



West Valley Demonstration Project

Drums of Cement Stabilized Waste

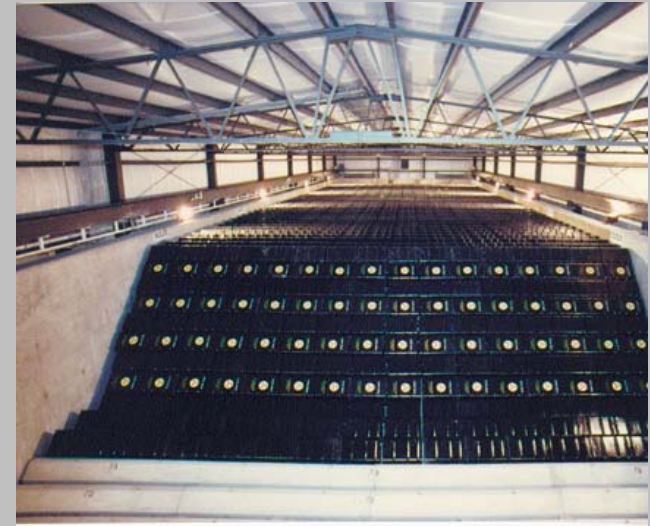
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DOE West Valley Demonstration Project



Drum Cell

- ◆ 19,877 square steel drums filled with cemented waste are stored on site in an aboveground facility referred to as the Drum Cell
- ◆ Produced between 1988 and 1995 from pretreatment of high-level waste to remove salts and sulfates that would affect glass quality.
- ◆ The waste has been managed and stored as LLW since 1995



Interior of Drum Cell



Aerial View of Drum Cell

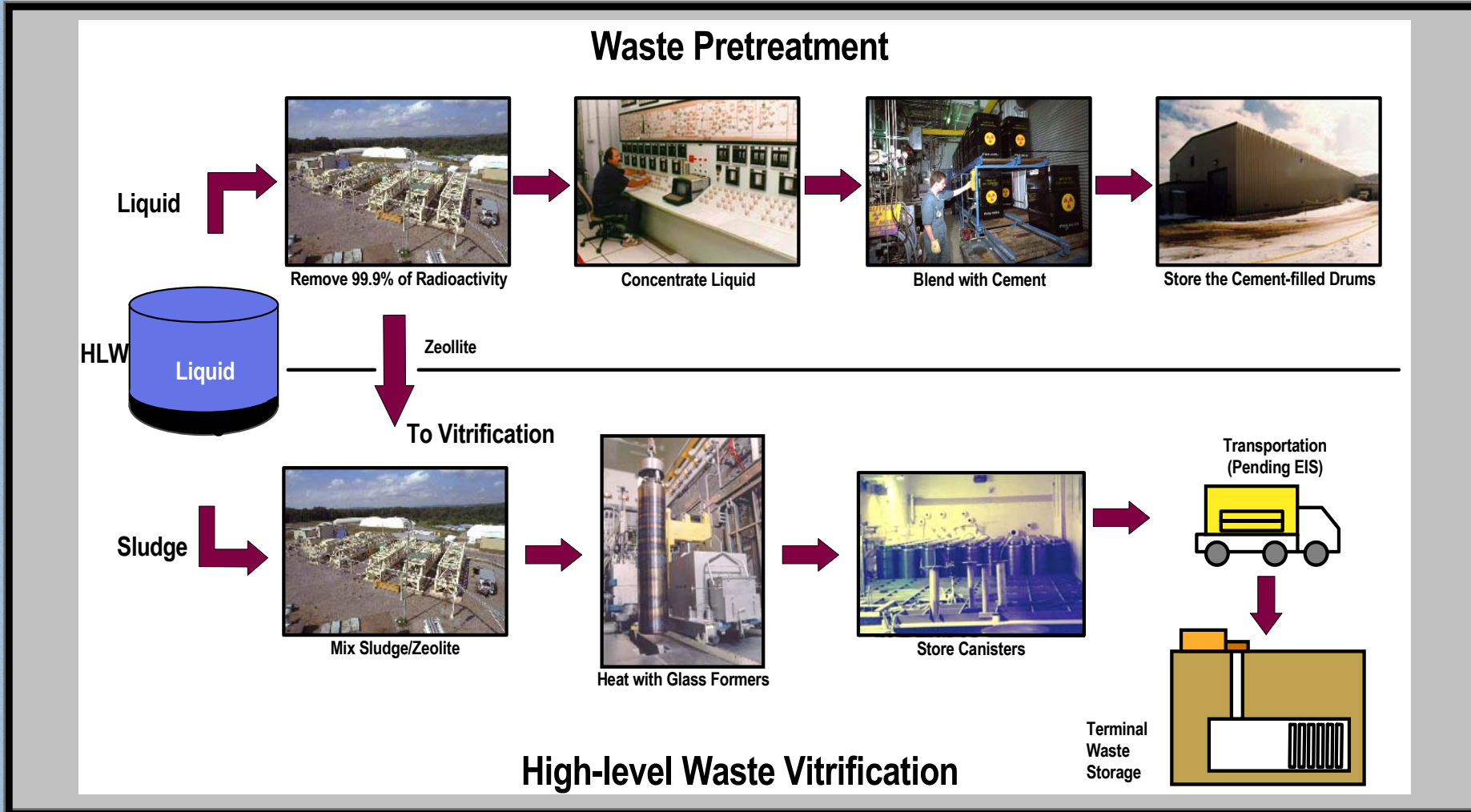


Background/History

- ◆ Separation of salts and sulfates from the high-level waste (HLW) was designed to produce low-level waste.
 - 1982 Environmental Impact Statement identified this as the preferred processing option.
 - HLW vitrification process was specifically designed to separate a low-level waste liquid before vitrification.



WVDP HLW Waste Processing Flow Diagram (circa 1987)





Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Oversight

- ◆ Consistent with the Department of Energy (DOE)/NRC Memorandum of Understanding (1981) the NRC provided oversight of the process that produced the Drum Cell waste.



DOE Review

- ◆ In 2005, the DOE Headquarters directed that the characterization data and classification background for this cemented waste be reviewed.
- ◆ That review has concluded that the cemented waste is low-level waste and that additional review is not required.
 - May 2006
- ◆ The Nevada Test Site (NTS) has reviewed the waste characterization data and concluded the LLW meets the site's Waste Acceptance Criteria.
 - May 2006



Path Forward

- ◆ WVNSCO with DOE oversight are conducting a Line Management Readiness Assessment to ensure preparedness for drum packaging and shipping.
- ◆ DOE is planning to begin shipping drums to NTS in June.