



Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site Cleanup By the Numbers

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a DOE 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 below the surface. TRU waste destined for WIPP consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residues and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements - mostly plutonium.

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



1,100 people employed at WIPP.

11,900 shipments safely transported more than 14 million loaded miles.

2,150 FEET

91,095 CUBIC METERS of waste disposed in the underground mine.



171,220 containers have been emplaced in the WIPP underground.

2,150 FEET the distance to disposal rooms below the surface. By comparison, the Empire State Building is only 1,454 feet high.

1,454 FEET



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

