

**United States
Nuclear Infrastructure Council**
NIC

**NIC Environmental Management Task Force
Statement on WIPP
"WIPP is an indispensable national resource"**

USNIC NEWS

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Regarding U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Ernie Moniz's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) town meeting and surface tour this past week.

WIPP an indispensable national resource

We are encouraged by Secretary Moniz's boots-on-the-ground visit and his loud and clear message of strong support for the WIPP.

It is abundantly clear that WIPP is an indispensable national resource, which over more than a decade has been the workhorse for storage of nuclear materials for the DOE complex. The restart of WIPP needs to move forward both expeditiously and in concert with stakeholders and public health and safety requirements. We welcome the Secretary's pledge to have a recovery plan in place this year along with completion of the findings from the ongoing review of the WIPP radiation release incident in a timely manner.

We fully endorse funding for the WIPP recovery effort. We are pleased that Congressional appropriators and the New Mexico Congressional delegation are working in a bipartisan fashion to forge a consensus funding package.

It is our hope that even with a continuing resolution looming that funding can be carved out for the WIPP recovery program without delay.

We look forward to the details of the WIPP recovery plan, the findings of the WIPP review and to working across common ground on behalf of the WIPP and the DOE's important environmental management portfolio.

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The USNIC Environmental Task Force is a project of the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council (www.usnic.org), the leading business consortium for new nuclear energy and involvement of the U.S. supply chain globally. The views above represent a consensus of the USNIC's Environmental Management Task Force and the Council, but do not necessarily represent the specific views of individual member companies and organizations.