

U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

# DOENews

## Media Contacts:

Dennis Hurtt  
U.S. DOE Carlsbad Field Office  
(505) 234-7327

Bill Keeley  
Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC  
(505) 234-7594  
<http://www.wipp.ws>

### For Immediate Release

## WIPP Receives 500<sup>th</sup> Waste Shipment

**CARLSBAD, N.M., January 7, 2002** – The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) reached a new milestone Saturday with the safe arrival of its 500<sup>th</sup> shipment of transuranic waste.

The 500<sup>th</sup> shipment arrived at WIPP at 6:38 p.m. Saturday from DOE’s Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado. It was the 282<sup>nd</sup> shipment to WIPP from Rocky Flats — one of five DOE sites sending defense-generated radioactive waste to WIPP for permanent underground disposal.

The shipment contained 28 drums of transuranic waste, bringing the total number of waste containers disposed at WIPP to just over 14,000 since the facility began disposal operations on March 26, 1999. Other DOE sites shipping waste to WIPP are the Hanford Site (Washington), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico) and the Savannah River Site (South Carolina). To date, WIPP trucks have traveled more than one million miles without incident.

“This milestone demonstrates the high degree of safety with which our transportation system operates,” said Dr. Inés Triay, Manager of DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office. “It also brings us one step closer to our goal of cleaning up and safely disposing the nation’s defense waste in a timely and cost-effective manner.”

**-More-**

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the nation's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from research and production of nuclear weapons.

Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, WIPP's facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation almost one-half mile underground (2,150 feet).

For more information about WIPP, call 1-800-336-9477, or visit the WIPP Web site at <http://www.wipp.ws>.