



By the Numbers Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste from people and the environment. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. TRU waste destined for WIPP consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residue and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements – mostly plutonium.



71,320
cubic meters
of waste disposed in the underground mine (Total Land Withdrawal Act Volume).

2,150 feet
depth to disposal rooms from the surface. By comparison, if WIPP were a building, it would be the second tallest in the world.

By the end of **2025** a set of key infrastructure projects will be completed, improving WIPP capabilities in mining and waste emplacement.

24 hours/day shipments are tracked and monitored around the clock by satellite.

13,099 shipments safely transported more than 15 million loaded miles.



7 waste disposal rooms in each disposal panel measuring 300 feet long, 33 feet wide and 13 feet high.

153,266 metric tons of salt mined in panel 8 and the west access drifts since 2018.



267,202 containers emplaced in the WIPP underground.

540,000 cubic feet per minute. WIPP's new permanent underground ventilation system will increase airflow.

