



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Waste Compaction Equipment Reaches Performance Milestone

A unique piece of equipment at the Department of Energy's Idaho site that compacts transuranic waste recently achieved 100,000 hours of operation and performance and reliability indicate a capability for additional years of service.

A major component of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP), the supercompactor has compacted more than 238,000 55-gallon drums of transuranic waste debris during its 14 years of operation. Using compaction, the AMWTP has saved an estimated 6,000 truck shipments that would have been required to send nearly 43,000 cubic meters of waste from the Idaho site to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico for permanent disposal. Furthermore, supercompaction has led to more efficient and effective use of available disposal space at WIPP.

With four million pounds of force, the supercompactor's hydraulic ram reduces a standard 55-gallon drum filled with solid transuranic waste debris to a five- to seven-inch-thick puck. Its crushing force is so powerful, that it can squeeze several ounces of water out of kiln-dried lumber.

"It's truly a unique asset in the DOE complex," said Jack Zimmerman, deputy manager for the DOE's Idaho Operations Office. "Compacting the drums allows us to get a greater return on investment for each waste shipment sent from Idaho to WIPP. The supercompactor has paid for itself many times over considering the valuable space it has saved at WIPP and the number of truck shipments it has saved the taxpayer."

Earlier this year, crews with Idaho Cleanup Project contractor Fluor Idaho retrieved the last of 65,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste stored at the AMWTP. The Cold War-era weapons waste had been shipped to Idaho from 1970 until the late 1980s and was covered with dirt on an asphalt pad. Following treatment and certification, all the waste will be sent out of the state for permanent disposal in an agreement with the State of Idaho.

The AMWTP has undergone several million dollars of equipment upgrades recently that will position the facility for future operations.

Fluor Idaho, LLC, manages the Idaho Cleanup Project Core contract at the Department of Energy's Idaho Site located 45 miles west of Idaho Falls. The 5-year, \$1.4 billion project, funded through the U.S.

Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, focuses on early risk reduction and protection of the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

For more information, visit Fluor Idaho on the Web at www.fluor-idaho.com.