

manager of the DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management.

More than 50 percent of the facilities throughout the Oak Ridge Site, which includes Y-12, are more than 40 years old. The Criticality Experiment Lab was one of them. Built in 1949, the two-story, 24,000-square-foot lab was used to conduct experiments with fissile uranium isotopes for nuclear reactor designs. Employees performed more than 9,700 experiments there in its first decade, and the facility later supported the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's High Flux

Isotope Reactor program. The building has been closed since 1992.

Workers spent significant time deactivating the facility leading up to its teardown. They removed nearly 1,500 linear feet of asbestos-insulated piping, 300 linear ft of process piping, and 8,500 ft² of other asbestos-containing material. Three other large former uranium enrichment facilities—known as Alpha-2, Alpha-4, and Beta-1—are being prepared for demolition at Y-12.

WIPP

Crews begin placing waste in Panel 8

Employees have begun emplacing defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste in Panel 8 of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New

Mexico, the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management (EM) announced late last year. TRU waste is permanently

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