News & Information

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WIPP Site

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The entrance to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant at sunrise.

A view of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant from a distance.

Transportation

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A Tri State Motor Transit truck transporting three TRUPACT-II shipping containers on the highway.

A CAST Transportation truck transporting three TRUPACT-II shipping containers on the highway.

A WIPP truck approaches the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

A shipment of contact-handled transuranic waste arrives at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Contact-handled TRU waste disposal

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An empty TRUPACT-II is loaded onto a trailer. TRUPACT-IIs are sent to the generator sites empty and return with transuranic waste for disposal.

The outer-shell lid of a TRUPACT -II is lifted off inside of the Waste Handling Building.

Transuranic waste arrives in the WIPP underground on the waste hoist. The white vehicle is called a transporter, which will move the waste to the disposal area.

A radiation control technician keeps a watchful eye as contact-handled transuranic waste is disposed in the WIPP underground.

Remote-handled TRU waste disposal

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An RH-72B shipping container is a lead-lined cask that is certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The RH-72B is used for shipping remote-handled transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

The CNS 10-160B is an alternate shipping container for sending remote-handled transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

The Horizontal Emplacement and Retreival Equipment (HERE) is used to push remote-handled transuranic waste into horizontal boreholes in the disposal room walls.

Mining

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The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant uses a continuous miner to carve disposal rooms out of the Permian Salt Formation, nearly a half mile below the surface.

An underground dump truck empties its load at the Salt Handling Shaft for the 2,150-foot trip to the surface.

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