



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

## **2014 Waste Management Hot Topics Panel**

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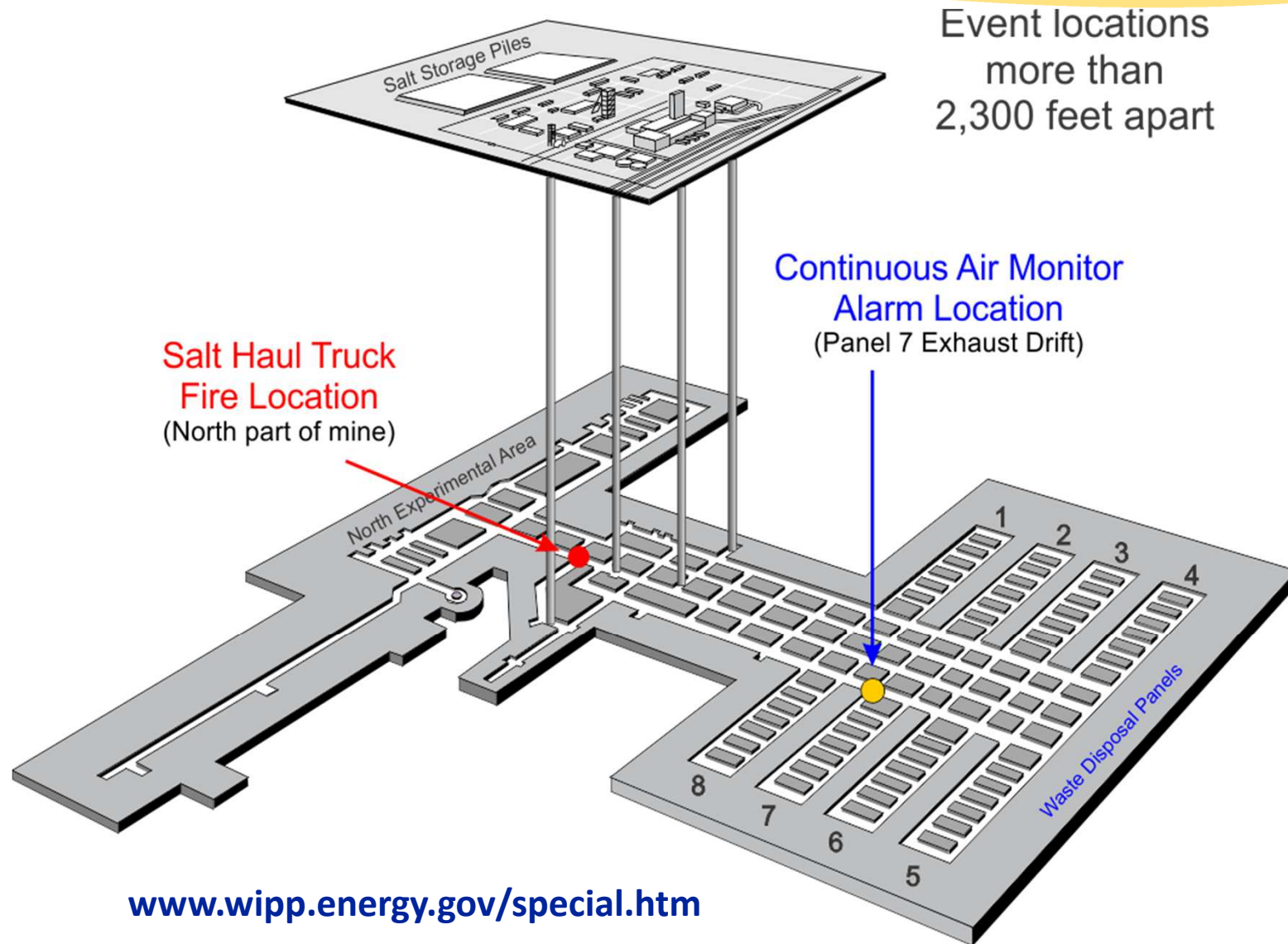
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# Hot Topics in Waste Management

- Status of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
- Disposal Operations at the Nevada National Security Site
- Use of Commercial Disposal Facilities
- Policy, Regulatory and Strategy Developments
- Continued Waste Management Success

# Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Layout



[www.wipp.energy.gov/special.htm](http://www.wipp.energy.gov/special.htm)

# Nevada National Security Site

- The Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) continues to serve a critical role within the complex by safely receiving and disposing of low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste (MLLW) generated by national security missions, environmental cleanup and other DOE missions.
- Geologic and hydrologic conditions at NNSS provide ideal setting and ensure protective disposal.
- Safety of operations are confirmed through comprehensive ongoing monitoring and adherence to strict nuclear operations procedures.



# Commercial Disposal

- For those DOE LLW/MLLW streams that cannot be disposed at the site where generated, DOE carefully evaluates off-site disposal alternatives – including commercial facilities.



- Last year, DOE competitively awarded two prime disposal contracts for DOE LLW/MLLW disposal – one to *EnergySolutions* and one to Waste Control Specialists, LLC.
- *EnergySolutions* continues to provide cost effective treatment and/or disposal for wastes from numerous DOE sites.
- DOE's first shipments to the WCS Federal Waste Disposal Facility were made in June 2013.

# Commercial Disposal



# Policy, Regulatory and Strategy Developments

- DOE continues to monitor and provide input to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's and Agreement States' pending regulatory changes.
  - Site specific performance assessment
  - Disposal of depleted uranium
- At the request of the Advisory Committee on Reactors Safeguards, DOE provided detailed briefings on its use of performance assessment and DOE's radioactive waste management policy (DOE Order 435.1).
- DOE's efforts to update DOE Order 435.1 continue.
- EM supports DOE's efforts to develop its detailed strategy and actions in response to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.

# Continued Waste Management Success

- EM continues to make significant progress in disposition of wastes generated through continued site cleanup activities.
- It is more important than ever that DOE – and more broadly, the U.S. – optimize its waste management systems.
- Continued collaboration with stakeholders and industry is key to continued success.

