



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

Update on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Betsy Forinash

U.S. Department of Energy – Office of Environmental Management

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EM CY23 MISSION AND PRIORITIES



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MISSION STATEMENT:

To complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

PRIORITY #1:

ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES

- Begin commissioning of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System
- Complete sinking Utility Shaft at WIPP to 2150-foot level
- Initiate melter 2 heat up at the Waste Treatment Plant at Hanford
- Complete construction of Savannah River Site (SRS) Saltstone Disposal Unit 8
- Complete steel structure for the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative at SRS

PRIORITY #2:

EXECUTE KEY CLEANUP PROJECTS

- Complete 400 transuranic waste shipments at WIPP while ensuring there is no backlog of shipments from Los Alamos
- Initiate retrieval of Los Alamos drums from Waste Control Specialists
- Issue Final Environmental Assessment for disposal of contaminated process equipment at SRS
- Pretreat at least 800,000 gallons cumulatively of tank waste at Hanford

2022 Accomplishments

- Received 272 TRU waste shipments from sites across the DOE complex
- Completed waste emplacement in Panel 7, began emplacement in Panel 8
- Completed 50 percent of the necessary mining for the West Access Drifts that will lead to new panels 11 and 12 --- meeting an EM 2022 priority
- Completed installation of the salt reduction units for the new Safety Significant Confinement Ventilation System
- Excavated to 1,300-foot-level (out of 2,150 feet) for the new Utility Shaft
- Safely transported nearly 16 million cumulative miles
- Completed contract transition of SIMCO LLC, assuming full responsibility for management and operations of the WIPP



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TRU Waste: Hot Topics and Key Activities

- **Continued support to nationwide TRU disposal:** waste certification, availability of commodities, prioritization mechanisms, sharing lessons learned
- **Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) TRU at Waste Control Specialists (WCS):** Path forward to remove remaining containers of LANL TRU stored at WCS
- **Surplus Plutonium (Pu)**
 - TRU waste from Savannah River Site (SRS) downblending of 6 metric tons (MT) of non-pit Pu



TRU Waste: Hot Topics and Key Activities (cont.)

- **WIPP Regulatory Activities:**
 - New Mexico Environment Department – Hazardous waste permit 10-year renewal
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Recertification: 2024 submission
 - Regulatory approvals for replacement Panels 11 and 12
- **Progress on capital asset projects and mining**



Perspectives and Priorities