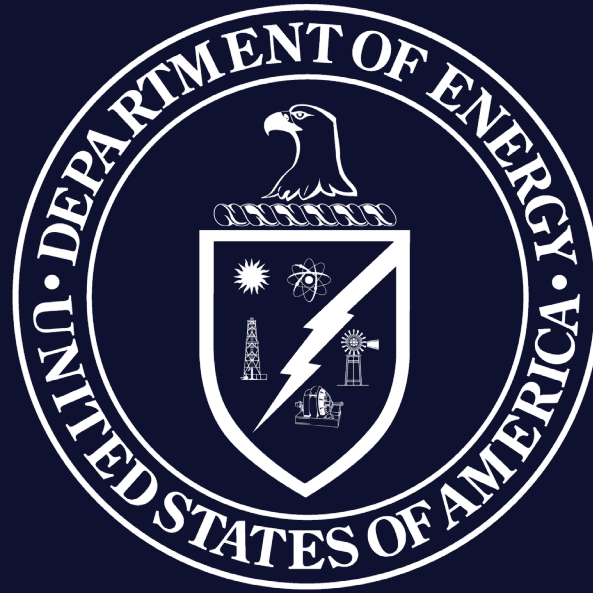




U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* ENERGY

Office of Environmental Management



WIPP Community Forum

November 6, 2025

Michael Gerle

DOE Carlsbad Field Office

Environmental Regulatory Compliance Director

Ronnie Lee

Salado Isolation Mining Contractors

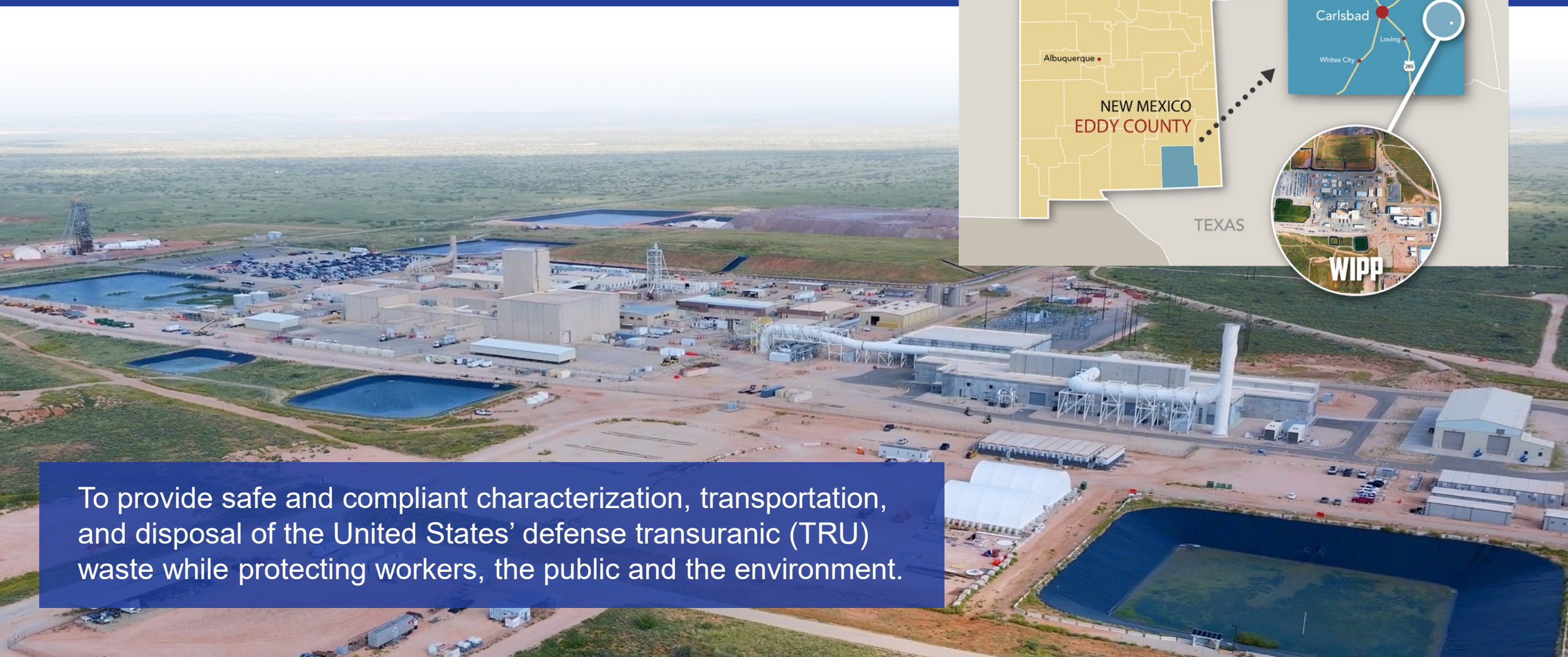
Deputy Operations & National TRU Program Manager



U.S. DEPARTMENT
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Office of Environmental
Management

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Mission



To provide safe and compliant characterization, transportation, and disposal of the United States' defense transuranic (TRU) waste while protecting workers, the public and the environment.

WIPP's Roles & Responsibilities

The Department of Energy **owns and oversees the operation of** the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the nation's only deep geologic repository for defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste through:

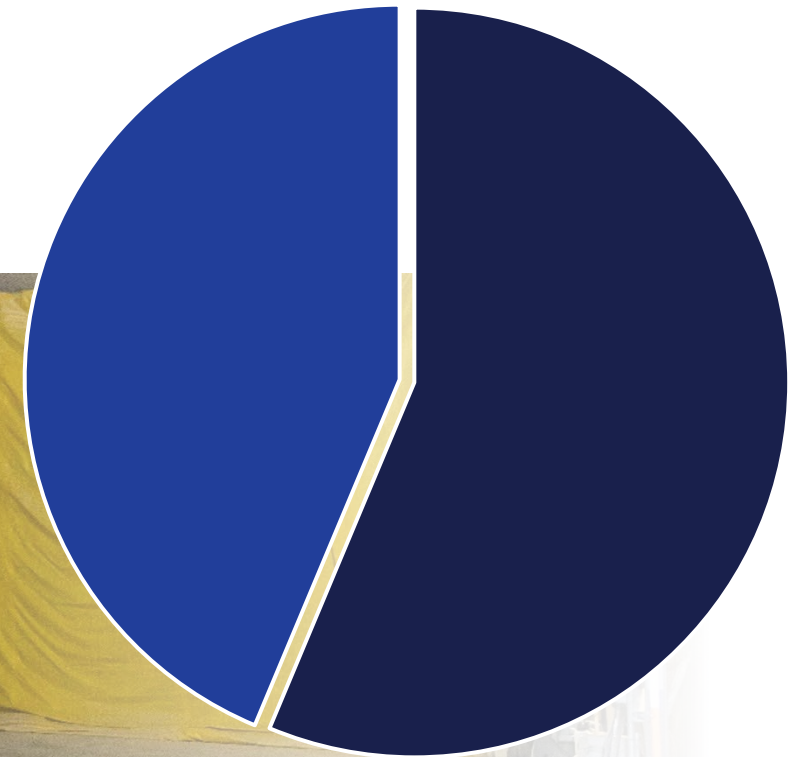
- **Characterization**
- **Packaging**
- **Transportation**
- **Receiving**
- **Maintaining and operating the facility**
- **Safe disposal** of defense-related TRU waste



TRU Waste Disposal

- Land Withdrawal Act (LWA)
- Defense generated transuranic waste
- Must meet WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria
- Transuranic waste capacity = 6.2M ft³
 - Current volume capacity filled = 2.7M ft³ (~45%)

WIPP transuranic waste capacity
(cubic feet)



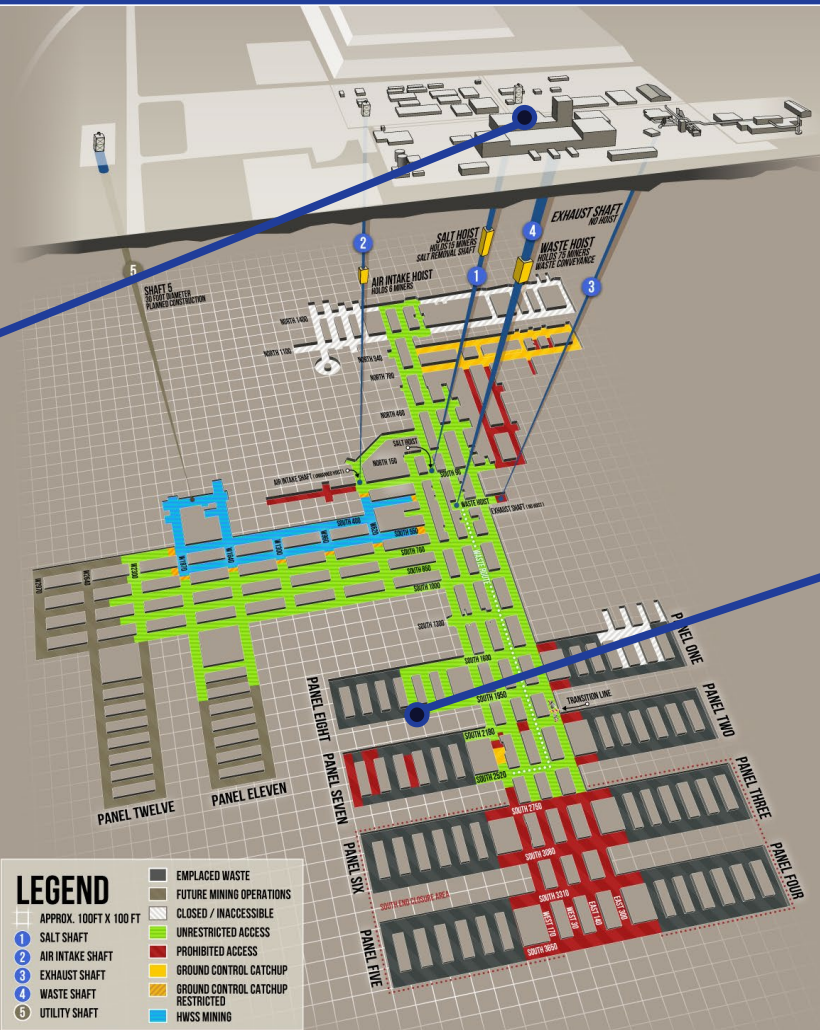
■ LWA remaining capacity



Site Operations



Workers unload TRU waste containers from TRUPACT-II shipping packages



In the underground, workers systematically emplace waste drums in Panel 8 for permanent disposal

Waste Emplacement Update

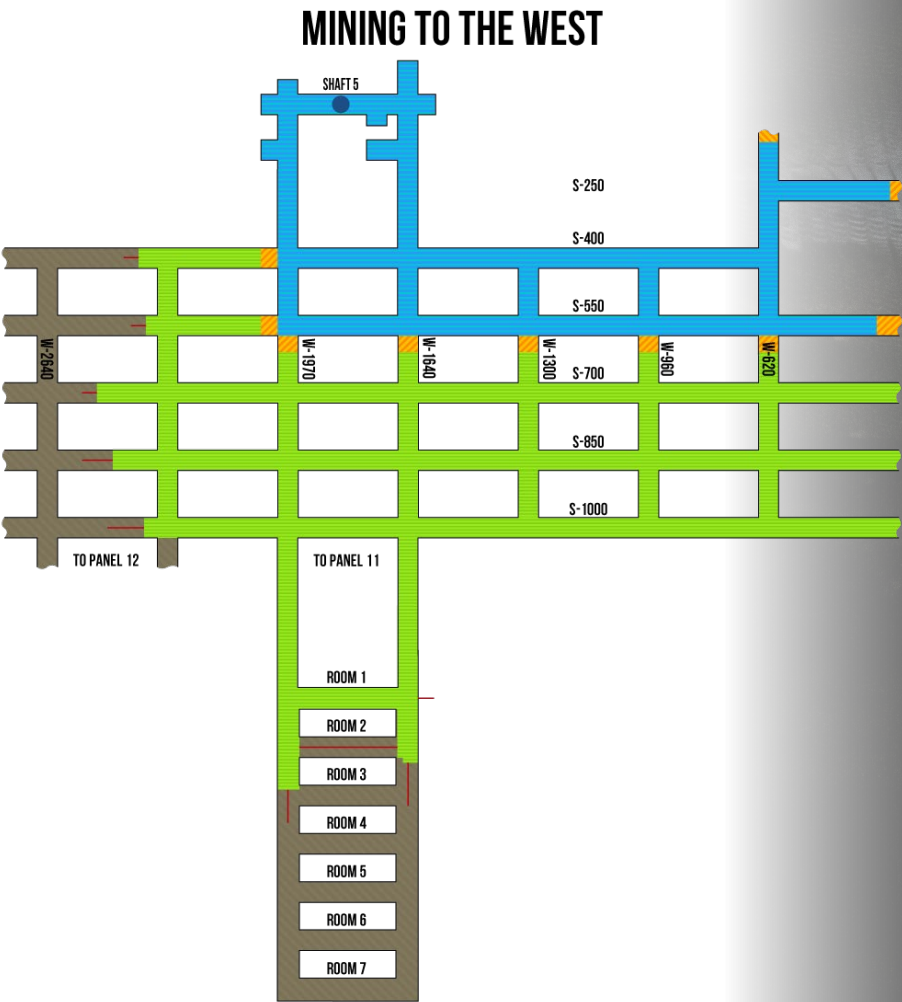


432 waste shipments received in FY2025

Current status:

- Emplacing waste in Panel Eight, Room 3
- 28,867 containers in Panel Eight

Prepping the West Mains & Panel 11

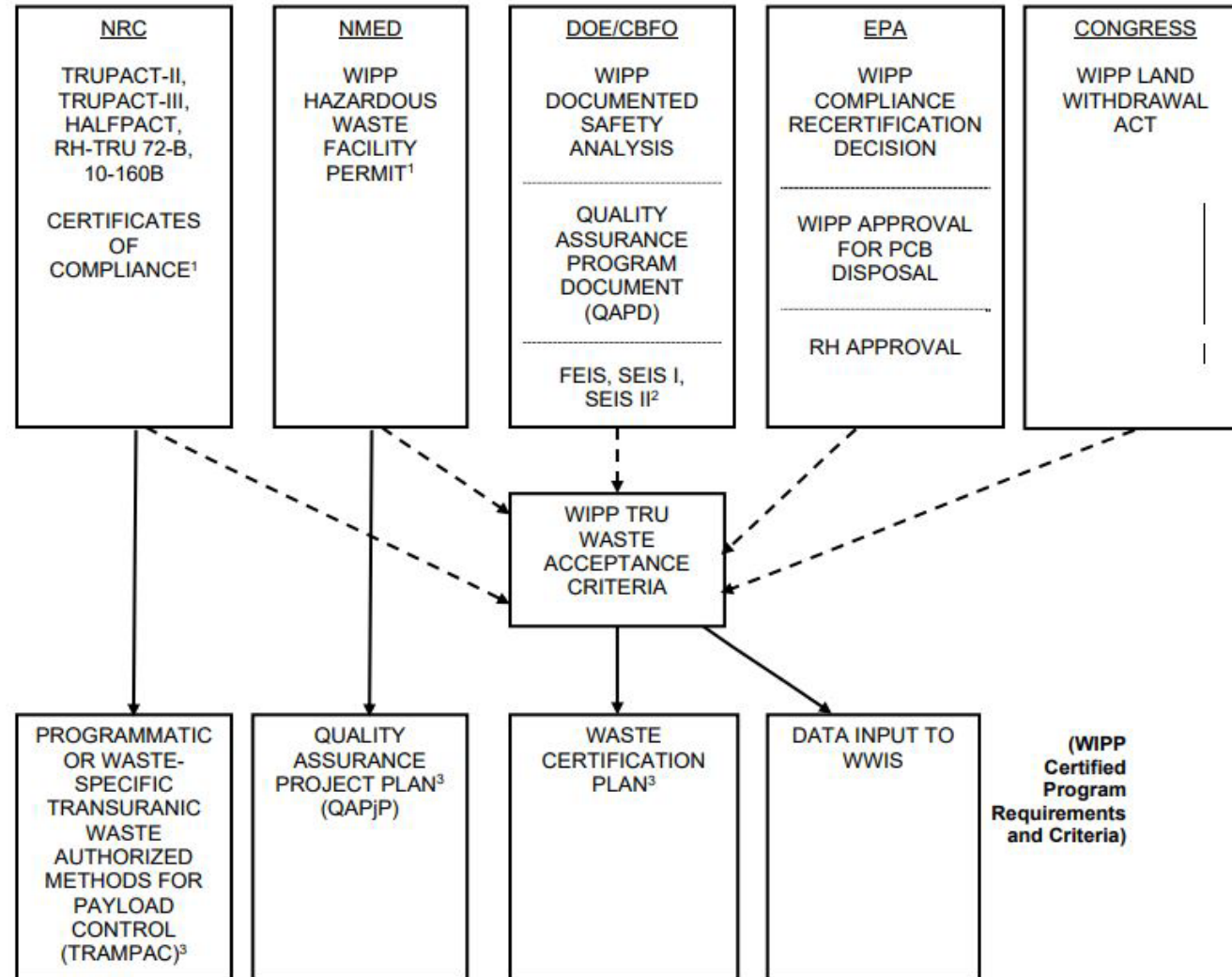


Overall Mission Accomplishments

- Total shipments: **14,623**
- FY25 shipments received: **432**
- Total loaded miles: **17,548,283**
- Total miles driven: **34,739,684**



Governing Requirements



Getting Waste to WIPP



Establish a Certified Program

- Develop and implement program
- CBFO audit, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspection, public comment and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approval

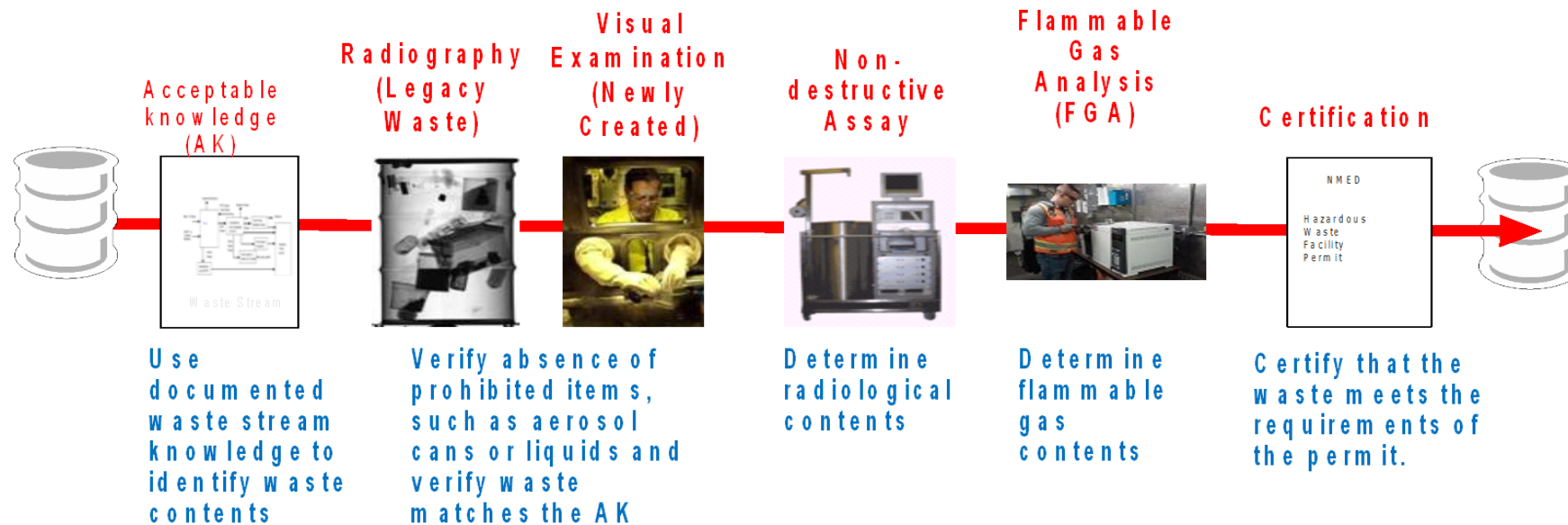
Characterize/Certify Each TRU Mixed Container

- Acceptable knowledge
- Nondestructive examination
- Radiological characterization
- Flammable gas analysis

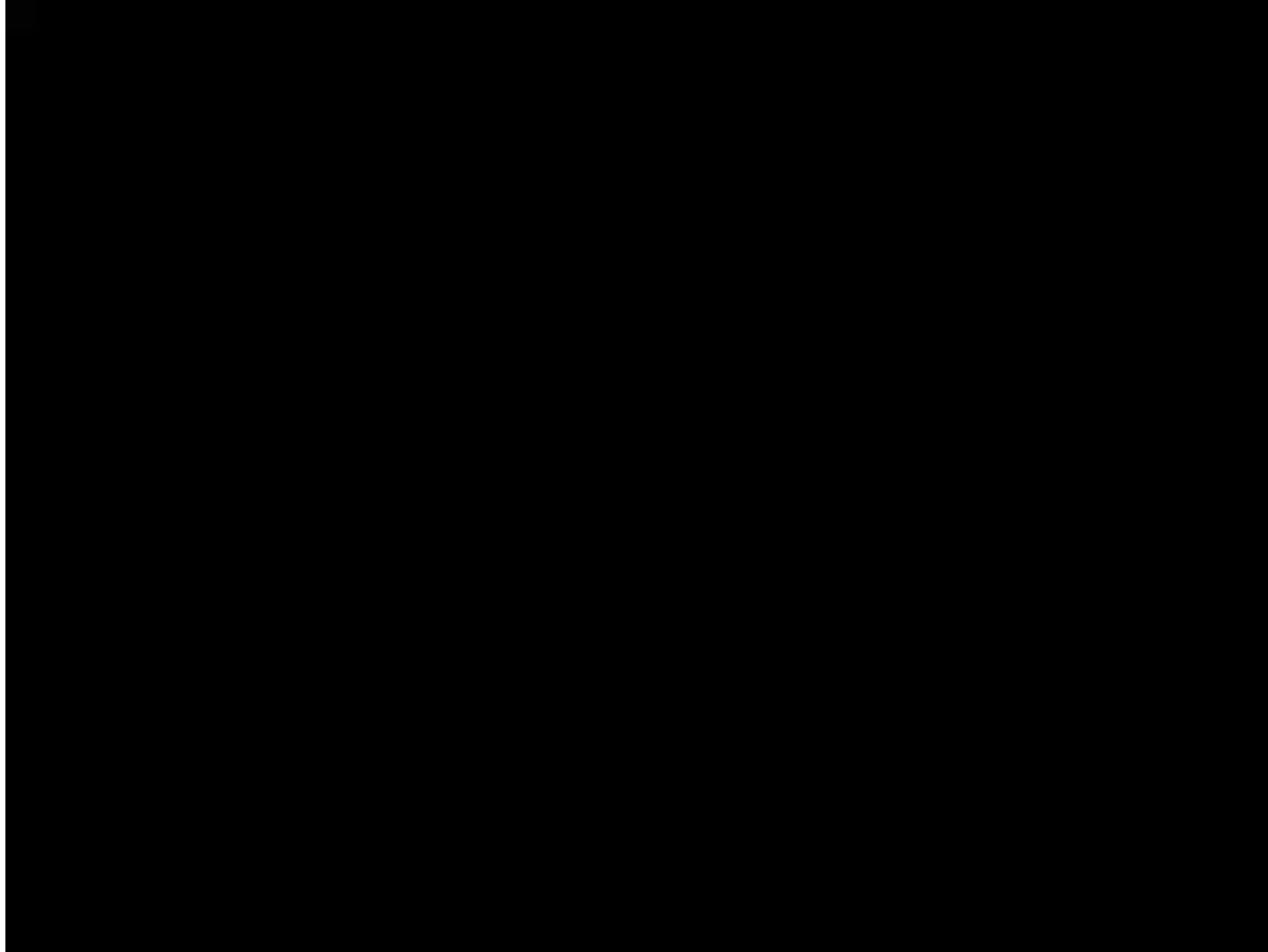
What is Characterization?

Container characterization includes:

- Non-Destructive Examination (NDE): ensure the waste matches the waste stream description per Acceptable knowledge and verify absence of prohibited items in the waste
- Non-Destructive Assay (NDA): determine activity and concentrations of radionuclides
- Flammable Gas Analysis (FGA): determine flammable gases in the void space of container



Real Time Radiography



Repository Siting Annual Report

- **Permit Part 2, Section 2.14.3** – requires a Repository Siting Annual Report each December
- Permittees submitted the first Annual Report on December 23, 2024 and it is publicly available at <https://wipp.energy.gov/other-documents.asp>
- NMED sent recommendations on June 16, 2025
- Permittees are working on the second Annual Report due December 31, 2025



Additional Information

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Check the WIPP website for more details: wipp.energy.gov

For inquiries:

infocntr@wipp.doe.gov

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Check the N3B/LANL website for more details: n3b-la.com/outreach/

For inquiries:

LegacyCleanupFeedback@em-la.doe.gov





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