

# WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT (WIPP)

“WIPP continues to make history by permanently disposing of the nation’s transuranic waste left over from decades of vital nuclear defense activities. In 2023 we doubled our number of shipments, and the amount of waste emplaced all while continuing to improve WIPP’s infrastructure. WIPP employees are among the best of the best, and I’m proud to lead this team.”

– Mark Bollinger, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Began transuranic, or TRU, waste emplacement in Panel 8 of the WIPP underground.
- **Received 473 waste shipments from generator sites—an EM 2023 priority.**
- **Completed sinking the Utility Shaft to reach the final depth of 2,275 feet—an EM 2023 priority.**
- **Began commissioning the new Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System—an EM 2023 priority.**
- Received New Mexico Environment Department approval for new 10-year operating permit.
- Continued mining three access drifts on the West Mains toward the future location of Panels 11 and 12.
- Successfully completed transition to a new management and operations contract.

## MULTIPLE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ADVANCE

Filters and fans were installed in the two primary buildings of the Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System (SSCVS), the largest containment fan system in the DOE complex. The SSCVS will significantly increase airflow to the WIPP underground, which is critical for safe underground operations.

Working in tandem with the SSCVS, the site’s largest Utility Shaft with a diameter of 26 feet reached its final depth of 2,275 feet, and mining crews began cutting horizontal drifts from the shaft to connect it with the WIPP underground.



EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Avery (left) is shown the 1,000-horsepower fan motor on a tour of the New Filter Building.



Workers emplace TRU waste containers in Room 2 of Panel 8 in the WIPP underground.

### SHIPMENTS AND EMPLACEMENTS RAMP UP

WIPP doubled shipments and waste emplacement in fiscal year 2023, receiving 473 shipments and emplacing 700 columns of waste in disposal rooms.

### MINING TO THE WEST

WIPP miners continued work on the West Mains, cutting passageways, or drifts, to connect the existing mine to the Utility Shaft and future panels 11 and 12.

Since work began on the three drifts and side cuts, miners have chewed through 175,296 tons of rock.

### UPGRADING AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Aging infrastructure continues to receive upgrades to ensure the WIPP facility can continue to safely operate for decades to come. Work advanced on the site's fire protection infrastructure project and is now near 85% complete to replace an aging system installed more than 30 years ago.



Waste handlers in WIPP's Panel 7 use a push-pull device on a forklift to lift and slide a container into place.



When Utility Shaft crews reached repository depth, horizontal excavation began to connect the shaft with the WIPP mine.