

2003

The Year 2003 in Pictures

PREPARING FOR SEGMENTATION

Throughout 2003, NASA crews continued to remove and package loose (tools, furnishings and machinery) and fixed equipment from the Reactor Facility's quadrants and canals, and, last spring, began using the Cask Transfer System for moving fixed equipment. NASA also removed and packaged loose and fixed equipment from several other buildings and areas in the Reactor Facility. During 2003 NASA safely shipped more than one million pounds of low-level radioactive waste to licensed reprocessing and disposal facilities.



A shipping container filled with fixed equipment from the Containment Vessel's quadrants and canals rests on a Cask Transfer System cart.



Control panel being removed from "lily pad" in preparation for segmentation.

Shipments continue on a regular basis. NASA also removed asbestos and lead - as well as PCB contaminated ballasts and fluorescent tubes (from light fixtures) - in several areas of the Reactor Facility and continues with characterization activities.

In November 2002 and April 2003, NASA conducted the first reactor tank entries in 30 years. Using remote instruments and a video camera, workers took radiation readings inside the reactor tank and videotaped the condition of the components within, which provided vital information on radiation levels and helped in planning for segmentation.



Workers take radiation readings, using an instrument mounted on special pole, during April's reactor tank entry. The crew performed all tasks while looking at a video monitor, to minimize their exposure.



In July, NASA took delivery of a shipment of stainless steel cask liners that were to be used during segmentation.