

**DOE News Release
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DOE Ships 20,000th Cubic Meter of Nuclear Waste Out Of Idaho

Today, the U.S. Department of Energy announced it has shipped 20,000 cubic meters of nuclear waste out of Idaho. More transuranic nuclear waste has been safely shipped from the Department's Idaho site than any other site in the DOE complex. The amount of waste shipped has allowed DOE to meet and exceed its transuranic waste shipping commitment to the state of Idaho, contained in the Idaho Settlement Agreement, and has put the Department nearly three years ahead of the schedule in the Settlement Agreement.

"DOE is delivering on its promise to cleanup its Idaho site as evidenced by the record amounts of waste safely being shipped out of the state," said DOE Idaho Operations Deputy Manager Rick Provencher. "Waste from our Idaho site accounts for more than 40 percent of all waste disposed at the Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located near Carlsbad, New Mexico. It's an accomplishment that the Department and the state of Idaho can both be proud of."

Employees at DOE's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) have been responsible for the safe shipping of transuranic nuclear waste, as well as mixed low-level waste that is composed of hazardous and radioactive waste. Managed and operated by Bechtel BWXT Idaho, operations at AMWTP are currently averaging 15 shipments of nuclear waste out of Idaho each week. Looked at in another way, it would take nearly 100,000 55-gallon drums to contain the amount of waste now permanently disposed at WIPP.

"As our nation considers further development of nuclear energy, operations at AMWTP provide proof that high-risk materials, such as nuclear waste, can be safely shipped and disposed," Provencher said "In the six years of shipping nuclear waste out of Idaho, there have been no radioactive releases to the environment and no contamination of waste operations personnel."

Jeff Mousseau, president and general manager for Bechtel BWXT Idaho, is proud of the AMWTP workforce and the many organizations that play a role in the safe shipment of waste. "Along with our dedicated employees, the state of Idaho played an important role as well, thanks to the Idaho State Patrol and its inspection of every shipment leaving the state, more than 2,500 to date. It has proven to be an all-around exceptional professional effort where we have all hit our stride to safely and efficiently ship nuclear waste for permanent disposal."

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