

# Sean Dunagan

## Waste Management and Operations Director



Sean Dunagan is UCOR's Waste Management and Operations Director, leading all aspects of UCOR's "waste factory," a key to the company's continued success in safe waste transportation and disposal.

For more than 20 years, Sean has managed contractor and federal projects for the Department of Energy at UCOR; the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), Carlsbad, New Mexico; and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Before being named to his current post, Sean served as director of the Environmental Management Disposal Facility (EMDF) capital line-item project on the Oak Ridge Reservation. He successfully led the project through its first early construction phase, ahead of schedule and under budget, and began working on the second phase.

Sean previously led the WIPP Management and Operating Contract and served in other leadership positions with DOE and SNL. He is internationally respected for his technical expertise and stakeholder trust with his knowledge of the WIPP repository. His expertise in nuclear repository performance assessment and safety cases resulted in DOE appointing him to the Carlsbad Field Office Senior WIPP Recovery Manager and Deputy Manager role.

Sean demonstrates proven experience and leadership in project management, strategic planning, regulatory compliance, facility oversight, and relationship management. He built productive relationships with local- and state-elected officials, DOE Headquarters personnel, and site union personnel to drive collaboration and engagement for mission expansion. Throughout his career, Sean's excellent interface with regulators has been instrumental for the successful execution of the projects he has represented.

Other professional achievements:

- Led the successful restart of operations at the WIPP facility.
- Established two capital asset projects with a total value of ~\$600 million, impacting the workforce of 1,100 employees.
- Negotiated with EPA to change the regulatory compliance approach at WIPP, streamlining the process, and more effectively using resources, reducing almost two years of the regulatory process.
- Led international collaborations through the Nuclear Energy Agency, US/German workshops, and Salt Club to further develop the WIPP safety case while using experience at WIPP for other countries' safety cases.

### Education

**Master of Science**  
Industrial Engineering  
Texas Tech University

### Previous Positions

**Director, Environmental Management Disposal Facility**  
UCOR  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

**President and Project Manager**  
Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

**Manager**  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

**Technical Staff Member**  
Sandia National Laboratories  
Carlsbad, New Mexico

**Acting Deputy Manager**  
**Senior WIPP Recovery Manager**  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad, New Mexico