

## DOE Lessons Learned Template

Title: Shipment of Waste

Date: 07/06/05

Identifier: 2005-RF-18

Lessons Learned Statement: Consider use of railcars to ship waste offsite early in the closure process.

Discussion of Activities: Early in the closure process, the use of railcars to ship waste offsite was rejected primarily due to the low volumes of waste anticipated at that time. However, in early 2004, the contractor decided to take down the buildings as contaminated structures instead of performing remediation. The amount of rubble that would be produced would result in a delay in the closure schedule if the shipment of waste was to be by truck. There was also the consideration that the increased truck traffic would result in a higher road hazard factor and cost factor. Because of these factors, a decision was made to ship low level waste by rail. This resulted in a logistical problem initially of not being able to get the gondola cars. The practice of “begging” for gondola cars resulted in getting cars of minimal quality.

Analysis (May be incorporated into the Discussion): Early planning in the process would have resulted in obtaining quality gondola cars when they were needed. Another option is for a site to purchase its own gondola cars for a dedicated fleet, should expedited shipment be a priority.

Recommended Actions:

Estimated Savings/Cost Avoidance (if applicable):

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Keywords: Waste Shipment