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DOENews

For Immediate Release
**One Hundred Thousand Nuclear Waste Containers
Safely Disposed at WIPP**

CARLSBAD, N.M., April 10, 2008 – The 100,000th container of defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste was safely disposed 2,150-feet underground at the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), said Dr. Dave Moody, DOE Carlsbad Field Office manager.

To appreciate the magnitude of this accomplishment, Moody compared the volume of containers now underground at WIPP to an area roughly the size of a football field and five stories high. “We have a hard working group of people dedicated to protecting the public and the environment. Disposal of 100,000 waste containers demonstrates that our operations are safe and environmentally sound.”

The DOE has completed the cleanup of legacy TRU waste at 13 sites around the country, resulting in more than 6,500 waste shipments to WIPP. The 100,000th container was received from Idaho National Laboratory on April 6, and disposed underground at WIPP on April 9.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to

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WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in March 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

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