

TRU TeamWorks

April 28, 2005

Tools

Acronym List
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Feedback

Contact us with [feedback](#) or submit your e-mail address for updates.

By the Numbers

Shipments

Scheduled to arrive
05/01/05 - 05/07/05:
(subject to change)

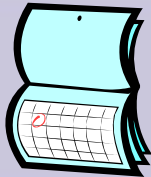
Hanford - 4
INL - 12
LANL - 1
SRS - 7

Total shipments
received as of 04/27/05:
3,546

Disposal

Waste disposed as of
04/27/05:

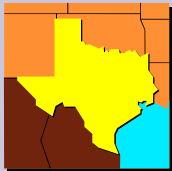
4,421 standard waste
boxes
1,495 ten-drum
overpacks
61,975 waste drums
28,054 cubic meters



The Big Story:

A quarter for your thoughts

WIPP stakeholders meet in Carlsbad ...



Operations:

A Texas-size exercise

Part II of the Fort Worth emergency
response training ...



Operations:

Watching their every move

CTAC audits Waste Handling Operations ...



Safety & Security:

Halt and identify

Put a stop to unsafe work practices ...



Working Smart:

RFETS windfall

WIPP to benefit from excess equipment ...



Our Team:

In the know

Our team news and happenings



TRU TeamWorks is a biweekly e-newsletter for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant team

Quarterly meeting participants tour WIPP



(Left to right) Steve Zappe, NMED, George Basabilvazo, CBFO and Nick Stone, EPA Region VI watched waste handling technicians ready the final RFETS shipment for disposal.

WIPP stakeholders meet in Carlsbad

Quarterly meeting draws large crowd

A well-attended WIPP Quarterly Update Meeting took place in Carlsbad on April 19, where more than 40 people representing WIPP project participants, regulator agencies, stakeholders and the public gathered to hear the latest information on WIPP and associated projects.

Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest and State Representative John Heaton opened the update with words of greeting and thanks for participants' contributions toward WIPP's continued success and safety. Heaton and Forrest were followed by NMED WIPP Project Leader Steve Zappe, who gave an activities update from NMED's WIPP permits program. Zappe summarized the status of WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit modification requests (PMRs) received by NMED since the last meeting.



Representative John Heaton greets Quarterly Update Meeting participants.

"PMR status was definitely an important topic for this meeting," says CBFO Chief Scientist Roger Nelson.

"CBFO's highest regulatory priority is the combined Section 311 PMR that addresses RH waste and proposed improvements to waste confirmation procedures at both generator sites and WIPP. The processing and review of this PMR was thoroughly discussed by participants."

The waste generation end of the WIPP process was represented by DOE and contractor representatives from INL, who discussed that site's overall plan for TRU waste retrieval and shipment to WIPP.

WIPP-related, though not WIPP-specific, topics included a report given by Bill Bartlett of the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM). CEHMM is fairly new organization in Carlsbad with ties to WIPP. CEHMM is dedicated to promoting the safe management of hazardous materials in the region.

The meeting ended with a WIPP permit status update given by CBFO RCRA Compliance Manager Jody Plum and a presentation by Roger Nelson addressing specific questions submitted by NMED for discussion.

The next quarterly update will take place in Santa Fe at the offices of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department in July.

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Scenes from the WIPP site I



Paul Orr (WTS) performs a lockout/tagout procedure on the TRUPACT maintenance facility electrical panel.

Transportation
All in a day's work

THIS IS A DRILL — THIS IS A DRILL — THIS IS A DRILL —

Emergency responders in the Fort Worth, Texas, area were put to the test last Thursday, during a full scale WIPP training exercise. The exercise took place at the Fort Worth Police and Fire Training Academy where a large area was barricaded and marked to resemble a section of Interstate 20.



Drill scenario: An accident involving three passenger vehicles and a WIPP shipment occurs on I-20 just outside Fort Worth city limits (Photo 1). As a result of the accident, both WIPP truck drivers are rendered unconscious and two of three loaded TRUPACT-IIs are damaged. One TRUPACT-II sustained a small tear on the outer skin, and another was dislodged from the trailer, coming to rest on the interstate. Occupants of the two passenger vehicles are injured.



Emergency response personnel are notified and response gets underway (Photo 2). ER personnel don full bunker gear and breathing apparatuses.



Responders perform life-saving actions, then secure the scene. Radiological control personnel from both the state of Texas and the Pantex Radiological Assistance Program team respond and survey the area for contamination (Photo 3).



Once the scene is determined to be free of contamination, the DOE WIPP Incident Accident Response team is called in to assist in the recovery and coordinated transport of the TRUPACT-IIs (Photo 4). The fallen TRUPACT-II is lifted and placed back on a trailer, while the TRUPACT-II with a tear must be cleared for transport by the NRC (Photo 5).



Exercise participants included members of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas State Emergency Management, Texas Health Department, Fort Worth police and fire departments, Benbrook police and fire departments, Fort Worth/Tarrant County Emergency Management, DOE Pantex RAP Team, the DOE WIPP Incident Accident Response Team, WIPP CMR, WIPP Transportation Operations, Packaging Engineering, and Communication departments.

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Did you know that ...

Buying Recycled Products:

- Conserves natural resources
- Saves wildlife habitats
- Saves energy
- Reduces solid waste
- Reduces air and water pollutants
- Reduces greenhouse gases
- Creates new jobs

Submitted by -- Celeste M. Marsh, WRES
Pollution Prevention (P2)
Coordinator

Disposal

Waste handling in a fishbowl

It was show time for WIPP waste handlers last week as CTAC auditors watched their every move for compliance to QA programs. Working around the clock to catch early morning arrivals, the CTAC team observed seven shipments from WIPP's front gate to final underground waste emplacement. The annual audit is performed to verify that waste handling and transportation processes meet TRUPACT SARP and NRC certificate of compliance requirements.

Dee Scott, a CTAC senior QA specialist who has audited the program since 1999, said the audit went very well. "Normally we see two to three findings on a transportation audit. There were no findings on this audit and only a minor recommendation. First line supervisors, waste handlers, engineers, techs and radcon personnel displayed a high degree of skill and knowledge. The program is going in a positive direction."

Scott says the three-day audit was comprehensive in scope. Auditors were assigned to one of three surveillance posts: outside areas, the Waste Handling Building or underground. Outside auditors checked waste handling crew processes against QA procedures as they inspected arriving trucks, TRUPACT-IIs and trailers, reviewed shipping manifests and drivers' logs, and took radiological surveys.

Auditors stationed in the Waste Handling Building followed waste handling evolutions from TRUPACT off-loading to downloading of palletized waste containers in the underground. Reversing the process, auditors took note of crew A and B's attention to detail as they reassembled empty outbound TRUPACT-IIs.

Underground, CTAC auditors crosschecked waste transport and emplacement processes for quality assurance. Senior CTAC QA Specialist John Gray adds, "The waste handlers' attitudes and performance were great. They also communicated better than in past audits, telling us how and why they performed specific tasks. This audit was outstanding."



Debbie Seifts, WTS Waste Handling Operations, makes a call on the mine pager phone while working in the underground.

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Scenes from the WIPP site II



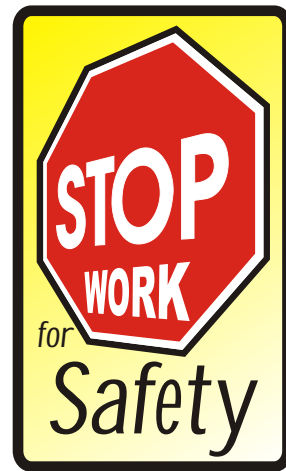
WRES employees Celeste Marsh and Stewart Jones hand out an Earth Day packet to Lata Desai (WTS). WIPP site employees were also greeted with the packets.

Stop! In the name of safety!

Better to stop and re-evaluate, than to do something in an unsafe manner. That's the sentiment behind WIPP's stop work policy. Employees are responsible for performing work safely and also for making sure others are working safely, as well. So each and every employee has the right to stop work and take action to remedy an unsafe situation.

This common sense approach to safety contributes to the strong safety culture at WIPP that keeps our work environment safe.

Even simple gestures, which are sometimes interpreted as good manners, can be considered use of the stop work policy. The following are just a few examples of putting this policy into practice.



Example #1

An employee struggles to keep a door open while pulling a cart through the doorway. A coworker sees this, stops the employee and offers to hold the door open.

Example #2

Underground Operations was moving a connex in Panel 2. The work package called for specific rigging, but it didn't fit properly.

The crew and manager discussed the situation and stopped work. They reevaluated the rigging, changed the work package and safely moved the connex.

"Work that is unsafe will be stopped. Every employee will have the right and the responsibility, without fear of reprisal from management, to identify unsafe conditions and to stop work and report the hazard to ensure that the condition is corrected before proceeding."

*Management Policy 1.12,
Worker Protection Policy,
Section 2.0 Worker
Protection Program*

Example #3

Hoisting Operations received a truckload of blocks for Panel 2 closure. The hoisting manager didn't think the pallets were of sufficient construction to safely handle the loads. The cognizant engineer was contacted and the process stopped until further evaluation of the pallets is completed. The issue will be resolved prior to moving the blocks to the underground.

Be on the lookout for hazards to protect yourself and others.

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Scenes from the WIPP site III



Butch Daszczyszak issues brass tags to WIPP underground employees for accountability purposes.

The team that made it happen:

Casey Gadbury
John Garcia
Tim Hedahl
Jim Johns
Ann Morissette
Scott Cassingham
Melanie Gravois

\$10 million in excess equipment to support WIPP

Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) shipped its last load of TRU waste last week, but now they're shipping something else to WIPP ... high tech equipment. With the closure of RFETS approaching, CBFO is the clearinghouse for characterization and waste handling equipment, much of which will be used in support of the WIPP disposal mission.

"Retaining government resources that are vital to the continued success of the TRU program is the main goal of our team," says Casey Gadbury, CBFO's lead on the project. "This government furnished equipment was paid for by tax dollars and it will continue to be a benefit to the nation."

On April 20, the first piece of equipment shipped from RFETS arrived at a facility in Albuquerque for staging, evaluation and, if needed, refurbishment. It's called the SuperHENC, for Super High Efficiency Neutron Counter, and it will provide the Central Characterization Program (CCP) with the capability to perform non-destructive assay on standard waste boxes.

"Right now, the Central Characterization Project has the ability to fully characterize drums," says Tim Hedahl, WTS manager of Projects and Scheduling. "The ability to characterize standard waste boxes will help accelerate cleanup at other sites now, too."



The \$1.4 million SuperHENC will allow characterization of standard waste boxes.

Hedahl has first-hand experience with the equipment, because not only is he involved in the team orchestrating the transfer of the SuperHENC to WIPP control, but he was also involved in the original acquisition of it at RFETS in the late 1990s. The SuperHENC's estimated value is \$1.4 million.

In all, the property to be transferred is worth an estimated \$10 million. It includes such items as headspace gas sampling equipment, gas generation test units, non-destructive assay systems, lift fixtures, leak test stations and miscellaneous loading equipment. While future uses are not yet known for all of the equipment, it will be placed in operation at the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center and at DOE sites around the country.

The successful transfer of the RFETS equipment to locations that will most benefit the TRU Program required close coordination between WTS and Kaiser-Hill personnel, as well as continued oversight from both the Carlsbad and Rocky Flats field offices.

Along with the equipment will come a great deal of documentation, including operating manuals, equipment specifications, technical drawings and maintenance records. The transfer of all the equipment to WIPP control is expected to be complete this month.

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RFETS final shipment trivia

TRUPACT-II units 125 and 129 were used to transport the very first RFETS shipment to WIPP in June, 1999. Those same TRUPACTs were used once again (along with TRUPACT-II 127), to transport the final RFETS shipment as well!

Another coincidence ...

The driving team of Randy Anderson and Greg Grimm (CAST) transported both the first and last RFETS shipments to WIPP!

Dell recalls AC adapters

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Dell is voluntarily recalling and offering free replacements for certain AC adapters that were sold for use with some models of Dell Latitude™, Dell Precision™ and Dell Inspiron™ notebook computers. It is possible for the adapters to overheat, which could pose a risk of fire or electrical shock.

The adapters were also sold separately between September 1998 and February 2002.

To determine whether your adapter is affected by this issue, go to Dell's website at www.delladapterprogram.com or call 1-800-418-8590.



Birthdays

Brenda Buttrey (WTS) - May 2
Debra Medina (CTAC) - May 2
Lyndi Estrada (L&M) - May 3
Cindy Woodin (WTS) - May 7
Mario Carrasco (WTS) - May 8
Andy Stanley (CTAC) - May 9

Submit your
birthday

[HERE](#)

WIPP teams greet final RFETS shipment



Though it arrived in the early morning hours of April 20, the final shipment of TRU waste from Rocky Flats was greeted by cheering - and very proud - WIPP employees. Pictured with the truck from left to right are Wade Smith (SFPS), Bob Nieman (WTS), Kim Jackson (WTS), Angela Johnson (WTS), Randy Anderson (CAST), Greg Grimm (CAST) and Carlos Duran (SFPS).



The final shipment of RFETS waste arrived at WIPP on April 20 at 2:32 a.m.

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