



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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For Immediate Release **WIPP receives 9,000th shipment**

CARLSBAD, N.M., October 7, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) received its 9,000th shipment of transuranic (TRU) waste on Tuesday evening, marking an important milestone in the Department's mission to clean up the legacy of the cold war.

"This significant milestone represents our commitment to the nation to clean up the defense legacy TRU waste footprint," said Interim Acting CBFO Manager Ed Ziemianski. "The WIPP team has cleaned up 17 sites from across the country and in a manner that is protective of the workers, the public and the environment."

The 9,000th shipment, which consisted of defense-generated contact-handled TRU waste, arrived at WIPP at about 11 p.m. Tuesday. The shipment came from the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project located at DOE's Idaho Site. The Idaho Site accounts for nearly half of the shipments WIPP has received since its 1999 opening.

Since 1999, WIPP has received and disposed of more than 70,800 cubic meters of defense-related TRU waste from locations around the country, including the Idaho Site, the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, the Savannah River Site, the

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Hanford Site and Los Alamos National Laboratory. WIPP's drivers, who transport the waste to the site, have accounted for more than 10.7 million miles of waste shipments traveled without any major accidents and with no release of radioactive material.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related TRU waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

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