

Site Specific Advisory Board Briefing



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Carlsbad Field Office
March 2007



EM *Environmental Management*

Safety ❖ performance ❖ cleanup ❖ closure



Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
www.wipp.energy.gov

Today's Topics



WIPP Background



WIPP Update



Startup of Remote-Handled TRU Waste Operations



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Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

www.wipp.energy.gov

Quick Facts

- Mission is to safely dispose of defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste
- Began disposal operations in March 1999
- Primary regulators:
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - New Mexico Environment Department
 - Nuclear Regulatory Commission



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Transportation

Contact-handled TRU waste shipping containers



Remote-handled TRU waste shipping containers



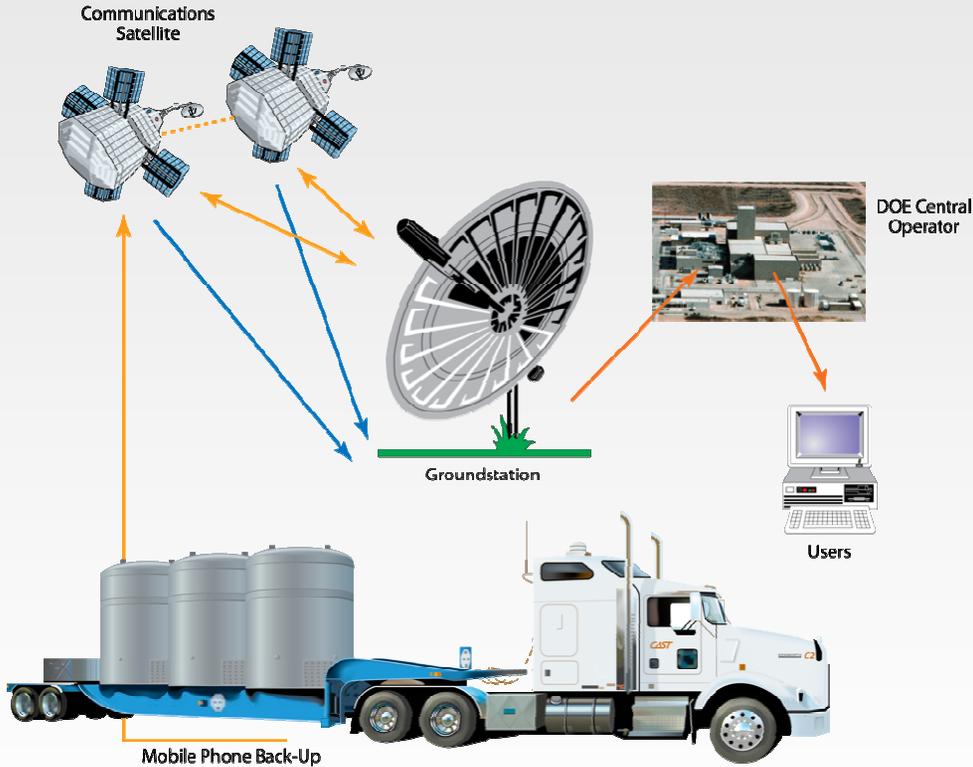
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Satellite Tracking



- Fully automated
- Five-minute updates
- States and tribes have access to password-protected Web site
- Drivers in constant communication with WIPP Central Monitoring Room



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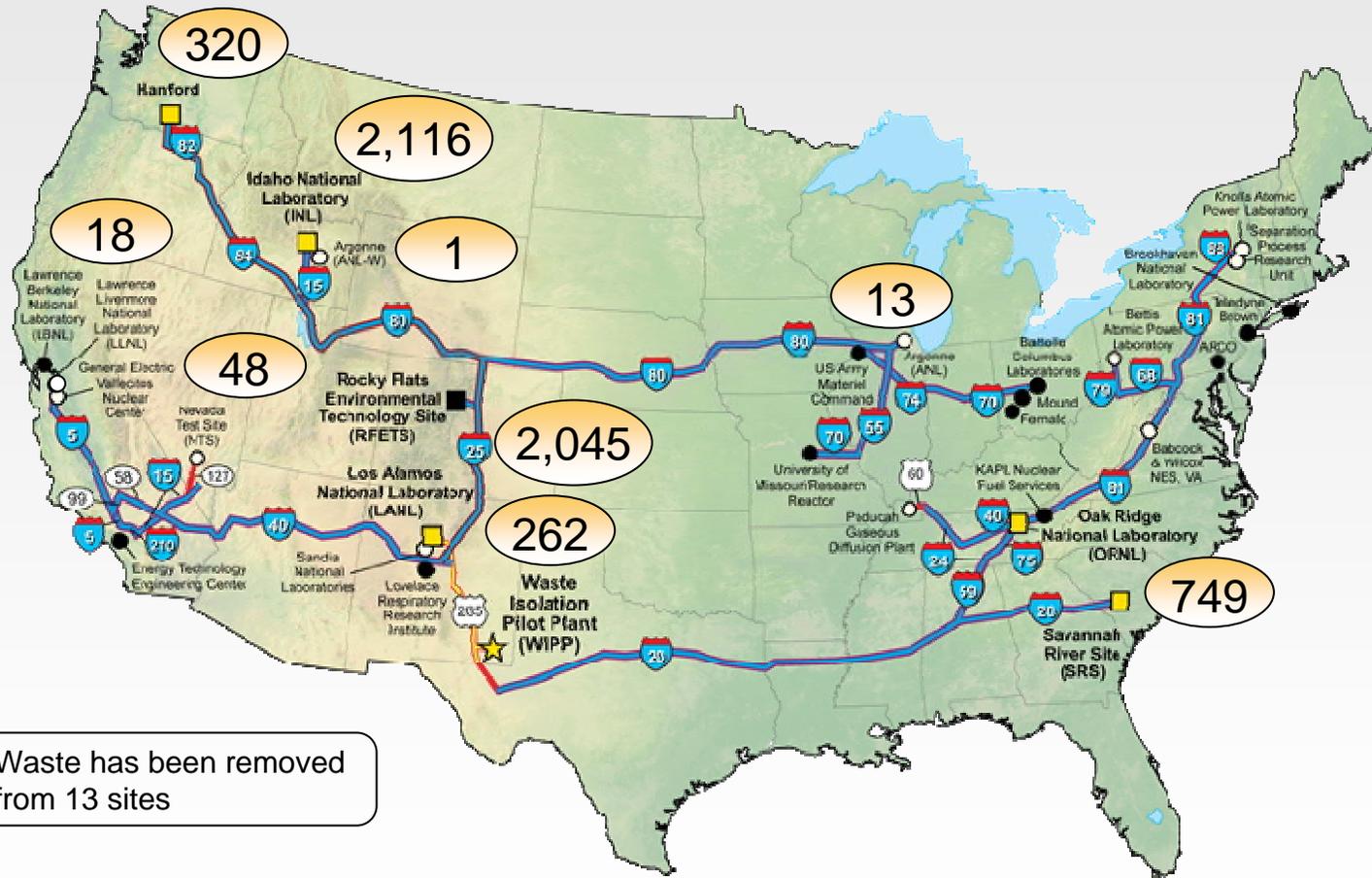
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Shipments to Date: 5,572

As of March 19, 2007



Waste has been removed from 13 sites

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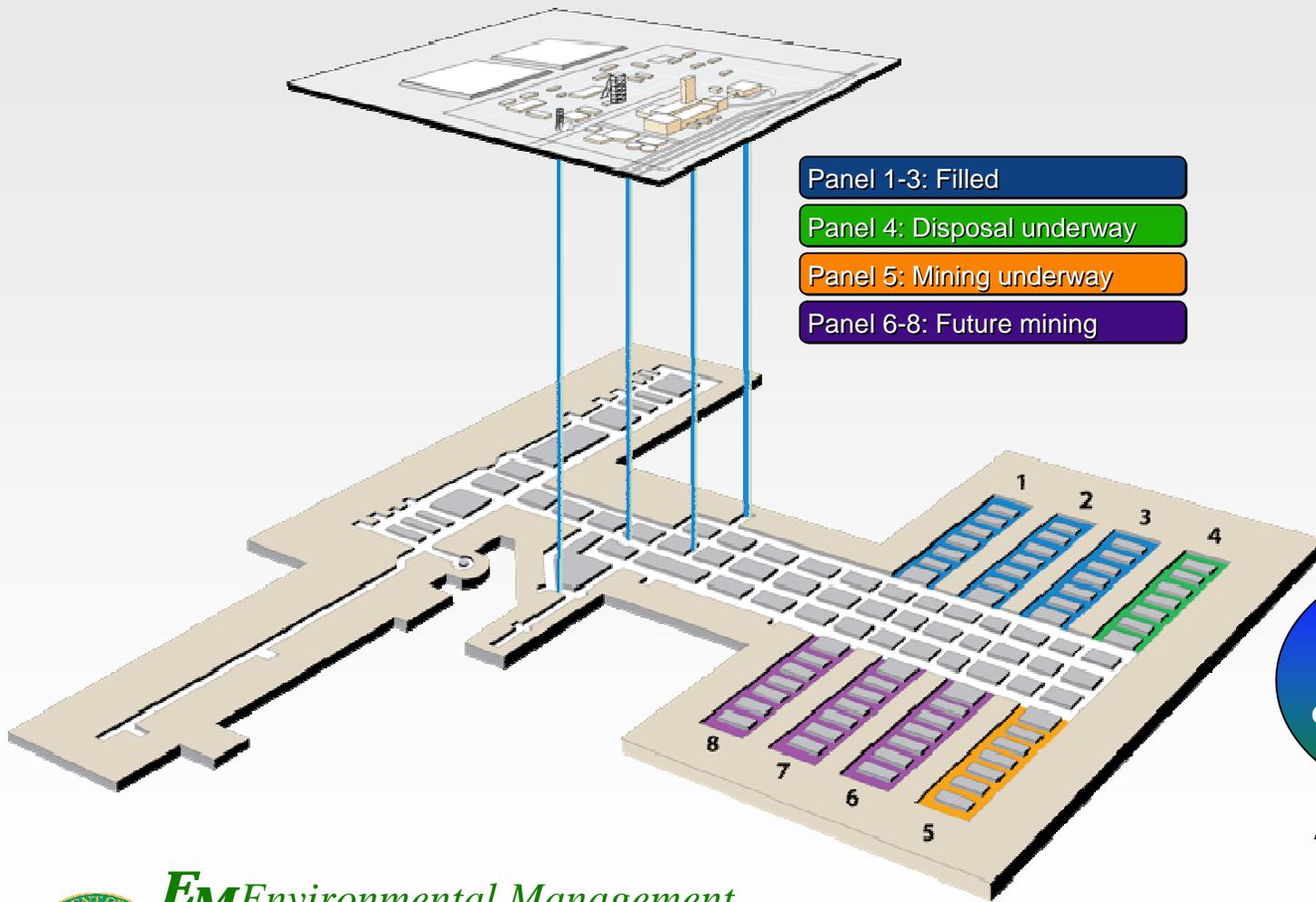


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Underground Status



More than
46,500 m³
of waste disposed
since opening.

As of March 19, 2007



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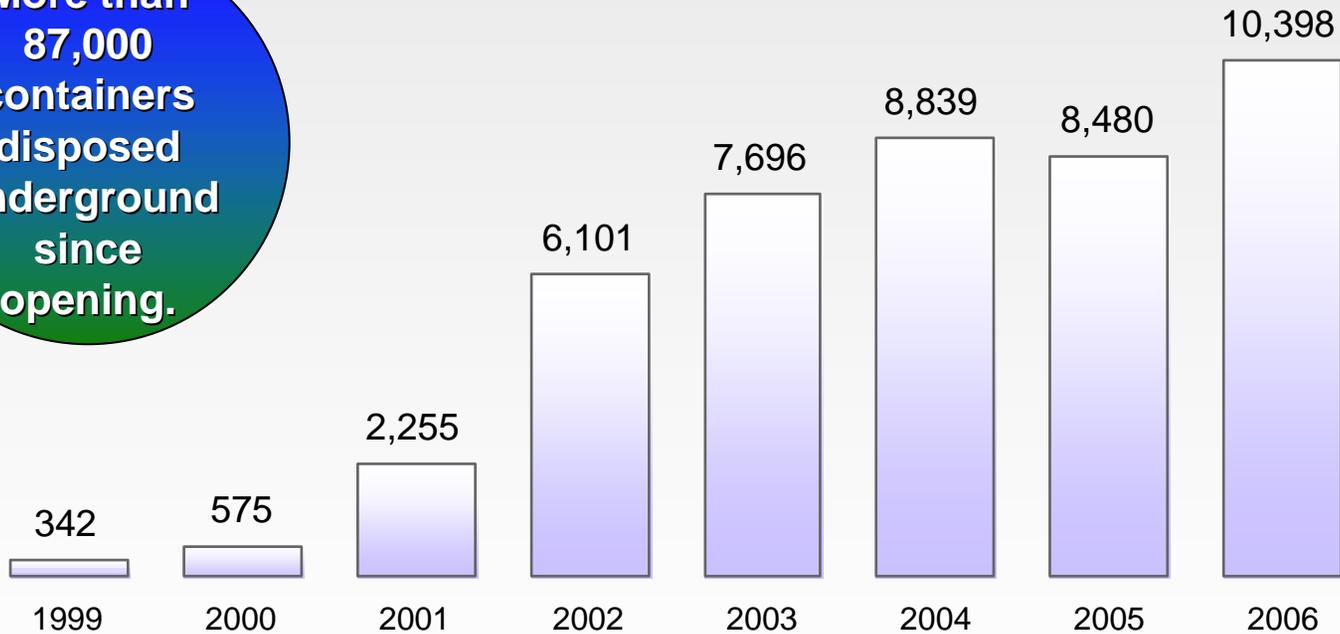


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A Record Volume of Waste Disposed

(In cubic meters)

More than
87,000
containers
disposed
underground
since
opening.



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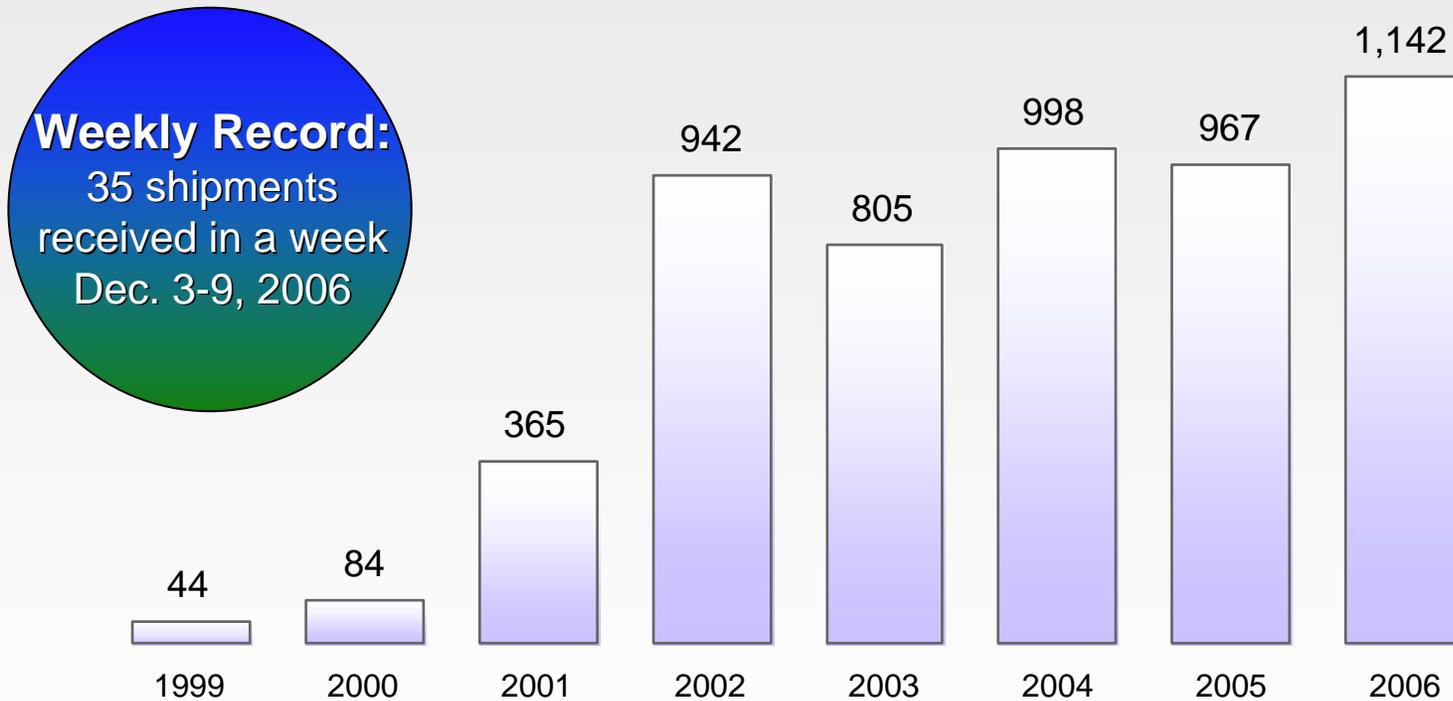
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A Record Number of Shipments Received



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Success and Safety are Inseparable



Achieved Voluntary Protection Program recertification at the “Star” level

January 2006

Named Mine Operator of the Year for the 20th consecutive year

September 14, 2006

4 million safe work hours reached for the first time

November 13

Achieved low injury rates

90% below national average

52% below DOE average



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RH Timeline



- EPA approval of RH Program through the Program Implementation Plan
 - March 26, 2004
- NMED permit modification signing takes place in Carlsbad
 - October 16, 2006
- NMED approves final audit report for RH waste characterization at INL
 - December 20, 2006
- CBFO authorizes WTS to begin remote-handled operations at WIPP
 - January 10, 2007
- NMED approves RH operations after inspection of RH facility
 - January 12, 2007
- EPA approves INL RH baseline
 - January 16, 2007



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First RH waste receipt



Quick Facts:

- Arrived January 23, 2007
- Originated at Idaho National Laboratory
- Disposed in Panel 4, Room 6



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The RH Disposal Process

RH-72B overview



Arrival at WIPP



Removal of impact limiters



Cask rotated to upright position



Canister removed from cask in transfer cell and loaded into the facility cask



Waste hoist lowers facility cask 2,150 feet to the WIPP underground



A 41-ton forklift moves the facility cask to a disposal room



Canister is pushed out of the facility cask and into a borehole. The borehole is sealed with a five-foot-long concrete plug



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The RH Disposal Process

CNS 10-160B overview



Arrival at WIPP



Top impact limiter removed.



The CNS 10-160B's ten drums are removed in the hot cell and loaded into facility canisters (up to 3 drums per canister).



Canister is lowered into the facility cask.



Waste hoist lowers facility cask 2,150 feet to the WIPP underground



A 41-ton forklift moves the facility cask to a disposal room



Canister is pushed out of the facility cask and into a borehole. The borehole is sealed with a five-foot-long concrete plug



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Ramp-up RH Shipments

- Idaho will be primary RH shipping site in FY07
- Other sites to follow: LANL, SRS (originating in Battelle-Columbus), Argonne
- Initiate 10-160B shipments



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Questions & Answers



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