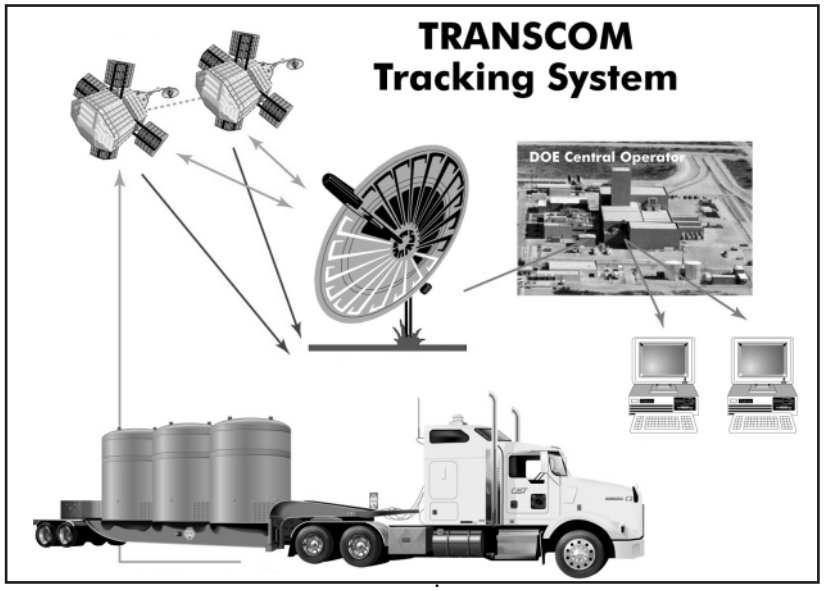
# WIPP Waste Shipments Tracked By Satellite

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) developed the Transportation Tracking and Communication System (TRANSCOM) to track DOE unclassified shipments of high visibility radioactive materials and to maintain communication with the drivers as a public safeguard. Trucks that transport transuranic waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal are monitored by this system.




TRANSCOM personnel monitor WIPP shipments around the clock from a secure control center, using satellite communications and computer networks to pinpoint the location of shipments en route.

The vehicle's position is transmitted to a satellite receiving station and relayed to the TRANSCOM control center. Shipment icons are displayed on computer-generated maps that identify the vehicle's location within 1,000 feet.

The control center also houses a database that contains transportation information, such as shipment schedules, routes, payloads and emergency response contacts.

Federal, state and tribal officials with access to the password-protected database can monitor the shipments from their computers. Drivers and others with access to the system communicate with one another through TRANSCOM's central operator to exchange information about off-normal events, changes in weather or road conditions.

As part of the shipping protocols agreed to by the DOE, states and tribes, WIPP drivers notify state officials two hours before entering each state.

## For more information

WIPP Information Center
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, NM 88221

1-800-336-WIPP (9477)
E-mail: infocntr@wipp.ws
Web address: www.wipp.energy.gov

Updated: January 9, 2007

## Did you know ...

TRANSCOM operators can pinpoint the location of a WIPP truck anywhere in the country within 1,000 feet.