

D34. A GEM OF AN IDEA FOR TREATING SAVANNAH RIVER MIXED WASTE

The Savannah River Site will soon be turning mixed waste into glass "gems" for safe storage. This vitrification project comes on the heels of the startup of the site's Defense Waste Processing Facility, which will turn 34 million gallons of high-level liquid radioactive sludge into glass "logs".

The mixed waste contract is the first DOE commercial contract involving vitrification of low-level mixed waste, which contains both radioactive and hazardous chemical components. Work began in June to turn the 670,000 gallons of waste into glass. It is expected to take 12 to 18 months to vitrify all the mixed waste, which is now stored in two above-ground, 500,000 gallon tanks and in 125 drums. The waste was accumulated over the past decade from the fabrication of fuel and targets for use in site reactors.

For more, "A Gem of Idea for Treating Savannah River Mixed Waste," pg.13, DOE This Month, July 1996.