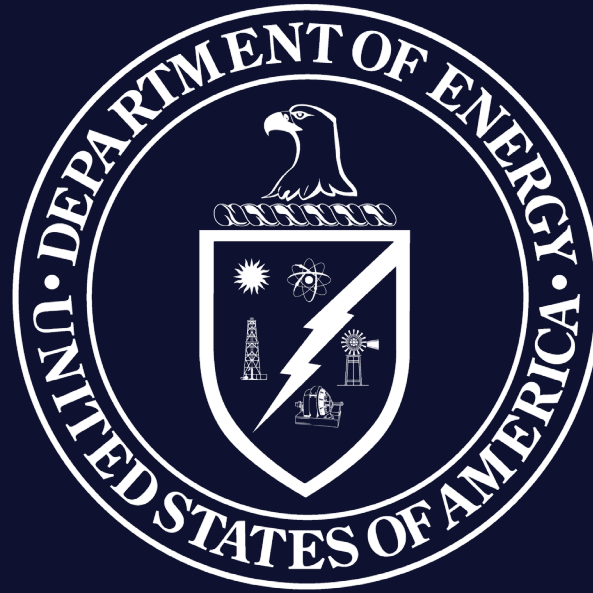




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WIPP Community Forum

August 5, 2026

Ryan Flynn

Salado Isolation Mining Contractors
Deputy Program Manager

John Sanford

Salado Isolation Mining Contractors
Emergency Preparedness Manager

James Mason

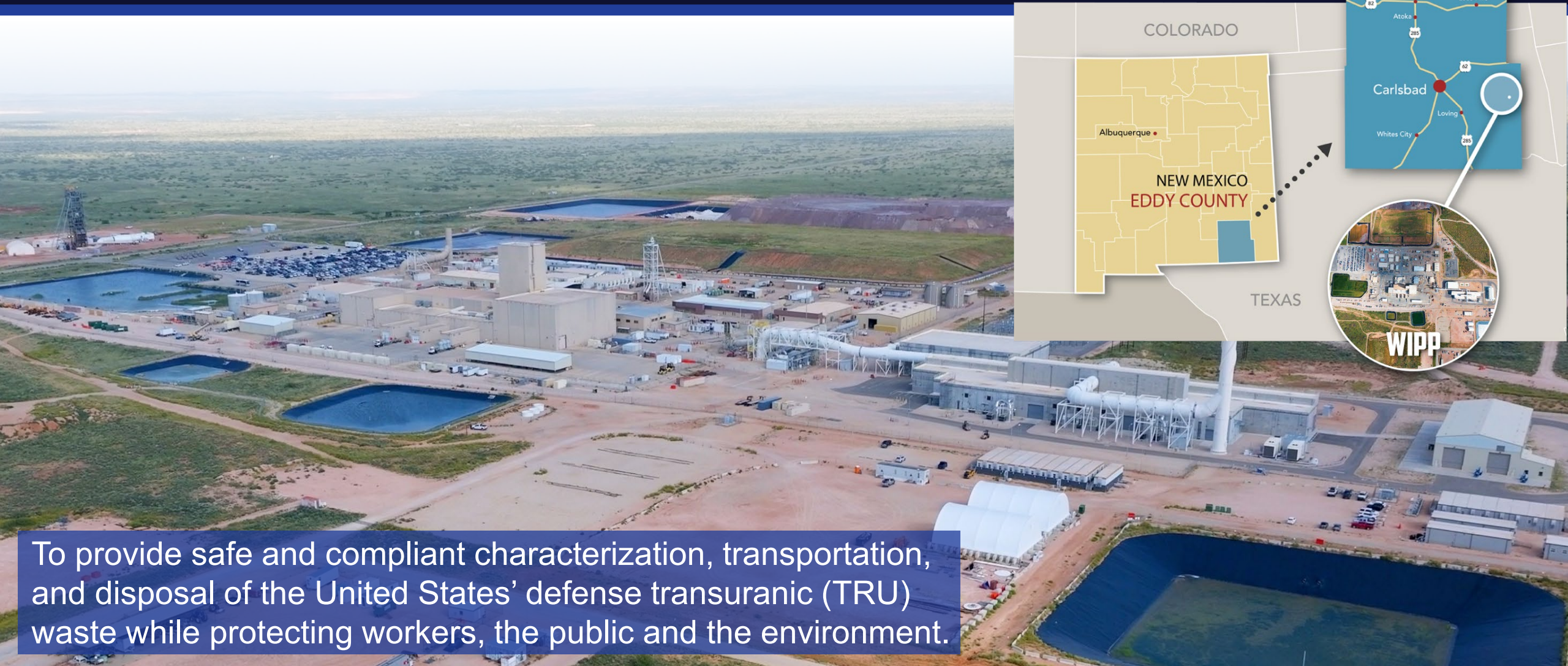
Department of Energy - Carlsbad Field Office
Institutional Affairs Manager



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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

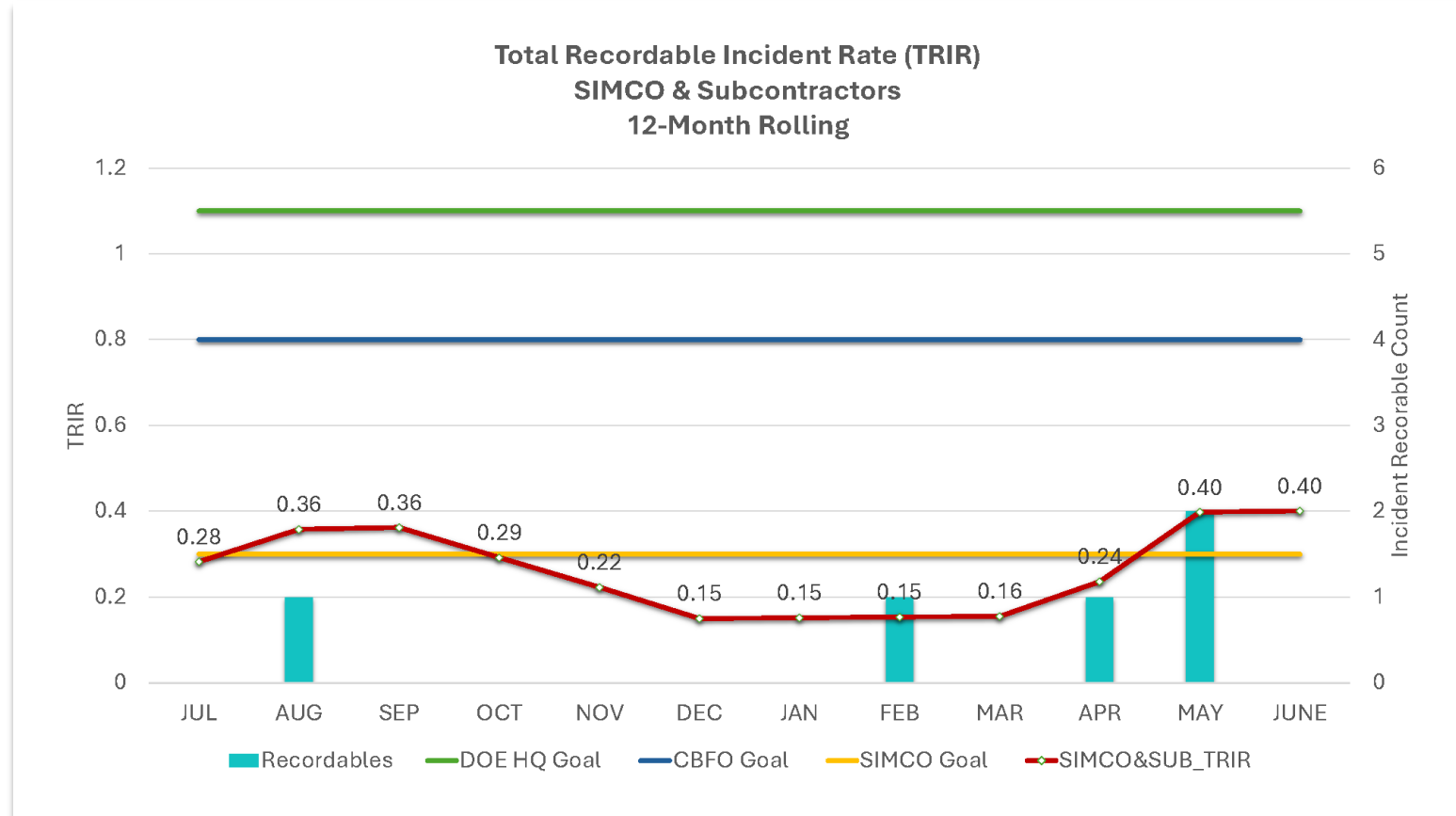
The Department of Energy **owns and oversees the operation of** the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the nation's only deep geologic repository for defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste through:

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



Recordable Incident Rate

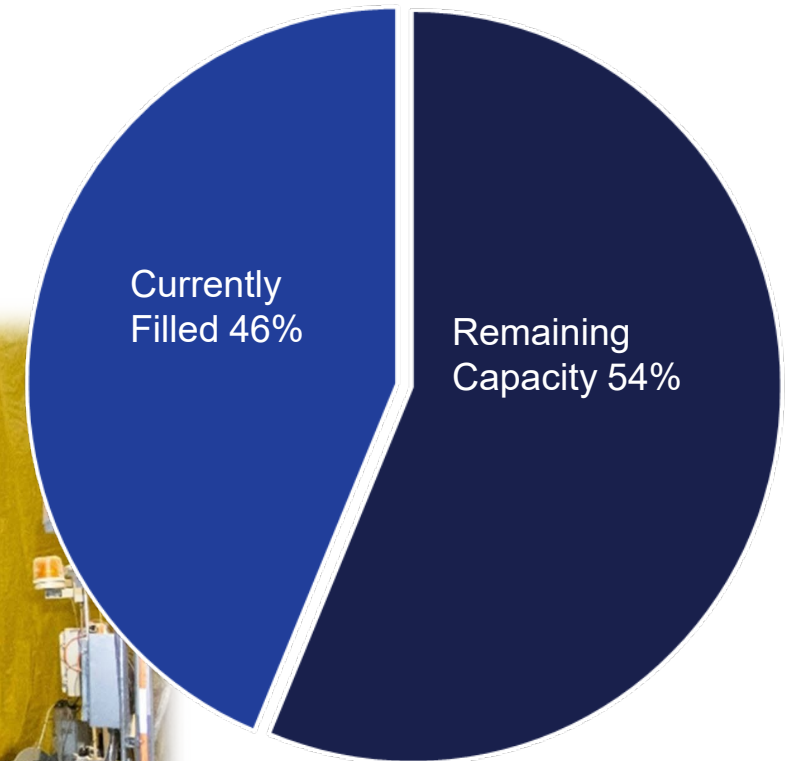
- Recordable rate remains below DOE target goals
 - The 12-month rolling Total Recordable Incident Rate remained at 0.40
 - Trending significantly below the DOE Carlsbad Field Office and DOE Headquarters goals
 - Recordables involving SIMCO employees:
 - April = 1
 - May = 2



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 = 2.8M ft³ (~46%)

WIPP transuranic waste capacity
(cubic feet)



Resume Full Operations

Underground access paused in May due to AIS and salt hoists being out of service

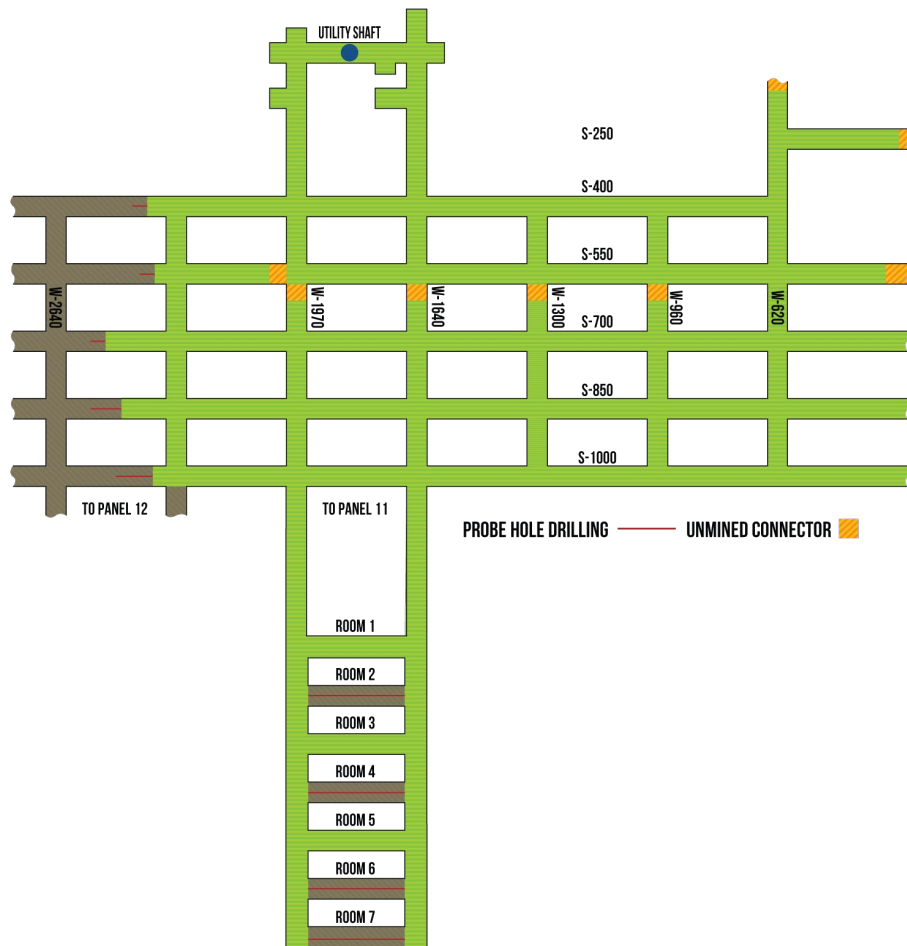
- Limited entry by mining crew during pause
- Waste shipments paused
- Salt hoist motor removed for repairs
- Waste shipments resumed in July, normal access restored and full operations resume



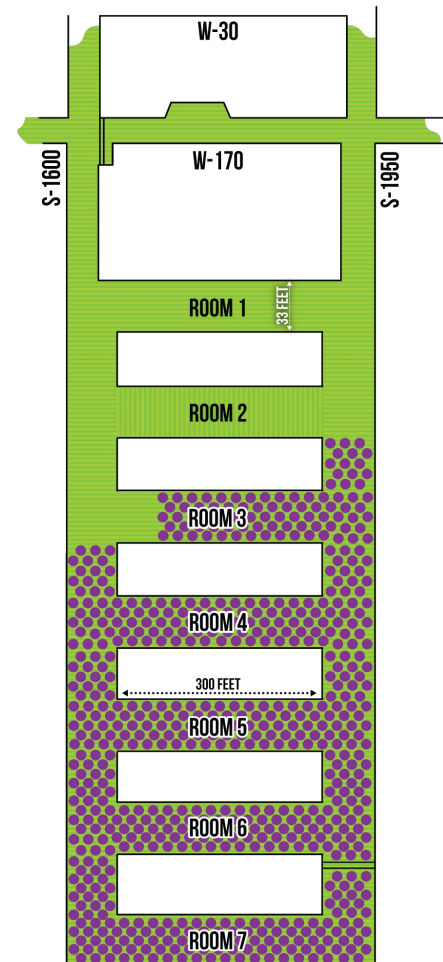
Salt hoist motor lifted and transported for repairs

Panels 8 & 11 Update

MINING TO THE WEST



PANEL EIGHT - EMPLACEMENT



- Waste emplacement in Panel 8 and mining of Panel 11 is crucial to WIPPs continued performance
 - Waste emplacement in Panel 8 Room 3 is ongoing
 - Room 3 is filled to 53% capacity
 - Panel 11 rooms and drifts are mined 40%



WIPP Emergency Management

Partnerships in Emergency Management: Offsite Mutual Aid Organizations

August 5, 2026

John Sanford

Salado Isolation Mining Contractors
Emergency Preparedness Manager



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WIPP Emergency Management Program

Primary Objective:

- Ensure adequate response measures are implemented to protect the health and safety of workers and public during an emergency
- Protect property – our mission assets – and the environment

Comprehensive emergency planning and preparedness activities result in a successful emergency response



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Program Administration

Emergency Management (EM) Organization

- EM Program Manager
 - EM specialists
 - ✓ Emergency planning, emergency response organization (ERO), training, drills & exercises, facilities and equipment readiness, offsite interface and coordination, readiness assurance
 - Mine Rescue Team (MRT) coordinator
 - ✓ Administers the WIPP MRT program, plans and procedures, training, equipment readiness, annual contests

Emergency Services (ES) Organization

- ES Manager (Fire Department Chief)
 - Deputy manager, training chief, compliance officer
 - 4 Shift Crews
 - ✓ Lieutenant, 2nd Lt., 8 firefighters (EMTs/paramedics)
 - ✓ Many of our firefighters come from the surrounding communities



Offsite Emergency Response Organizations

Establishing and maintaining strong relationships with offsite agencies and response organizations is vital to the success of the WIPP Emergency Response Program



Training for new helicopter landing zone

Offsite Emergency Assistance

- During the emergency planning process, WIPP identified the need for various emergency response assistance:

- Fire and EMS
- Hazmat
- Law Enforcement
- Mine Rescue
- Hospital
- Emergency Management

WIPP established and maintains mutual aid agreements for emergency response support



Offsite Mutual Aid



- Notification and requests for offsite mutual aid
 - WIPP incident commander identifies the need for offsite mutual aid support
 - Facility shift manager/CMR notifies REDA/LCCA – request for offsite emergency response support
 - Once on scene, a unified incident command exists
 - Mutual Aid Agreements are *two-way agreements*
 - Offsite support for the WIPP site
 - WIPP Emergency Services or MRT support to offsite

WIPP Mutual Aid Response to Offsite

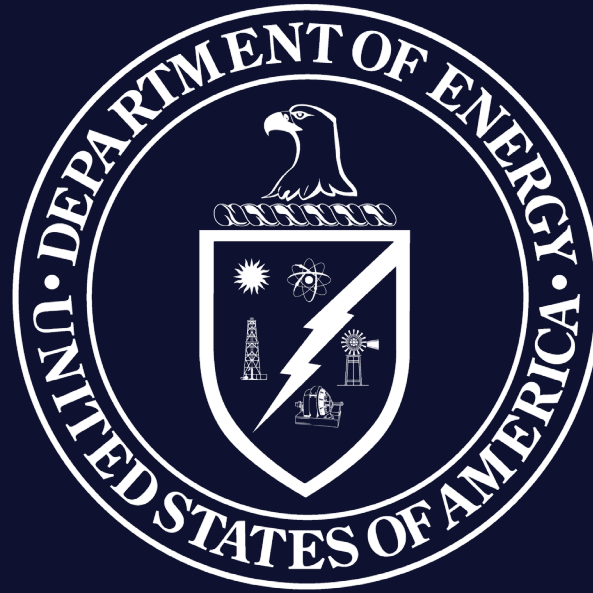


- 57 responses to incidents off the WIPP site
 - Response type breakdown:
 - ~80% EMS/Medical
 - ~12% Fire
 - ~7% Rescue
 - ~2% HazMat
- Highway 62/180 is the highest risk corridor
 - ~60% total response

Maintaining Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency management plan development/maintenance
 - Emergency Response Training
 - Onsite ERO
 - Offsite agency/emergency response organizations training and facility tours
 - Drills and exercises
 - Offsite agency/emergency response organizations invited to participate
 - Quarterly communications checks with offsite response organizations
 - Emergency facilities and equipment maintenance/testing
 - Offsite agency interface
 - Planning and coordination meeting
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings with Eddy and Lea counties
 - MOU reviews and development





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WIPP Transportation Preparedness

James Mason

Carlsbad Field Office

Institutional Affairs Manager

WIPP Land Withdrawal Act

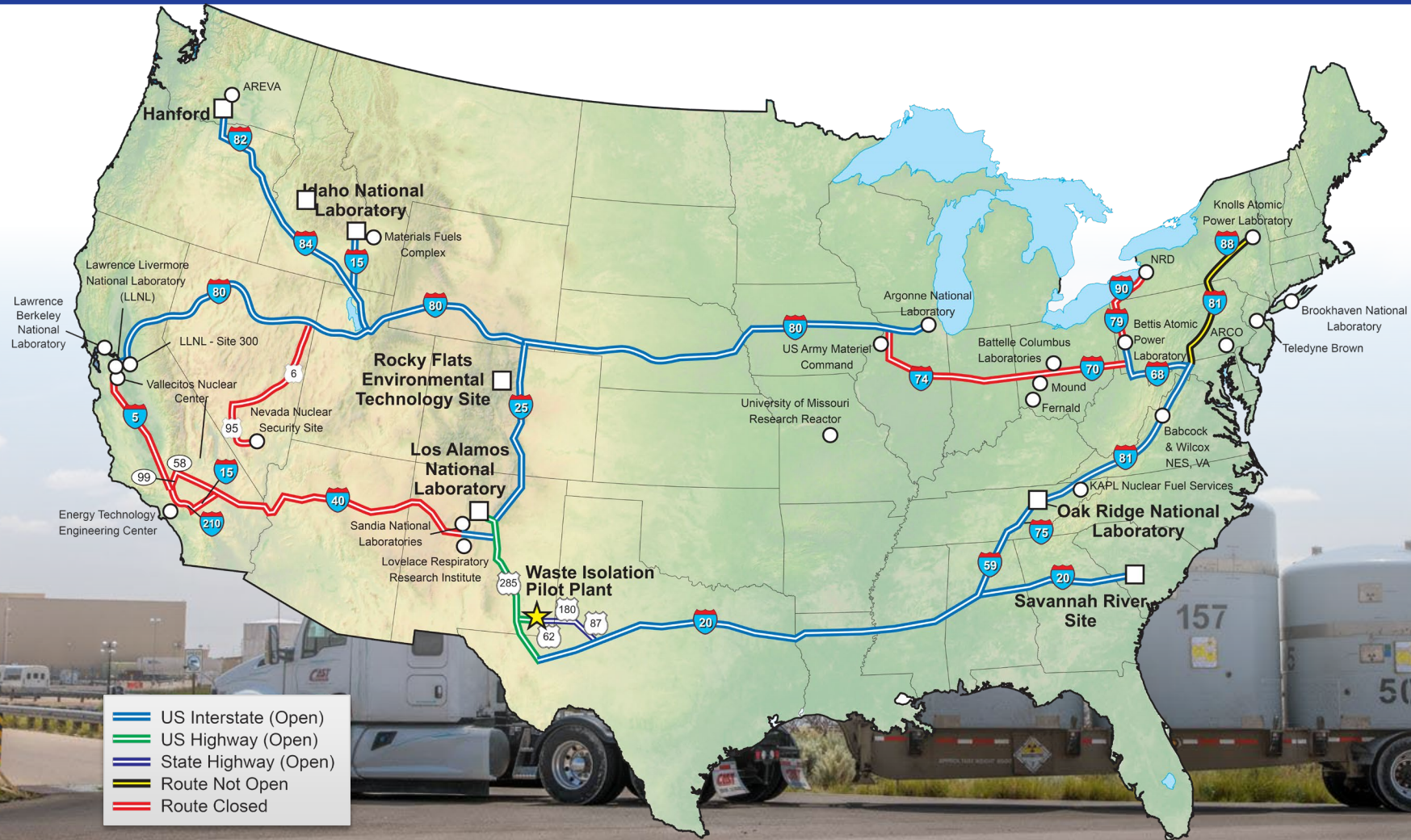
Public Law 102-579; Section 16, Transportation

Provides for program support and technical assistance to tribes and states for accident prevention, preparedness and emergency response for WIPP Transuranic Waste transportation activities

- Support and assistance is limited to state regional groups, states and tribes with jurisdictions servicing negotiated open transportation corridors
 - Most states are coordinated through regional state organizations;
 - Western Interstate Energy Board
 - Southern States Energy Board
 - Council of State Governments, Midwest
 - Council of State Governments, Northeast
 - Six Tribal Nations and the state of New Mexico work under separate stand-alone agreements



WIPP Transportation Corridors



Transportation Preparedness

WIPP Program Coordination

- Assist in providing personnel and material support to state regional groups, states and tribes to coordinate WIPP related activities

Training

- Provide training for response to WIPP related transportation activities

Equipment

- Assist in the purchase and maintenance of equipment

Exercise

- Assist in planning and the conducting WIPP Transportation Exercises (WIPPTREX)

Public Outreach and Education

- Road shows, public education and intergovernmental affairs



Responder Training



Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)

- First responder training for transportation incidents involving radiological materials
- Train-the-Trainer
- Compressed Training (Refresher)

WIPP Transportation Exercise (WIPPTREX)

- Full-scale exercise designed to evaluate preparedness and coordination during a transportation incident
- Exercises involving federal, state, tribal and local agencies working together in realistic emergency response scenarios

Radiological Training for Hospital Personnel

- Patient care for radiologically contaminated patients

Additional Training

TRANSCOM Users/Operators

- Monitoring and tracking of WIPP shipments

Emergency Communications 911 Dispatchers

- Handling calls when radioactive materials are involved

Public Information Officer

- Working with the public and media during incidents

CVSA Level VI Inspection Certification

- Inspection of motor carriers transporting transuranic waste and Highway Route Controlled Quantity shipments of radioactive materials

Medical Examiner/Coroner

- Handling of radiologically contaminated bodies, decontamination and documentation



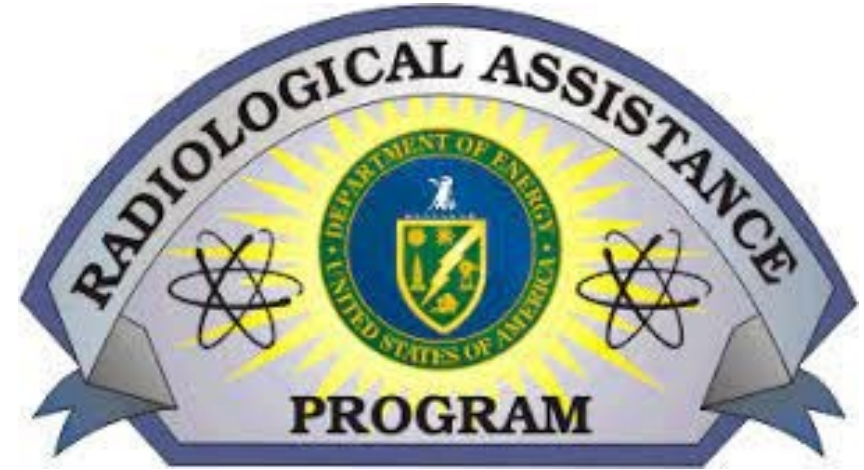
Resources

Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) DOE/NNSA

- RAP provides resources (trained personnel and equipment) to evaluate, assess, advise, identify, search and assist in the mitigation of actual or perceived nuclear or radiological hazards
- Along with teams from around the nation, WIPP's RAP team is capable of providing assistance for transportation incidents involving radiologic materials

Incident/Accident Response Team (IART) DOE/CBFO

- IART provides technical guidance for package recovery in a transportation emergency



Safety Record





Questions?



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Additional Information

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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

For inquiries:

infocntr@wipp.doe.gov





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