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 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.

Total Employment: **1,100**

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

**12,114** shipments safely transported more than 14 million loaded miles.

**93,142 m³** of waste disposed in the underground mine.

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

**172,721** containers emplaced in the WIPP underground.

**8,792** metric tons of salt mined in panel eight.