

# By the Numbers WIPP Site Cleanup

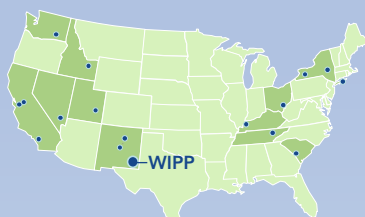
The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste from people and the environment. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation below the surface. TRU waste destined for WIPP consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residues and other disposal items contaminated with radioactive elements — mostly plutonium.

## 1,000

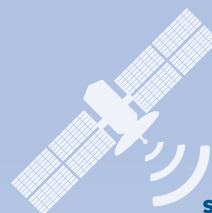


**people**  
employed at WIPP.

## 11,894



**shipments safely**  
**transported** more than  
**14 million loaded miles.**



## 24

**hrs/day**

**shipments are tracked**  
**and monitored** around  
the clock by satellite.

## 2,150

  
feet

2,150 ft.

**distance to**  
**disposal rooms**  
**below the surface.**

By comparison,  
the Empire State  
Building is only  
1,454 feet high.

1,454 ft.



## SEVEN

**waste disposal rooms**  
in each disposal panel measuring  
**300 ft. long**, 33 ft. wide, and 13 ft. high

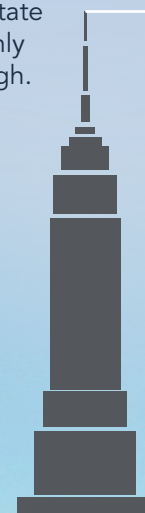
## 171,064



**containers have been emplaced**  
in the WIPP underground.

## 90,983

**m<sup>3</sup> of waste disposed**  
in the underground mine.



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