



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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DOE Exceeds 2012 TRU Waste Cleanup Goal at Los Alamos National Laboratory

CARLSBAD, N.M., October 3, 2012 –The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Central Characterization Project (CCP) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) exceeded a fiscal year 2012 goal of characterizing and shipping 800 cubic meters of transuranic (TRU) waste, fulfilling a commitment to the state of New Mexico.

The 800 cubic meters goal was exceeded by more than 100 cubic meters, with the vast majority of the TRU waste characterized as defense related TRU and permanently disposed at WIPP.

To accomplish this achievement, the WIPP CCP increased the amount of waste that was certified, ensuring it met all the requirements for disposal at WIPP. This resulted in the ability to increase shipments to WIPP to total as many as 10 per week, which happened the last two weeks of September. In total, 916 cubic meters of TRU waste was removed from LANL above-ground inventory by September 30. The LANL-Carlsbad Office also provided additional operators to Los Alamos so the available waste could be shipped.

“This important achievement for both LANL and the Department of Energy (DOE) and contractor Team demonstrates our commitment to the clean up of legacy TRU waste at Los Alamos,” said DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which provides oversight for WIPP and the National TRU Program, Manager Joe Franco. “The LANL Framework Agreement with New

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Mexico to remove the above-ground TRU waste currently stored at Area G at LANL by June of 2014 remains the highest priority.”

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

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