



### Sponge Jet Decontamination System



Decontaminating and decommissioning metal scrap at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) will generate approximately 300 m<sup>3</sup> of low level waste (LLW) in 1998, and approximately 4000 m<sup>3</sup> over the next few years. At the present time this waste is cleaned by hand, grit blasted, or simply buried. The two treatment techniques are very expensive, and burial is not a desirable option.

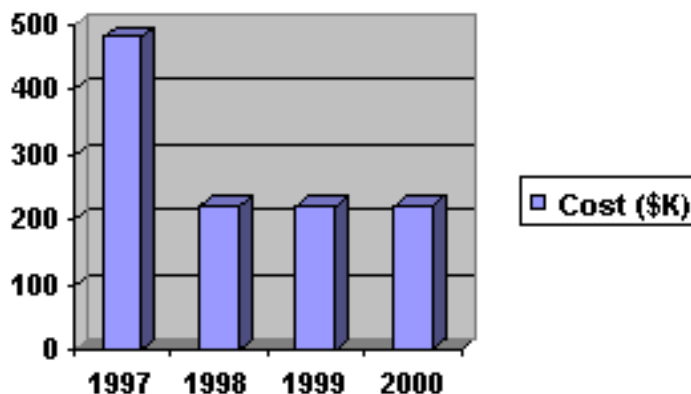
50% of the scrap metal can be decontaminated by means of a sponge jet decontamination system that is considerably less expensive than hand cleaning or grit blasting and still meet release requirements set forth in DOE Order 5400.5.

LANL will avoid generating approximately 200 m<sup>3</sup> of LLW annually.

Processing costs before: \$481,000/year

Processing costs after: \$220,000/year

An initial investment of \$200,000 will result in an annual cost avoidance of approximately \$261,000.



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