

It is the best shipment total since 2013, when the facility received 724 shipments, DOE-EM said. Operations at WIPP, the nation's only repository for the disposal of defense-related TRU waste, were reduced following the February 2014 accident in which radiological materials were released in the repository underground.

According to DOE-EM, several factors enabled the increase in shipments, including an increased coordination with generator sites, more transportation support with mobile loading unit

teams at generator sites and shipment drivers, and operational efficiencies at WIPP gained by the opening of new, uncontaminated waste rooms in Panel 8 (see above).

Since it began operations in 1999, WIPP has received more than 13,790 shipments totaling over 75,480 cubic meters of waste emplaced. Per the U.S. Land Withdrawal Act, WIPP is limited to 175,000 cubic meters of waste over its lifetime.

### SECURITY

#### NNSA issues final EIS for surplus defense plutonium disposal

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration hopes to dispose of up to 34 metric tons of surplus defense-related plutonium at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

in New Mexico using a "dilute-and-dispose" strategy. The NNSA's preferred disposal method is contained in the final environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared for the ad-

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