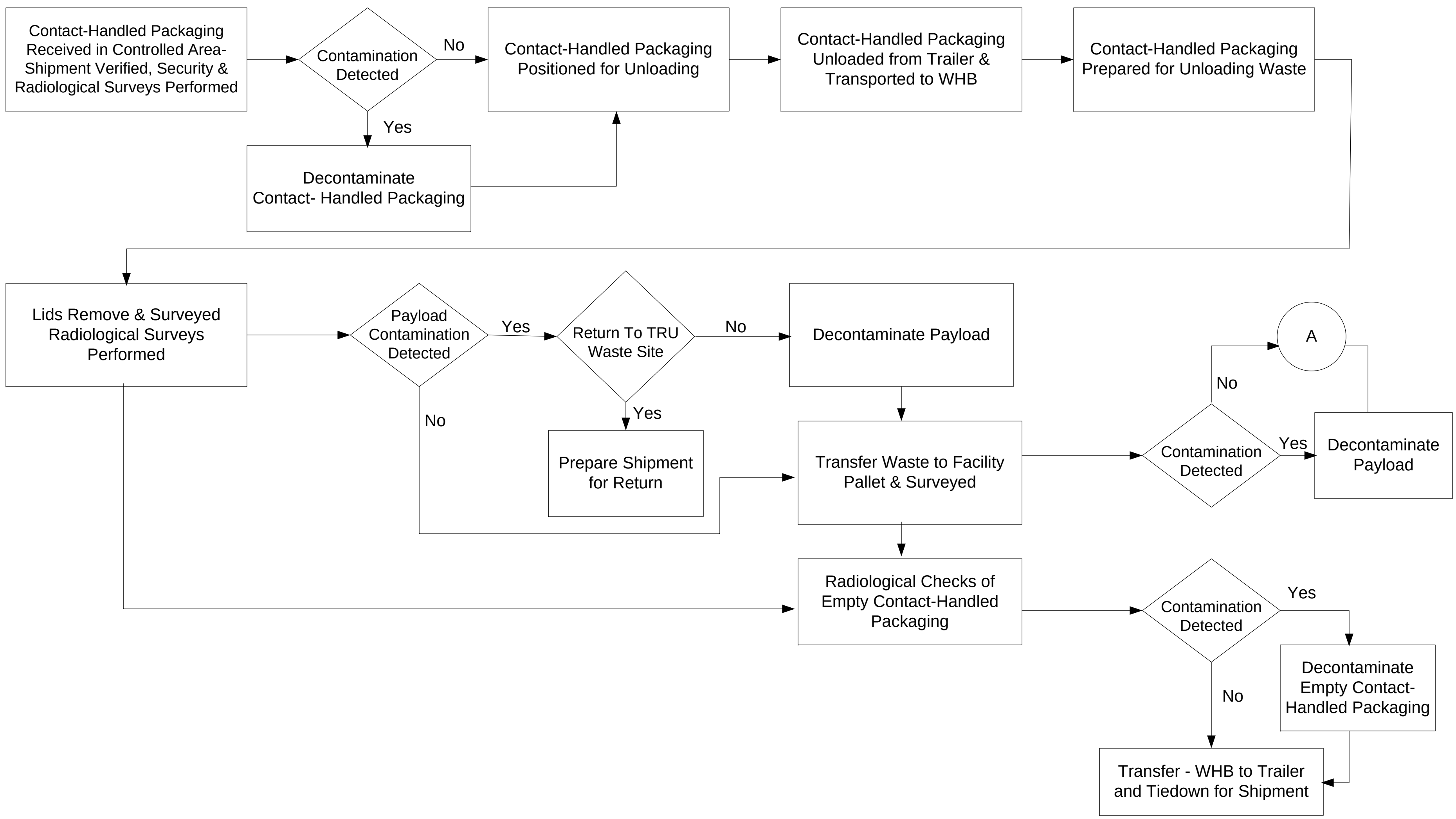


Figure M2-~~12~~19
WIPP Facility Surface and Underground CH Transuranic Mixed Waste Process Flow

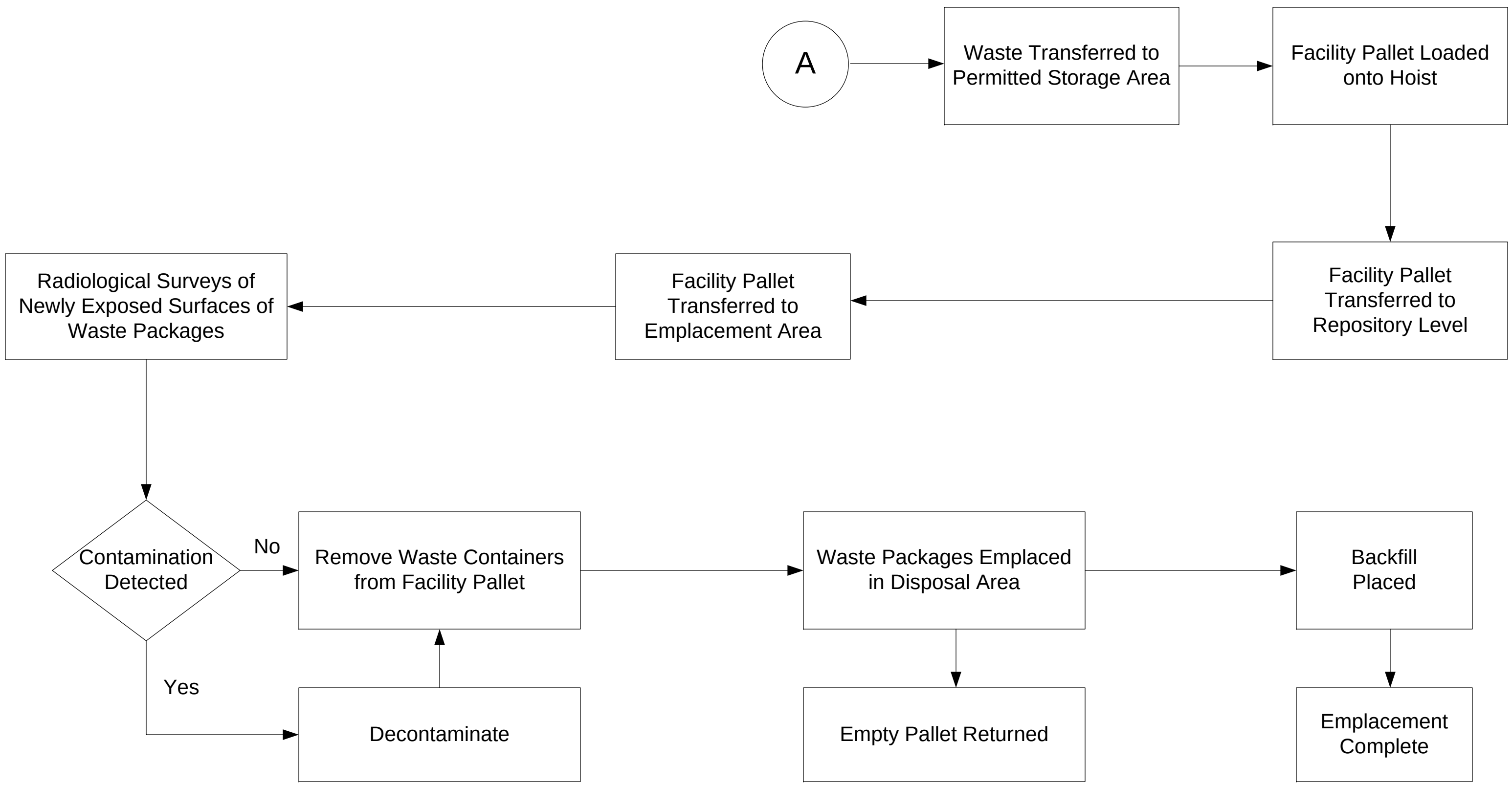
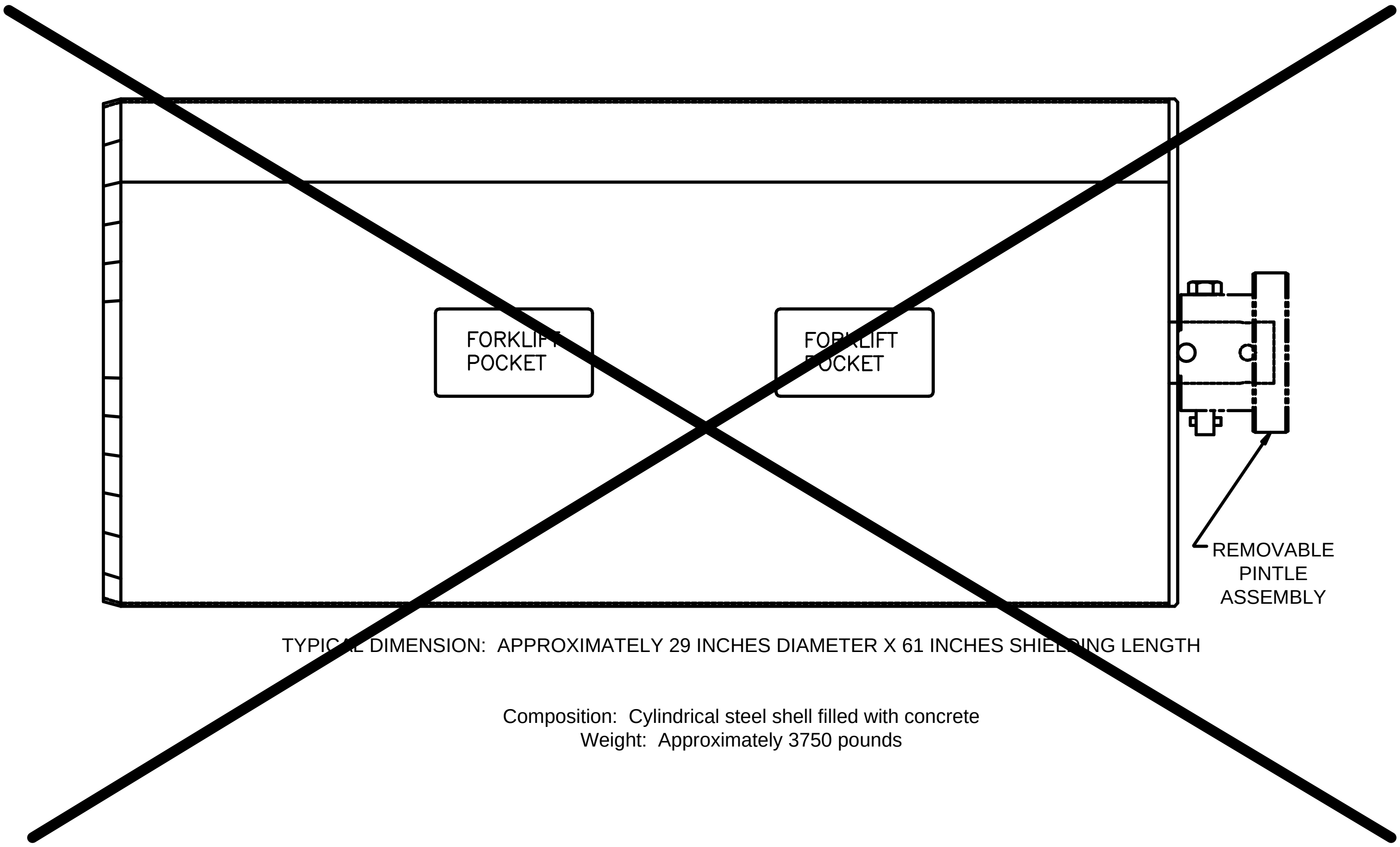


Figure M2-~~12~~19
WIPP Facility Surface and Underground CH Transuranic Mixed Waste Process Flow (continued)

Figure M2-20
Layout and Instrumentation



~~Figure M2-21~~
~~Shield Plug Configuration~~