



The Waste Data System

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, or WIPP, is responsible for the safe disposal of the nation's defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste. Keeping track of thousands of waste containers disposed at WIPP and in temporary storage at sites across the country can be a challenge. To

meet this challenge, DOE has developed an information system for keeping all data related to the waste organized and available. The system is called the Waste Data System, or WDS, and its aim is to aid in the safe and successful execution of the WIPP mission.



The WDS is used to verify compliance, track and archive TRU waste information for the DOE. The secure system was developed using recognized standards and was thoroughly tested before becoming operational in December 2009. It is designed to support more than a thousand shipments a year with minimal downtime.

Authorized users of the WDS can easily access the information they need to efficiently perform their job with accurate data, reducing re-work and errors. The system allows quick, error-free and repeatable report generation.

The WDS maintains information on all waste that eventually is disposed 2,150 feet underground at WIPP.

The WDS's primary functions are:

Checking compliance

The WDS compares information about waste in storage at the sites with requirements of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit from the New Mexico Environment Department. Waste that does not comply is not eligible to be shipped to WIPP.

Tracking waste

The system enables the tracking of waste in temporary storage as it moves through the characterization and certification process. Characterization refers to the process of identifying the physical, chemical and radiological properties of the waste. Certification is the process of documenting that the waste meets the criteria for transportation to and disposal at WIPP. Ultimately, the system maintains the final location of each waste container permanently emplaced in the deep geologic repository.

Transportation safeguards

Shipments to WIPP follow U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in shipping containers certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The system checks to make sure shipments comply with the NRC's stringent Type B package requirements before traveling on our nation's highways.

Keeping historical records

In addition to providing users the current status, the WDS maintains a historical record of activities in the system. This allows users to query data and/or run reports for any point in the project's history.

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: March 29, 2011