



Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) developed the Transportation Tracking and Communication System (TRANSCOM) to track DOE shipments of high visibility radioactive materials and to maintain communication with the drivers as a public safeguard. Trucks that transport transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal are monitored by this system.

TRANSCOM personnel monitor WIPP shipments around the clock from a secure control center, using satellite and terrestrial communications to pinpoint the location of shipments en route.

The vehicle's position is transmitted to a satellite receiving station and relayed to the TRANSCOM control center. Shipment icons are displayed on computer-generated maps that identify the vehicle's location within 500 feet. The control center also houses a database that contains transportation information, such as shipment schedules, routes, completed shipment data and copies of the shipping bill of lading/manifest.

Federal, state, and tribal officials with access to the password-protected web application can monitor the shipments from their computers or mobile devices. Drivers and others with access to the system communicate with one another through TRANSCOM's messaging system to exchange information about off-normal events, changes in weather, or road conditions.

As part of the shipping protocols agreed to by the DOE, states and tribes, state officials are notified by TRANSCOM two hours prior to a WIPP shipment entering their state.



For more information

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