

WIPP Quick Facts

(As of 02-22-06)

4,373

Shipments received since opening

35,760

Cubic meters of waste disposed

75,491

Containers disposed in the underground

National Engineers Week February 19-25

Engineers Week is an annual event to increase public awareness of the engineering profession. During the week, we pay tribute to engineers for their great accomplishments in improving our quality of life. Also, the celebration gives us the opportunity to interest more people in engineering as a career path, which is critical to our future success.

Congratulations to all engineers at WIPP, past and present, who have made this project a success!

6,000 cubic meters and counting

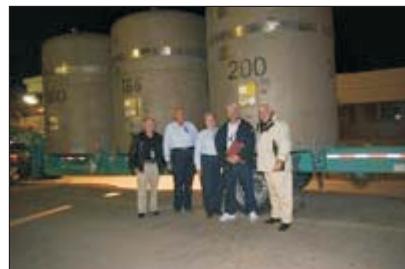


This past Tuesday, WIPP added yet another milestone to the rapidly expanding list. At approximately 12:48 p.m., a truck carrying three loaded TRUPACT-II shipping containers departed the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and arrived at



Departure - Workers from the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant were on-hand to see the shipment off on February 21 at 12:48 p.m.

the WIPP site early Thursday morning. The departure of this truck completed an agreement between DOE and the state of Idaho, requiring 6,000 cubic meters of waste to be removed from the INL facility. "This has been a complete team effort," says Doug Steffen, WTS assistant general manager, site operations and disposal.



Arrival - The 2:58 a.m. arrival on February 23 was celebrated by CBFO Manager Dave Moody, the driving team of Bill and Cordie Mossier, Operations Engineer Mike Proctor and WTS General Manager Dick Raaz.

WTS Central Characterization Project (CCP) also played a significant role to the success, contributing more than 1,600 certified drums in shipments from the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant (located at INL). CCP has fully characterized more than 3,500 drums to date.

"The credit goes to those who actually were responsible for safely transporting and disposing of this waste in the underground," added Steffen. "This is a true testament to the dedication of both DOE and WTS to cleanup the nation's TRU waste."

Volunteer for Riverblitz 2006

Once again its time for the annual Riverblitz, the highly successful river cleanup project started 6 years ago by volunteers and it's been growing every year since.

This year efforts will focus on Brantley Reservoir south along the Pecos to the Beach area, as well as the 6 Mile Dam Area and portions of Black River.

Pre-registered groups can get right to work the morning of March 11 and then meet at the Riverwalk Recreation Center at noon for hamburgers and hot dogs.

If you are unable to pre-register, meet us at the recreation center at 8:00 am to get your assignment.

It will be four hours of work and fun that you'll feel good about for the rest of your life.

To pre-register for a particular area please call 885-2408. If you are interested in working the Black River area, a beautiful location that is in great need of a cleanup, please call or e-mail Russ Leach, a WTS employee at the SWB, at 234-7032 or russ.leach@wipp.ws. Leach will be leading the efforts at Black River and will be meeting volunteers at 7:45 a.m. on March 11 at the SWB parking lot.

Be sure to bring water and snacks. A rake, hoe, or shovel to pull trash out of bushes is recommended. Some gloves will be available.

WIPP transportation sets a record

Shipments of TRU waste arriving at WIPP are a common sight, but never have so many trucks arrived in a single week. During the week of February 5, WIPP safely received 33 shipments of transuranic waste, setting a record that would have been unimaginable seven years ago.

When WIPP opened in March 1999, planners expected a maximum of 17 shipments per week. But as the national cleanup effort picked up pace, so did the weekly shipment rate. This fiscal year, WIPP has received an average of 20 shipments per week.

Bob Nieman, a WTS transportation engineer, shared his thoughts about the new record. "It's a beautiful thing when it comes out how you want it," he says. "There are many factors that contribute to delaying shipments, but everything came together."

From a scheduling standpoint, achieving 33 shipments in a week is a real challenge. Precise coordination is required to get sufficient tractors, trailers, drivers and shipping containers at the right place at the right time. In addition, waste must be ready at the sites and the weather must cooperate. This time of year is notorious for weather-related delays.

"When you consider that we have to get the trucks out to the sites to begin with, 33 shipments for us actually means 33 round trips," adds Nieman. "Certainly it requires a lot of work by people at the sites, drivers and people at WIPP."

Of course, receiving more shipments is only part of the story. WIPP operations personnel unloaded 97 shipping containers (83 TRUPACT-IIs and 14 HalfPACTs), which contained 392 waste containers. When WIPP opened, it took approximately 8 1/2 hours to receive and process a waste shipment. Today, it takes WIPP workers about 2 1/2 hours.

Farok Sharif Appointed WTS Deputy Manager

Farok Sharif's office has moved to the other side of the building. It's not just a change in location, but a whole new challenge for the long-time WTS employee. On February 7, WTS President and General Manager Dick Raaz appointed him as the WTS deputy general manager.

Sharif is now responsible for supporting the general manager and will provide guidance for all departments with emphasis on budget, program management and strategic planning. The general manager's office provides technical, operational and administrative direction for carrying out the company's scope of work safely and cost-effectively.



He has more than 15 years of project management leadership in the National TRU Waste Program and has been a leading figure in designing the strategy that the DOE has adopted to clean up the TRU waste complex. He also serves on the DOE national transuranic waste complex corporate board.

Sharif was previously the assistant general manager, Retrieval, Characterization, and Transportation. He has held several key management posts at WIPP and was the TRU waste program manager at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Surpasses Seven Million Safe Work Hours

Former WTS deputy general manager David Reber is leading a team of safety-conscious employees. The 650-plus employees working at Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, exceeded a major safety milestone on Friday, January 27, recording an all-time-high safety record of seven million consecutive hours without an injury that resulted in days away from work.

“The accomplishment of this milestone in an industry as complex as ours is tremendous. It demonstrates the commitment to safety of every employee, for themselves, co-workers, family, and the community,” says Reber, Washington Group International PBCDF project general manager.”

Washington Group International operates PBCDF for the U.S. Army. PBCDF employs state-of-the-art incineration technology to safely destroy the approximately 3,850 tons of chemical weapons stockpiled at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

York . He has also served as a project manager for Westinghouse Engineered Products Department, a shipping container manufacturer in Carlsbad. He holds a bachelor's degree in operations research and an MBA from New Mexico State University.

Since then, numerous others have been appointed to new management roles at WIPP. Appointments include: David Haar assistant manager, Retrieval, Characterization and Transportation; Tim Hedahl manager, External Programs; Todd Sellmer deputy manager, Packaging; Sue Peterman Central Characterization Project (CCP) manager; J.R. Stroble CCP deputy manager; Mark Pearcy project certification manager; and Val Cannon CCP quality assurance manager.

Dziamski receives safety certification



WTS employee Mark Dziamski (right) receives congratulations from Scott Anderson, WTS operations manager, for completing the requirements for national certification as a Safety Trained Supervisor (STS). The Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologies (CCHST) awards this certification to individuals who meet CCHST's rigorous experience and education requirements, including passing a comprehensive written examination. The written examination covers the body of knowledge supervisors must have to carry out their safety-related supervisory responsibilities and includes subjects such as hazard recognition and analysis, personal protective equipment, regulatory compliance and incident investigation.

The STS certification is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards. Those who earn the STS certification are recognized as having met demanding, peer-established competency requirements in supervision.

How important is hand and finger safety?

Here's a test to see how fast you can untie your shoe laces. You can use both hands, but you can't use your thumbs. Not so easy, is it? And, yet, do you realize that 25 percent of all disabling injuries involve hands and fingers? Now try tying your shoe laces.

A note from a retiree

During my 15 years at the WIPP Site, I have come to know most of you and so many of you have become friends, if not family.

The knowledge, experience and education gained from my work with you have been invaluable and it has been my privilege to be a part of the WIPP Team.

Please know that you will all be missed and that I look forward to seeing most of you around town or at Wal-Mart!

Good Luck,

Morgan Nail

Lend a hand to safety ... and save your fingers

It's time to point fingers ... at good safety practices. Did you know that fingers were the most commonly injured body part at WIPP in 2005? The same was true for 2004. And 2003. In fact, finger injuries have held the top spot for the last five years. WIPP is not alone. Each year more than 500,000 people injure hands, wrists or fingers, accounting for nearly a quarter of all on-the-job accidents.

So, why the trend of finger injuries here and at work sites across the country? "Probably because we do so much with our hands," says Melody Smith, WTS Safety and Health. Despite that, Smith hopes that at WIPP, the trend will end in 2006.

A few finger injuries have occurred when people have reached into tool boxes or desk drawers, unaware of sharp objects. "If you're reaching inside something," advises Smith, "be sure you have looked to make sure there aren't any unknown hazards."

Hands and fingers are often struck by hammers, pinched between objects being moved, cut by sharp objects, pierced by splinters and slivers, burned by hot objects or chemicals and caught in moving machinery. The good news is that many of these injuries are preventable. Here are some tips found online for keeping your fingertips out of trouble:

Wear gloves when appropriate

Scrapes and cuts can lead to infection without proper treatment. No matter how rugged you think your hands may be, they aren't tough enough to stop splinters or slivers, or to resist punctures. Gloves are like an extra layer of skin. The nail that rips your glove would have injured you if your hand had been bare. Wear gloves whenever you are handling rough or sharp material. Use the appropriate type of rubber gloves, as specified in the Material Data Safety Sheet, when working with chemicals, solvents or other material that can irritate your skin. Wear gloves that fit properly. Also, remember that gloves shouldn't be worn when there is a possibility they can get caught in moving machinery.

Use guards on power equipment

Guards on power saws and other equipment sometimes seem like a nuisance, always getting in the way. But they're on the equipment to protect you against injury. By removing guards or otherwise making them ineffective, you increase your chances of getting hurt. Tie one hand behind your back for a day and you'll appreciate what the consequences of working without a guard can be.

Stay alert for other hazards

Even when you are wearing gloves or using guards, be alert to other hazards. Injuries can also result from the unexpected shifting of material, getting hands caught in pinch points, grabbing moving parts of the machinery or holding work with your hands that should be held in a vise or securely clamped.

Tips based on free information available at ToolBoxTopics.com

Happy Birthday Wishes!

Alisa Cass (West), (WTS)
February 18

Joe Harvill, WTS
February 19

Pat Charlet, L&M
February 20

Bob Paslay, WTS
February 21

Dee Scott, CTAC
February 23

Darren Easley, WTS
February 25

Jim Schuetz, CTAC
February 26

Veronica Waldram, LANL
February 26

Meg Milligan, CBFO
February 27

Scott Cassingham, WTS
February 27

Mark Crawley, WRES
March 3

Robert Garcia, WTS
March 6

Steve Bartlett, NCI
March 7

Is your birthday on our list?

Employee birthdays are submitted once and must be re-approved for publication by you every year. Please submit birth dates to the TRU TeamWorks staff at:

TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws

Convoy



Former WIPP employee Ricardo Sanchez (center) poses with co-workers before leaving in a convoy to Tallil Air Force Base in Nassriya, Iraq. Sanchez is in Iraq working for Washington Group International to help rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

Local labs sponsor educational event

Eleven local students in the second annual Go Figure! Mathematical Challenge were recently honored at a special recognition banquet held at Ocotillo Inn, along with their parents, math teachers and principals.



Math honorees: Front row, left to right: Amanda Ramirez, Jordan Clark, Kirby Witte, Susan Gomez, Erin Williamson and Danni McMahan. Back row, left to right: Benji Buell, Heesung Park, HeeHo Park, Ethan Nelson and David Fry.

The Go Figure! Challenge is a series of math problems that tests students' ability to think mathematically and to solve problems. This is the second year of the contest,

which was sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories Carlsbad Programs Group (SNL-CPG) and Los Alamos National Laboratory/Carlsbad Operations. A total of 52 students in grades 7-12 participated in the event.

Honorees were: Susan Gomez (7th grade first place); Amanda Ramirez (8th grade honorable mention); Heesung Park (8th grade first place); Benji Buell (9th grade first place); Danni McMahan, Kirby White, David Fry (10th grade honorable mention); Ethan Nelson (10th grade first place); Erin Williamson (11th grade honorable mention); HeeHo Park (11th grade first place); and Jordan Clark (12th grade first place). HeeHo Park, Jordan Clark tied for overall winner.

Guest speaker for the event was Connie Coalson, a Carlsbad High School graduate and retired Sandia National Laboratories employee, who now lives here.

Awards were presented by Dave Kessel, acting manager of SNL-CPG. Also present was Lloyd Piper, representing CBFO.

The goal of Go Figure is to identify young people with a talent in mathematics. Challenge questions range from easy to difficult and at least one prize is awarded in each grade level category. Interested persons can access the website at: <http://www.sandia.gov/gofigure>.

Submitted by Dina Howell (SNL-CPG)

Valentine Jim



Jim Walker (WTS) sure has a lot of admirers. For 15 years, Walker has given out Valentine's Day cookies to the ladies at work. This year, a group in the Skeen-Whitlock Building showed their thanks by presenting him with a plant and a gift basket. Some are already anticipating Valentine Jim's return next year.

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](#)

