



Baca, Tom
From: Baca, Tom
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2001 11:21 AM
To: Baca, Tom
Subject: FW: Please review and approve



-----Original Message-----
From: Baca, Tom
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2001 11:03 AM
To: 'inest@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us'
Subject: Please review and approve

Draft Briefing Paper on Transuranic Waste Consisting of Classified Parts/Shapes

- The WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, as amended, permits all defense generated TRU waste to be disposed at WIPP.
- RFETS has TRU/TRUM waste that consists of parts used to manufacture nuclear weapons components.
- The dimensions, shape and/or composition of these parts are classified information pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act. Thus, they are referred to as "classified parts". Classified parts, like other classified information, can only be released from DOE's security controls if they are properly protected through a security plan or they are "declassified".
- In the nuclear weapons component manufacturing operation some classified parts become contaminated with special nuclear material at concentrations that require disposal of the parts as TRU waste. In some instances, because of the chemicals used in the manufacturing processes, classified parts will also become contaminated by hazardous waste, which requires those parts to be disposed as TRU mixed waste. TRU mixed waste volumes are a small sub-population of TRU waste classified parts. The total volumes of classified waste at Rocky Flats are less than 400 fifty-five gallon drums.
- Some classified parts are less contaminated and can be disposed as low-level or low-level mixed waste. Some classified parts do not become contaminated and can be disposed as solid waste.
- Although sanitation of parts for disposal at facilities not authorized to handle classified parts can be done and is routinely done for parts not contaminated with special nuclear material, it is labor intensive and expensive to do for TRU waste classified parts. At RFETS, it is estimated that the cost of sanitization will be \$10m. Also at RFETS, the labor and physical resources needed to conduct the sanitization would not be available to perform other tasks critical to accomplishing the closure project by the end of 2006.
- The alternative to sanitization is to dispose of classified parts at a facility that meets all security requirements for receipt, handling and disposal of classified parts. RFETS and CBAO believe that the WIPP facility and WIPP



operations can put in place the required security measures in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of DOE in order to allow RFETS to dispose of unsanitization classified parts at WIPP."

- The classified parts from RFETS will be under constant security while in transit to Carlsbad and during disposal. A security plan for protecting the waste was developed by DOE security personnel
- All classified parts will be fully characterized and meet all permit conditions before the materials are shipped and placed in the WIPP facility with other TRU waste. There will be no real changes to the WIPP operations because of the classified parts, except security.