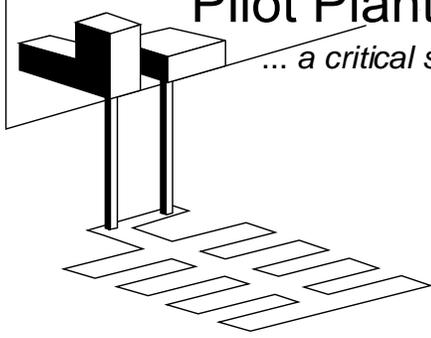


Waste Isolation

Pilot Plant

... a critical step toward solving the nation's nuclear waste disposal problem



WIPP Waste Shipments Tracked By Satellite

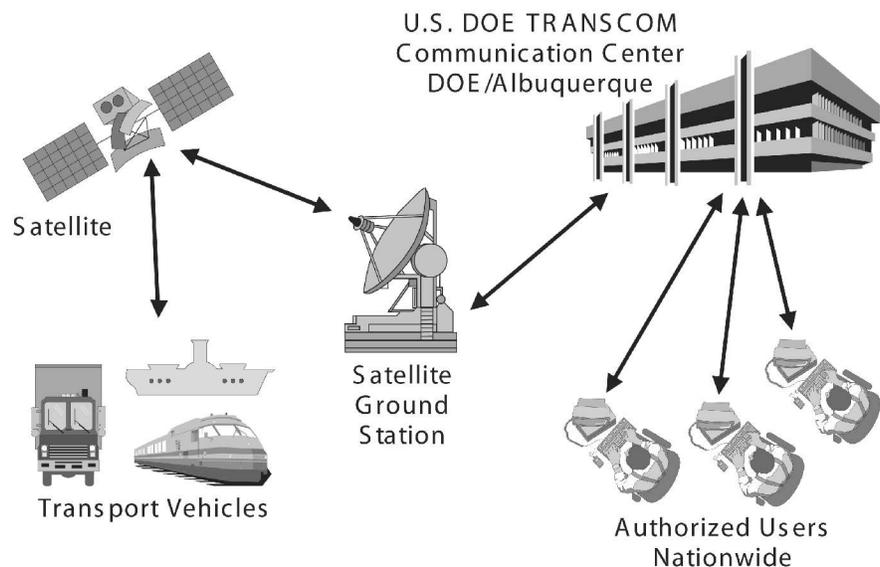
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) developed the Transportation Tracking and Communication System (TRANSCOM) to track and communicate with vehicles transporting “high visibility” unclassified shipments, such as spent nuclear fuel, high level and transuranic waste. All trucks transporting transuranic radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) are monitored with this system.

TRANSCOM, which has an around-the-clock control center, uses satellite communications and computer networks to monitor shipments from beginning to end. The control center houses a database containing scheduling, routing, shipment content and emergency response information about each WIPP shipment.

Federal, state and tribal officials have access to this database.

Vehicles transporting waste to WIPP are tracked by satellite.

The vehicle's position is transmitted to a satellite receiving station and relayed to the TRANSCOM control center.



Shipment information is displayed on computer-generated maps and can position a vehicle within 1,000 feet. Officials with access to TRANSCOM can monitor this information on their computers. Drivers and others with access to the system communicate with one another through TRANSCOM's central operator. The DOE, State and Tribal officials can exchange information about abnormal events, or changes in weather or road conditions.



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

For more information:

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