



STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH PLAN





WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH PLAN

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PREFACE

What is WIPP?

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) was constructed for disposal of defense-generated transuranic (TRU) waste from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites around the country. WIPP is the only deep geologic permanent waste repository for the disposal of defense generated transuranic (TRU) waste in the United States.

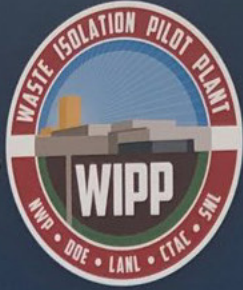
TRU waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, residues, debris, soil, and other items contaminated with small amounts of plutonium and other man-made radioactive elements.

The waste is permanently emplaced in rooms mined in an underground salt bed layer 2,150 feet from the surface.

Why Public Engagement?

The DOE places an extremely high value on public involvement and engagement. Civic engagement creates and maintains a community that is educated, aware, motivated, engaged, and supportive.

WIPP has a variety of avenues that residents use for requests, inquiries, communication, and input. This flow of information is most effective when it works both ways and is fostered at each step. Our processes provide opportunities for people to take part in the conversation, to learn, and to work with others, not just provide input. They are an extension of our efforts and allow for collaborative problem solving.



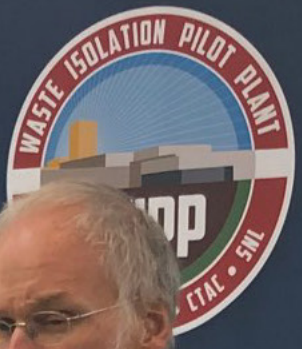
TRUE WASTE TRANSPORTATION

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HAS ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM FOR SAFELY TRANSPORTING TRANSURANIC WASTE TO WIPP FOR PERMANENT DISPOSAL.

WIPP DRIVERS REQUIREMENTS & COMPLETION TRAINING PRIOR TO TRANSPORTING WASTE TO WIPP.

EACH SHIPMENT IS INSPECTED TO THE INDUSTRY'S HIGHEST LEVEL PRIOR TO DEPARTING A TRU WASTE GENERATOR SITE.

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WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

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THE WIPP STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH PLAN

This plan is intended as a guide for all WIPP outreach activities and to complement future operations at the WIPP by offering communication mediums and public involvement opportunities that can be tailored to specific groups or circumstances. For us, outreach is NOT merely checking a box, but it is an opportunity for us to educate both internal and external audiences about the importance of our mission.

This Stakeholder Outreach Plan describes methods for public participation with WIPP. The types of public involvement activities will vary based on governing regulations and the scale of anticipated impacts and sensitivities.

Importance of Strong Stakeholder Relations

WIPP is the nation's only deep geologic long-lived radioactive waste repository and presents the only solution for the disposal of TRU waste. The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which oversees WIPP, recognizes that people nationwide are concerned and affected by the WIPP site. Public input on WIPP related activities plays a vital role in the decision-making process.

Below are some of the key reasons why strong stakeholder relationships are important:

- They allow the agencies involved to consider public values, concerns, and ideas before making a decision.
- If the public is not informed or involved early in the process, they may have reason to doubt, criticize, or challenge permit renewals.







WIPP Principles of Stakeholder Outreach

In order to ensure that public engagement activities are meaningful, we strive to apply the following key principles:

1. Careful Planning and Preparation

Through adequate and inclusive planning, ensure that the design, organization, and convening of the process serve a clearly defined purpose and the needs of the participants.

2. Inclusion and Demographic Diversity

Equitably incorporate diverse people, voices, ideas, and information to lay the groundwork for quality outcomes and democratic legitimacy.

3. Transparency and Trust

Be clear and open about the process and provide a public record of the organizers, sponsors, outcomes, and range of views and ideas expressed.

4. Impact and Action

Ensure each participatory effort has real potential to make a difference and that participants are aware of that potential.

5. Sustained Engagement and Participatory Culture

Promote a culture of participation with programs and institutions that support ongoing quality public engagement.

Who are WIPP Stakeholders?

The CBFO defines “stakeholder” broadly to include all employees, individuals, organizations, tribal nations, and governmental bodies that have a general interest in, are affected by, or charged by statute to regulate or oversee WIPP. In short, you.

If you are a local resident or someone reading this plan, you have expressed or have an interest in WIPP’s activities and

hold a stake in its decisions. Stakeholders may vary and offer different views, values, and concerns, but everyone plays a role in the future of WIPP. Whether your primary interest is jobs, a cleaner environment, or careful stewardship of tax dollars, we want and welcome your input.

Major Stakeholder Groups

A number of stakeholder groups closely monitor all aspects of WIPP. The groups represent a wide range of interests and include the Office of Environmental Management's Site Specific Advisory Boards or Citizen Advisory Boards, which focus on the role WIPP has in the overall cleanup of the DOE complex; regional multi-state government organizations that focus on TRU waste shipments through their states; local residents with an interest in WIPP events and progress; and advocacy groups that tend to serve a watchdog role in their interest in WIPP.

External Stakeholder Groups Include:

- **Carlsbad Mayor's Nuclear Opportunities Task Force**

The Carlsbad Mayor's Nuclear Opportunities Task Force (formerly known as the Mayor's WIPP Task Force) is mainly comprised of local government leaders and businesspersons. Membership on this board is approved by the mayor of Carlsbad. The task force considers and supports safe nuclear related economic development within southeastern New Mexico.

- **Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board**

The Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board is a community advisory group that was chartered in 1997 to provide citizen input to the DOE on issues of environmental monitoring, remediation, waste



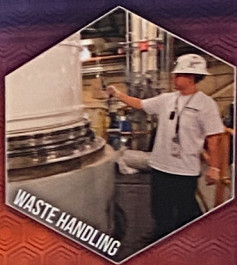
management, and long-term environmental stewardship at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The advisory board takes a keen interest of goings on at WIPP as these issues pertain to New Mexico citizens.

- **Western Governors' Association (WGA)**

The WGA represents the governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S. territories. The WGA supports federal radioactive waste transport safety requirements designed to protect public health and safety and attributes the success of the WIPP TRU waste transportation system to collaborative planning efforts between the DOE and the Western states to develop



SERVING OUR NATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS
SAFELY DISPOSING THE NATION'S TRANSURANIC WASTE



and implement the WGA WIPP Transportation Safety Program.

- **Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)**

The SSEB was created by state law to contribute to the economic and community well-being of the southern region. Their mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies.

- **Midwest Council of State Governments (CSG-MW)**

The Council of State Governments is the nation's only

nonpartisan association of state officials serving all three branches of government in all 50 states and the U.S. territories. CSG-MW focuses on meeting the needs of state policy makers and leaders in the nation's heartland, including 11 Midwestern states: and four Canadian provinces. A joint project exists between CSG-MW and the DOE called the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project. Since its inception in 1989, this project has helped state governments in the Midwest learn about and provide input into the DOE's plans for shipping radioactive materials through the region.





impacts of nuclear activities, while promoting a clean, renewable energy future. The organization embraces an energy future that addresses climate change in a clean, cost effective, and equitable manner, leaving future generations free of the nuclear waste burden.

- **Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)**

CARD was founded in 1978 by Hispanic activists and community members from SE New Mexico who were concerned about threats to their communities' health and welfare. In the 1980s, CARD expanded its mission to protecting the people and land of New Mexico from radioactive contamination.

WIPP Regulators/Oversight Groups

- **Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC)**

The SRIC was founded in 1971 for the purpose of providing information to the public on the effects of energy development and resource exploitation on the people and their cultures, lands, water, and air of New Mexico and the Southwest.

- **Sovereign Nations**

There are 23 sovereign nations inside the borders of New Mexico. The Energy Conservation and Management Division worked with four pueblos to develop a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy regarding WIPP Transportation Safety.

- **Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS)**

CCNS' mission is to "protect all living beings and the environment from the effects of radioactive and other hazardous materials now and in the future."

- **Snake River Alliance**

The Snake River Alliance works to protect Idaho's people, environment, and economy from the adverse

- **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)**

The NMED regulates the chemically hazardous components in TRU mixed waste under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In 1999, the NMED issued a Hazardous Waste Facility Permit to manage, store, and dispose of TRU mixed waste at WIPP. The NMED is responsible for issuing and modifying the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit and for WIPP oversight for compliance with the permit.

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The 1992 WIPP Land Withdrawal Act and final amendments required the EPA to develop and implement long-term radioactive waste disposal standards for WIPP. The EPA evaluates WIPP at five-year intervals for compliance to disposal standards and has the authority to recertify, suspend, or revoke WIPP certification.



- **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)**

The NRC is responsible for certifying the Type B shipping packages used to transport TRU waste to WIPP. The NRC evaluates and certifies Type B shipping packages to quality assurance criteria contained in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 71: “Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material.” Package modifications require NRC approval prior to use or implementation. Changes may include hardware, authorized payload containers, and payload parameters. The NRC has issued Certificates of Compliance for the TRUPACT-II, TRUPACT-III, HalfPACT, and RH72-B to transport TRU waste to WIPP.

- **Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB)**

The DNFSB is an independent agency of the United States government. Established in 1988, the DNFSB oversees the nuclear weapons complex administered by the DOE.

- **Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center (CEMRC)**

The Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring & Research Center, a division of the College of Engineering at New Mexico State University, provides independent monitoring of the WIPP site and surrounding areas. The radiochemistry facility consists of environmental

and general radiochemistry laboratories, a special plutonium-uranium lab, an in vivo bioassay facility, mobile laboratories, computing operations, and offices.

- **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**

Section 11 of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act stipulates that the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) shall inspect the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in the same manner as that for other mine sites for compliance to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977. MSHA performs compliance assistance visit notifications to WIPP to ensure prompt and effective corrections to address safety and health deficiencies.

Local Governments/Economic Development Organizations

- **City of Artesia**

Artesia is located in southeastern New Mexico, nestled above Carlsbad in the north of Eddy County. The combined efforts of the business community, civic leaders, and government agencies have enabled Artesia to foster a healthy entrepreneurial environment and diversified economy.

- **Artesia Chamber of Commerce** Their mission is to

develop positive economic opportunities, foster a favorable business climate, and encourage a vibrant quality of life in the City of Artesia and Eddy County.

- **City of Carlsbad**

Carlsbad is the county seat of Eddy County. Located in the Chihuahuan Desert on the beautiful Pecos River at an elevation of 3,295 feet, the city is an advocate for the economic development and growth of its industries including WIPP.

- **Carlsbad Department of Development**

The Carlsbad Department of Development actively works to retain and grow local businesses, recruit new ones, and expand economic opportunities for all our residents. They have been a strong supporter of growing the nuclear industry in the area to create more jobs and opportunities for New Mexico.

- **Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce**

Their mission is to provide leadership, guidance, and support to the business community for the promotion of economic, community, and tourism growth.

- **City of Hobbs**

As part of the Permian Basin, Hobbs derives a significant amount of its employment and trade from all phases of the oil and gas industry, as well as WIPP. Hobbs is in Lea County, which is known as the “EnergyPlex,” with an emphasis on all aspects of energy development, including petroleum, nuclear, and renewables.

- **Hobbs Chamber of Commerce**

Through policy, advocacy, member education and cooperative marketing, the Hobbs Chamber provides the tools and creates the environment for Hobbs-area businesses to thrive. They consider WIPP a major employer in the area and have a positive relationship with nuclear industry.

- **Village of Loving**

The Village of Loving is located approximately 12 miles southeast of Carlsbad on US-285 and is a part of Eddy County. It is a small community of around 2,500 people who depend on agriculture, mining, oil and gas, and nuclear material management. Loving has its own municipal school system, municipal water and sewer utilities, and a thriving business community.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Public Notices

WIPP will supply public notifications here
<https://wipp.energy.gov/public-notice>

Public Notification System

In accordance with the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, an email notification process has been established to inform stakeholders.

Please note that the email notification service is in addition to the information available through the WIPP facility mailing list, which is maintained by the New Mexico Environment Department at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp>

Ways to Get Involved and Learn More

WIPP Website

A variety of information is available on the WIPP website at <https://wipp.energy.gov>, which serves as a public-facing information source. The website includes fact sheets, news releases, permit-related information and a variety of other topics.

Social Media

News and human interest items are posted on the WIPP Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube accounts to allow stakeholders the opportunity to receive additional information and interact with WIPP. As social media evolves, other forms of social media will be explored.

<https://www.facebook.com/WIPPNews>

<https://twitter.com/WIPPNEWS>

<https://www.instagram.com/wippnews/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkLIpoaiNAn06MBkKfuMbg>

Speakers Bureau

Through the Speakers Bureau, the WIPP Communications Group reaches small and medium-sized groups of people with information about WIPP and the management of TRU waste. Speaking engagements may be initiated either by interested groups or by the Speakers Bureau staff. Audiences are likely to include civic, professional, and community service groups, as well as active stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in WIPP. To learn more or to schedule a Speakers Bureau with your group, visit wipp.energy.gov/speakersbureau or email INFOCNTR@wipp.ws with the subject line “Speakers Bureau.”

WIPP Facility Tours

Tours of the WIPP facility are one of the most effective methods for sharing information with interested stakeholders. The purpose of WIPP facility tours are to provide approved visitors an opportunity to see WIPP and learn about the project’s mission and commitment to the protection of employees, the public, and the environment.

It is important for key decision-makers and centers of influence to see the WIPP facility firsthand. What they learn is invaluable to WIPP’s mission, the nation’s nuclear future, and international repository development.

Please direct any questions to the WIPP Communications Group tour facility coordinator by emailing INFOCNTR@wipp.ws with the subject line “Tour Request.”

WIPP Virtual Tours

An informative tour of the WIPP site is available at <https://wipp.energy.gov/about-us>. You can also request a WIPP Communications staff member to present the virtual tour.



WIPP Town Hall Meetings/Public Outreach Meetings

These meetings are held periodically, as warranted, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, or virtually (e.g., WebEx, Zoom). Other locations may be utilized depending on the request. The meetings are live-streamed, when possible, to allow interested stakeholders not able to attend in person to view and interact with the presenters. Web viewers are able to submit their electronic questions and have them addressed. These meetings are also archived on the WIPP web page and are available for viewing. To be notified of these meetings, please sign up at: wipp.energy.gov/stakeholders/notice

News Media

News releases are issued to local, state, regional and national media when newsworthy events occur to ensure stakeholders remain informed.

WIPP Road Shows

Road shows consist of an actual WIPP transporter, including tractor, trailer, and packages. The road show travels to locations along WIPP transportation routes and provides stakeholders, elected officials, and first responders an opportunity to learn more about TRU waste transportation. Road shows are typically requested by local government agencies, tribal representatives and others supporting the transportation of TRU waste to WIPP.

Conferences/Trade Shows

WIPP may engage related industry officials by participating at conferences and trade shows. On a more limited basis, WIPP/National TRU Program organizations may provide staff and props to conference and trade show exhibits.

Volunteerism

WIPP believes in the communities of southeastern New Mexico and strives to be a good neighbor and dependable public partner to municipalities and organizations in the area. Part of the way WIPP achieves this is through employee volunteerism. All employees, whether they are part of the CBFO or a contractor, are encouraged to volunteer within their areas of expertise. WIPP shares frequent volunteer opportunities, such as loading food into vehicles at a United Way food drive or manning a booth at the Carlsbad MainStreet Third Thursday Farmers & Makers Market in the summer. Events like this connect employees to the community and foster goodwill among all involved. Let us know about upcoming volunteer opportunities by sending an email to volunteer@wipp.ws

SITE INFORMATION

Overview of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and National TRU Program

The WIPP facility is owned by the DOE, and oversight of TRU waste operations is provided by the CBFO. The WIPP management and operations contractor performs day-to-day plant operations to facilitate permanent TRU waste disposal. In addition, the WIPP management and operations contractor is responsible for TRU waste characterization/certification at multiple TRU waste generator sites across the United States and management of the TRU waste transportation program to ship waste to WIPP for disposal.

Where is WIPP?

In 1992, Congress withdrew 16 sections of land from the public domain to be used by the DOE for the WIPP facility. The WIPP facility is designed and operated for the safe disposal of TRU radioactive waste resulting from U.S. nuclear defense programs.

The WIPP facility is located 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and consists of surface facilities that receive and prepare waste for disposal, as well as an underground repository that includes disposal rooms excavated from a geologically stable salt formation nearly one-half mile underground.

What is TRU Waste?

Transuranic (TRU) waste is waste that contains man-made elements heavier than uranium on the periodic table. TRU waste consists of materials containing alpha-emitting radionuclides, with half-lives greater than 20 years and atomic numbers greater than 92, in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries per gram of waste. It is produced during nuclear fuel assembly, nuclear weapons research and production, and during the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. TRU waste is also generated as some DOE sites are decommissioned. TRU waste generally consists of protective clothing, tools, and equipment used in these processes.





Some TRU waste contains non-radioactive chemicals (such as solvents) that are classified as hazardous waste under federal and state law.

The WIPP Land Withdrawal Act specifically excludes high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel from the definition, as neither is allowed to be disposed of at WIPP.

emnr.d.nm.gov/wipp-transportation-safety-program/wipp-land-withdrawal-act

The WIPP Hazardous Waste Permit

env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wipp-permit-page

The WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit issued by the NMED is required for the DOE to manage and dispose of TRU hazardous “mixed” waste.

In late 1999, the NMED issued the initial WIPP permit that allowed the DOE to receive its first TRU mixed waste shipment for disposal at the WIPP facility. The permit was

renewed for a 10-year period in 2010. NMED is currently reviewing the 2020 permit application.

Groundwater Discharge Permit

wipp.energy.gov/environmental-monitoring-documents

Discharges at this Facility include stormwater directed to synthetically lined evaporation impoundments from the facility grounds and from active and inactive salt cells. Additionally, the Facility discharges industrial wastewater to synthetically lined evaporation impoundments from the following sources: brine, purge waters from sampling and developing Facility monitoring wells, condensate from the Exhaust Shaft fan ductwork on the surface, and water collected from the Waste Shaft Sump, Exhaust Shaft Interception Wells, and other observation boreholes in the underground. The Facility discharges domestic wastewater to a synthetically lined evaporation impoundment system.

What is the National Transuranic Program?

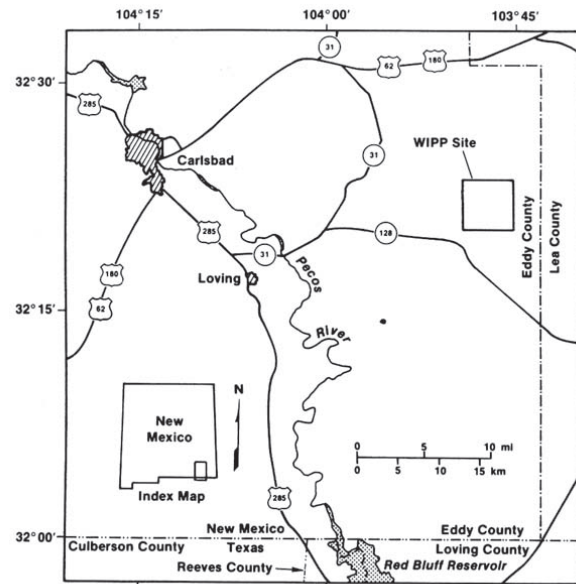
The NTP is responsible for ensuring TRU waste meets WIPP

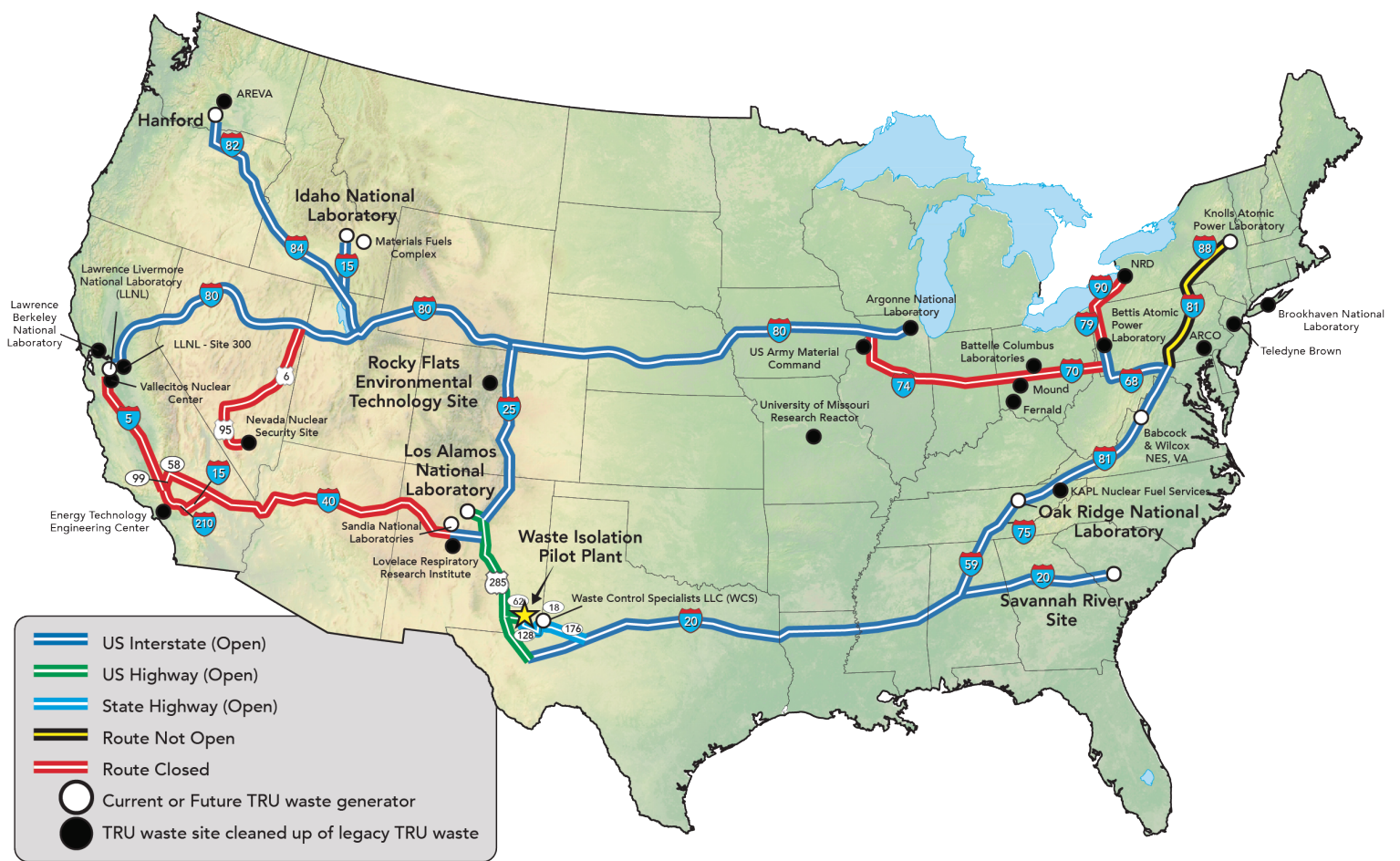
Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) requirements for shipment to WIPP. This means that all TRU waste shipped to WIPP from DOE waste generator sites must be characterized by a WIPP-certified program and in compliance with WIPP's disposal, packaging, and transportation requirements.

The WAC aligns with the WIPP Documented Safety Analysis (DSA), addressing applicable hazards, both radiological and nonradiological, and the controls necessary to provide adequate protection to the public, workers, and the environment. The WIPP DSA demonstrates the extent to which the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant can be operated safely with respect to workers, the public, and the environment.

The WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit requires the following processes to meet the WIPP WAC:

- Two categories of TRU waste
 - ✓ Contact-handled
 - ✓ Remote-handled
- Acceptable Knowledge – Living document of the historical information/evaluations on waste streams, including:
 - ✓ Chemical Compatibility Evaluations
 - ✓ Established Basis of Knowledge for waste streams that contain oxidizing chemicals such as nitrate salts
 - ✓ Nondestructive examination
 - ▶ Real Time Radiography or
 - ▶ Visual Examination
 - ✓ Nondestructive assay
 - ✓ Headspace/flammable gas sampling
- CBFO/WIPP management and operations contractor conducting Generator Site Technical Reviews, confirming that appropriate processes and procedures governing the treatment, packaging certification and management of TRU waste are adequately implemented to ensure that TRU waste containers are compliant with WIPP requirements.







- CBFO conducting annual certification/recertification audits independently verify that the generator sites and certified programs are compliantly preparing the waste for disposal.

How is TRU Waste Transported?

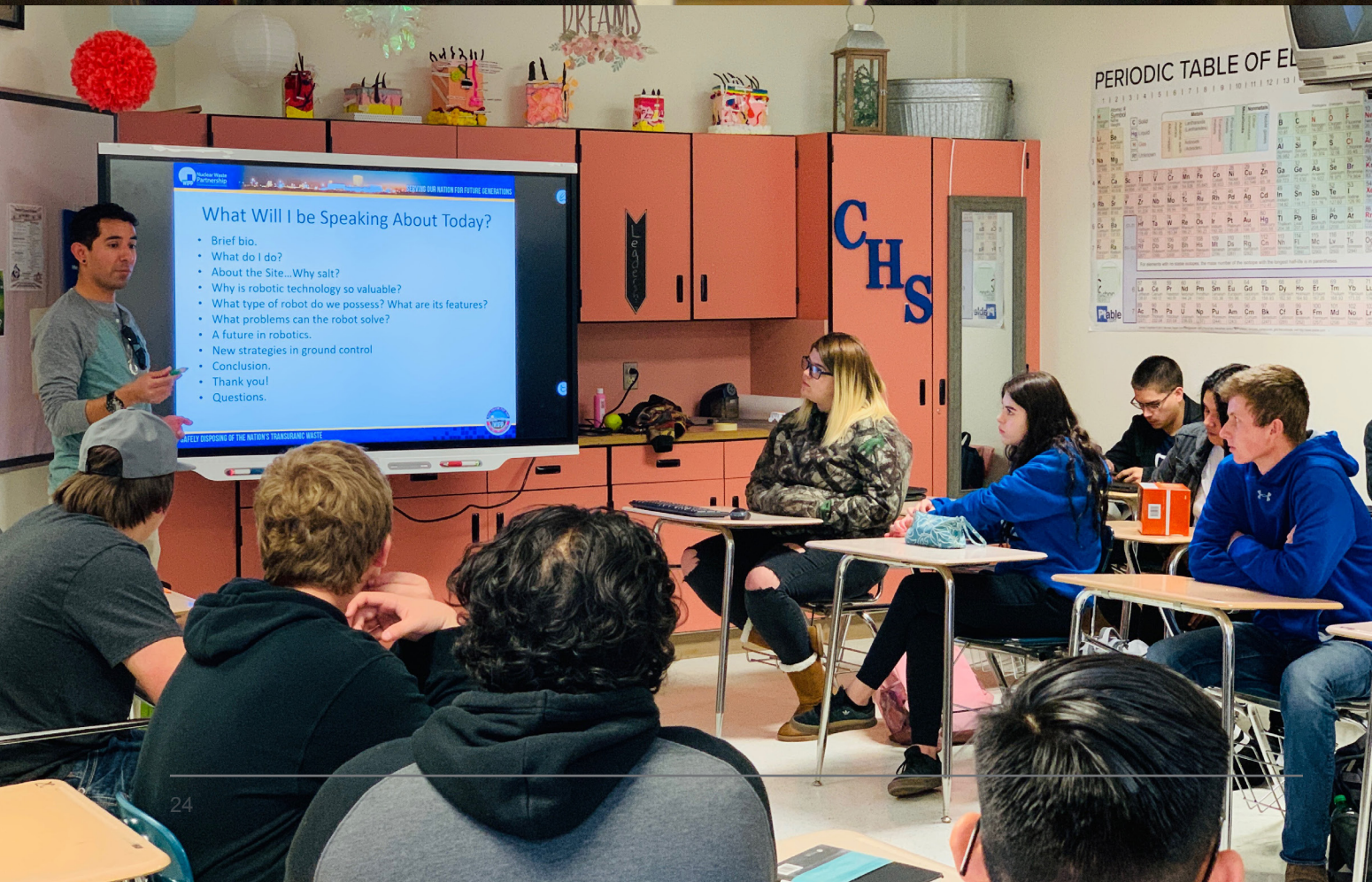
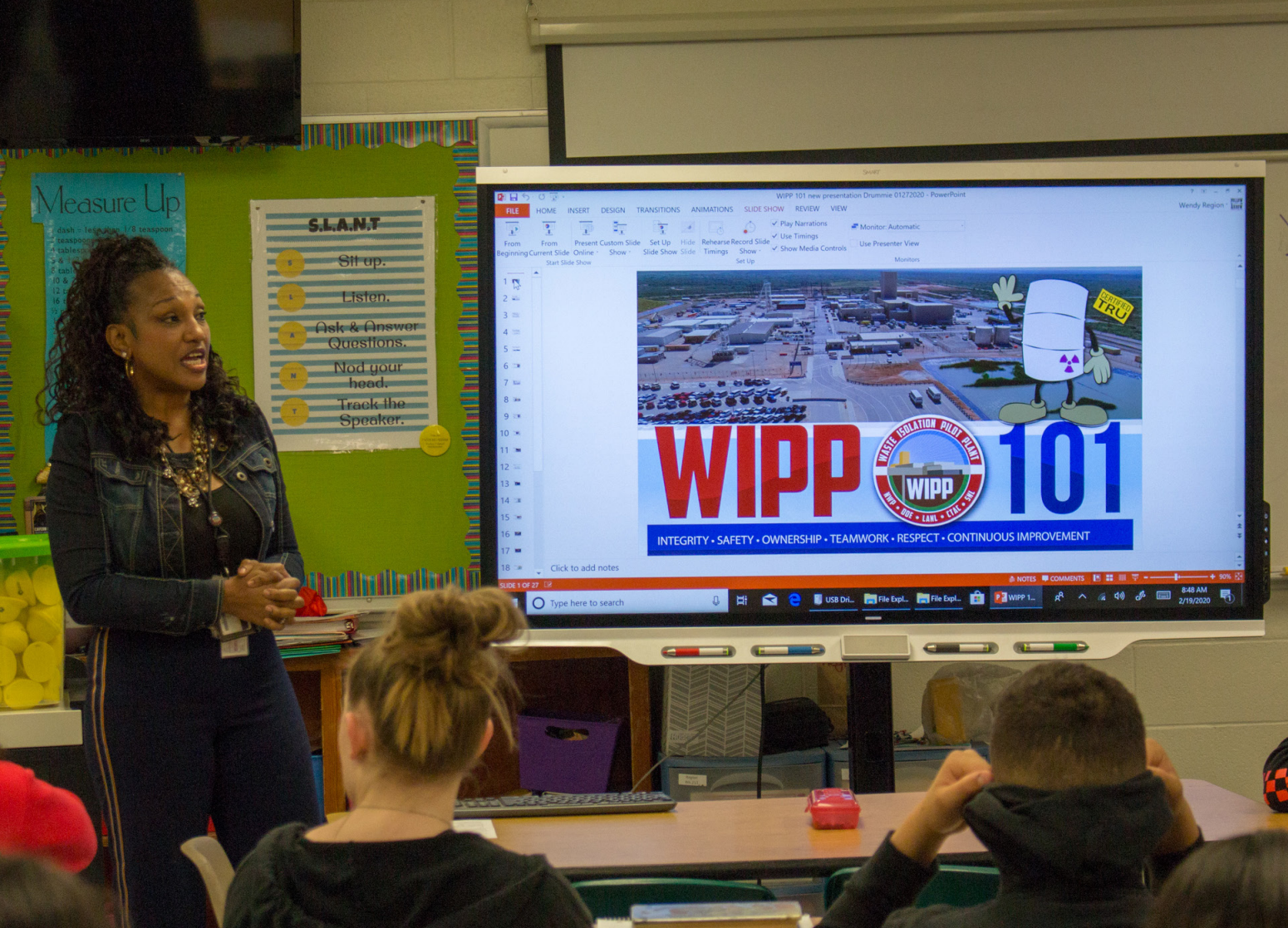
TRU waste shipped to WIPP must meet WIPP WAC requirements, as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements for Type B shipping packages. These shipments follow protocols driven by memoranda of agreement between the DOE and state/tribal regional groups (e.g., Western Governors Association), such as en route shipment tracking, predetermined WIPP routes and adherence to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance-Level VI inspection criteria.

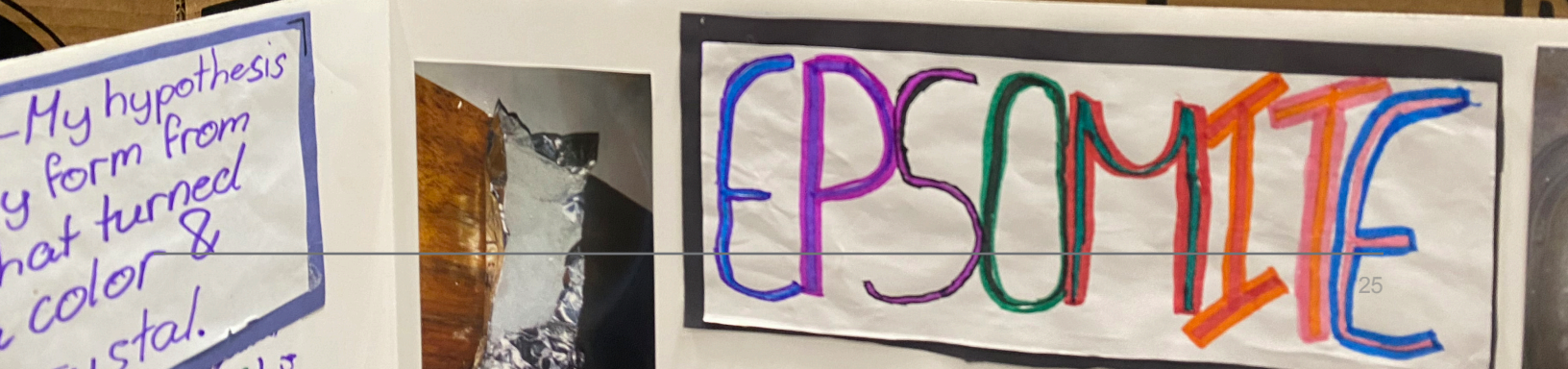
The Future of WIPP

The 1992 WIPP Land Withdrawal Act limits the total amount of waste received from off-site generators and any derived waste to 175,600 cubic meters of TRU waste, of which up to 7,080 cubic meters may be remote-handled TRU mixed waste.

As WIPP continues to provide the DOE a proven disposal method for TRU waste, the WIPP life cycle is currently approved through 2034. However, based on the inventory of available defense-generated TRU waste, planning is anticipated for 2050 or beyond, pending regulatory approvals.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is committed to ensure that the principles of environmental justice (EJ) are applied to all the DOE's programs, policies, and activities. In pursuit of our mission and goals, we treat people fairly and achieve early and meaningful involvement by our affected communities and broader stakeholder populations.

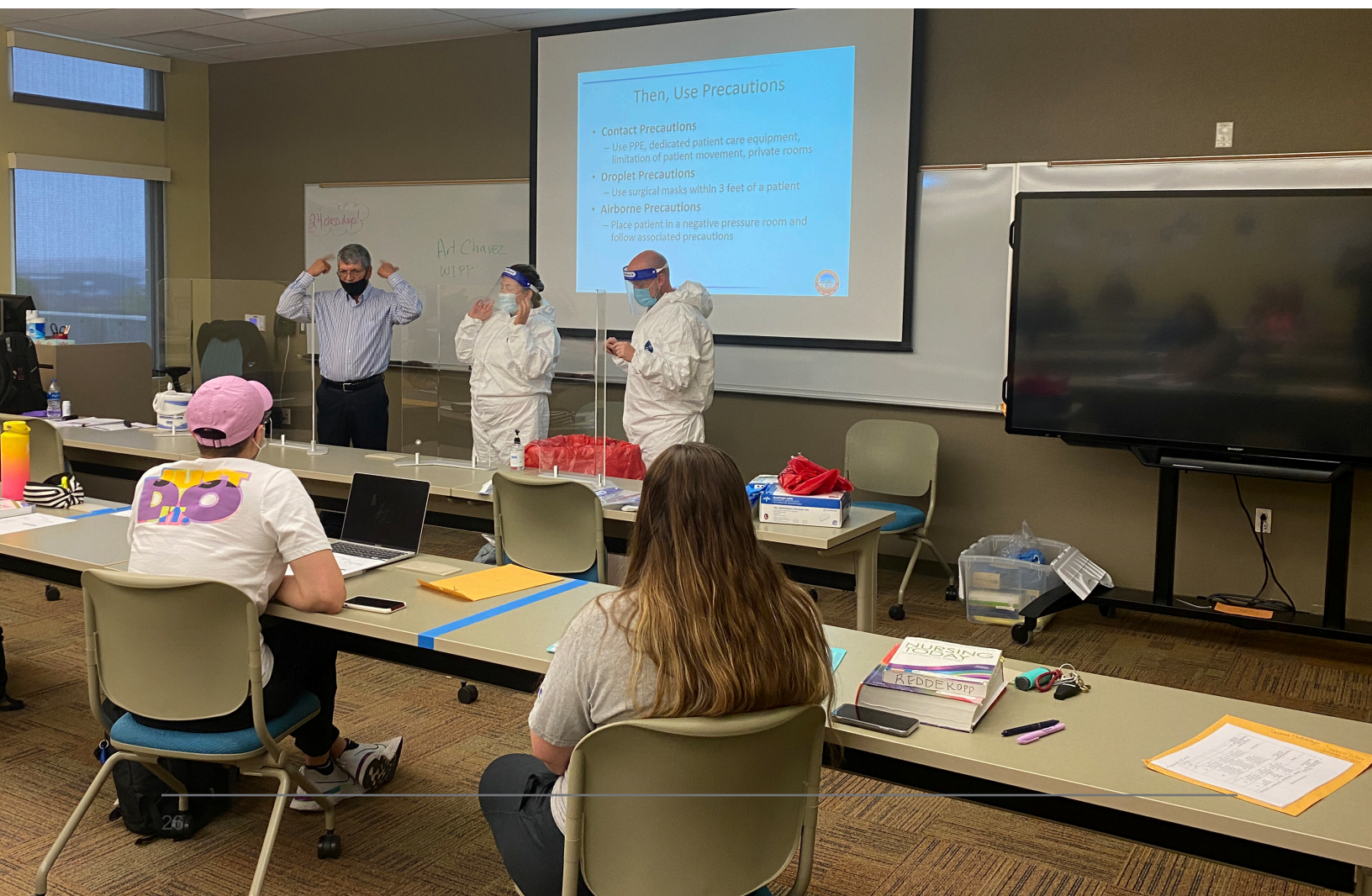




APPENDIX A

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBFO	Carlsbad Field Office
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NTP	National TRU Program
TRU	Transuranic
WAC	Waste Acceptance Criteria
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



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