

# WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

Update to Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee

(RHMC)

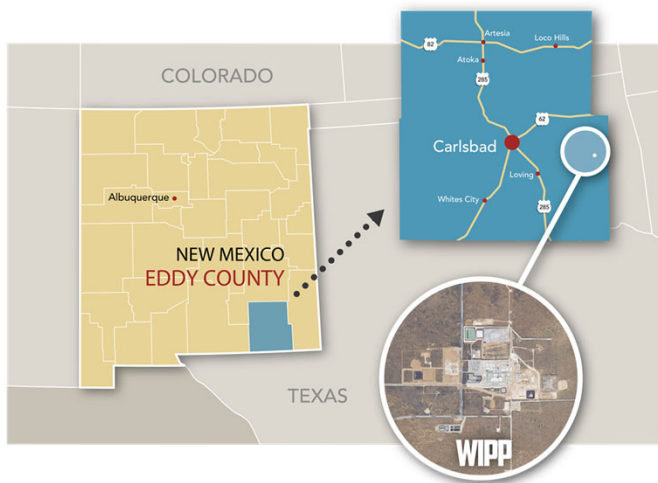
September 2024

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DOE Carlsbad Field Office

Director of Environmental Regulatory Compliance Division

## Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Mission

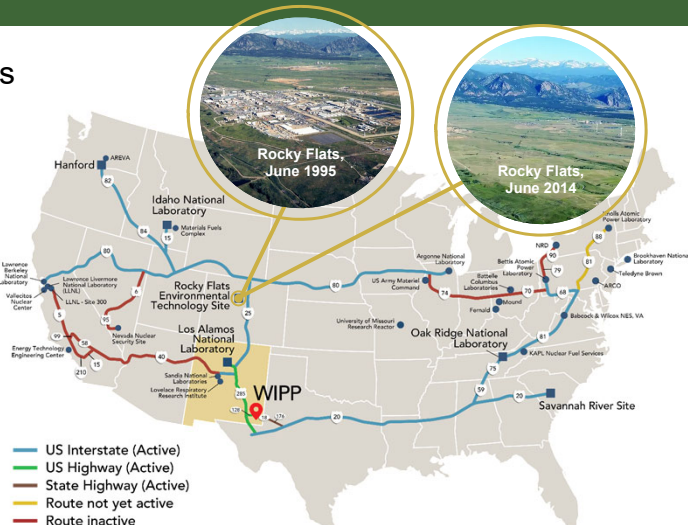


Our mission is to provide safe and compliant characterization, transportation, and disposal of the United States' defense transuranic (TRU) waste while protecting workers, the public and the environment.



# Mission Accomplishments

- 25 years since start of operations
- 22 sites completed TRU waste cleanup
- 14,118 total shipments received
- 16.9 million loaded miles safely traveled



As of August 5, 2024

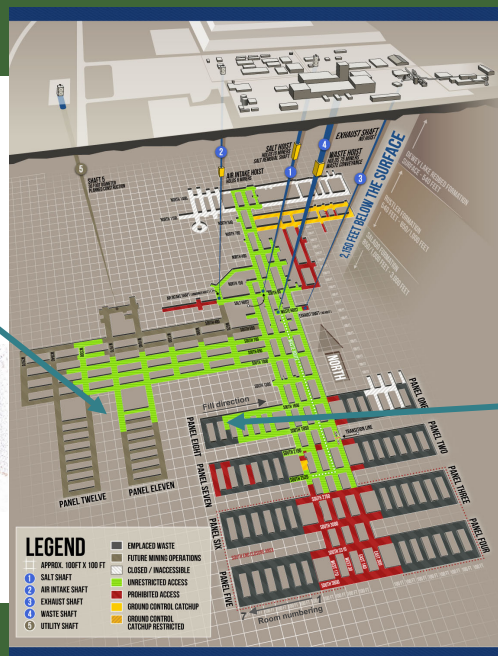
# Operations

## Future waste disposal

- Panel 11 mining began December 2023
- Reached Room 1 in April 2024
- Mining activities continue



Installation of new infrastructure for future Panel 11 emplacement



## Current waste disposal

- Panel 8, Room 6 filled in April 2024
- Began Room 5 emplacement

## Infrastructure Investments

- Projects will:
  - Reduce maintenance down time
  - Improve operational efficiencies
  - Enhance worker safety
- Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System (SSCVS)
  - New filter building
  - Salt reduction building
- New Utility Shaft
- Minor construction projects



## Continued Focus on Worker Safety

- Our goal is to achieve and sustain zero accident and injuries
- Increased focus on preventing ergonomic, hand, slip/fall injuries
- Workshops providing workers' ownership in safety program
- Raising 'Conduct of Operations' awareness to ensure proper planning and communication for all work

### Fiscal Year 2024 Safety Performance

### JOURNEY TO ZERO INJURIES



Above: Workshops focused on hand and electrical safety

## Regulatory Status

### NMED Successes

- **WIPP Permit Renewal in 2023**
  - 10-year renewal, approval of Panels 11 and 12
  - Prioritization of NM waste, transparency on the WIPP "big picture," enhanced notification and public engagement
- **Class 2 Permit Modification Request** for shielded containers and risk-based certification audits was approved by NMED on June 25.
- Unannounced WIPP site inspection in April found a single minor violation, earned praise for strong improvements in safety and housekeeping.

### Ongoing Actions for Panels 11 and Beyond

- Replacement Panels: Planned Change Request submitted to EPA in March for replacement Panels 11 and 12: responding to initial requests for additional information.
- Additional Panels: SA for Panels 13+ preliminary draft in internal review.

## Community Impact and Workforce Development in New Mexico

- **\$77 million** spent in subcontracts and procurements in 2023
- **\$6.3 billion** in project investment since WIPP began
- **1,700 jobs** in New Mexico
- **Grant and training programs** with Southeast New Mexico College



UNITED STEELWORKERS  
**USW**

**SEMC**  
Southeast New Mexico College



# Cleanup to Clean Energy at WIPP

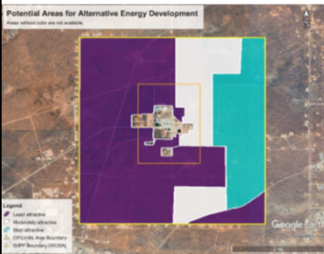


## Request for Quotation (RFQ)

- Issued by DOE on April 18, 2024
- DOE Headquarters is reviewing responses

## Project Under Consideration

- At least 150 MW solar with 100MWh battery storage
- Up to 1,800 acres on NE portion of LWA



## Following DOE HQ approval

- Enter into realty agreement (e.g., easement, lease, etc.)
- Perform Environmental and Cultural Siting Assessments
- Complete NEPA analysis/assessment



# Stakeholder Outreach

*We build trusted relationships through honest and transparent communication and active engagement with local communities.*



## 2024 progress

- Hosted first-ever DOE Regional Science Bowl
- WIPP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Active in Carlsbad, Hobbs, Albuquerque chambers of commerce
- Volunteering for United Way giving, and STEM events for K-12 schools
- Received an award from Department of Development for 25 years of business
- Maintaining stakeholder tour program



# QUESTIONS?

