

A biweekly e-newsletter for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant team

Topic Links

Home
Characterization News
Transportation News
Disposal News
Safety News
Working Smart
Announcements
Our Team

Tools

Acronym List
Archives
Links
WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

By the Numbers

Transportation and disposal statistics are now available on pages 3 and 4.

Products handled by the Centralized Procurement Program

- Standard Waste Boxes (SWB)
- Ten Drum Overpacks (TDOP)
- Adjustable Center-of-Gravity Lift Fixtures
- TDOP Lift Fixture Adapters
- SWB Lift Fixture Adapters



WTS Centralized Procurement Program serves the DOE complex

The WTS Centralized Procurement Program (CPP) may be one of WIPP's quietest successes. Since its inception, the program has streamlined the procurement process for specialized equipment and waste containers used by TRU waste generating facilities, while maintaining quality control and cutting costs.

The CPP is administered by WTS and works in this way: specialized TRU waste handling equipment and containers are needed for waste disposal operations. The equipment must be constructed to exacting standards and specifications, which makes purchasing it complex and labor intensive. Before CPP, each DOE facility was responsible for purchasing its own equipment. The result was a duplication of effort throughout the DOE complex.

CPP centralizes the procurement of these specialized products, which results in significant cost savings when compared to the total cost for multiple procurement efforts. CPP also standardizes the design specifications for each piece of equipment or packaging container. This ensures that participating sites consistently obtain quality products that meet rigorous manufacturing, inspection and testing requirements.

Additionally, CPP has harnessed the purchasing power of the DOE complex to obtain better prices for participant sites. Contracts with vendors are awarded through the competitive bid process and entitle sites to purchase the products at fixed prices. But the savings don't stop there. Gerry Woolsey, CPP coordinator, explains, "CPP personnel negotiated lower product prices with our suppliers. For example, if a large order is placed by a facility, it obtains the best pricing. In most cases, CPP has been able to obtain the same price for smaller orders that follow. To date, these cost savings are approximately \$2M."

Participation by DOE sites in the CPP is voluntary. Satisfied customers include contractors at Hanford, INEEL, NTS, SRS, RFETS, ANL-E, Battelle-Columbus, LANL and WIPP.

Participation in the CPP has added advantages for DOE sites. The CPP maintains small inventories of each item for use by participant sites that have urgent needs. Waste container inventories reside at the manufacturer's facility in Ogden, Utah, and fixture inventories reside at WIPP.

The CPP is managed by an integrated team under WTS Packaging Engineering direction. WTS participants include packaging engineering, quality assurance and oversight programs, waste handling engineering, procurement, and accounting. The team has processed orders in excess of \$30M. These include approximately 3,300 SWBs, 6,500 TDOPs and 25 various lift fixtures. An expansion of the program is planned, with product additions to include pipe overpacks, standard large boxes and other specialized equipment.



These TDOPs from a CPP supplier are ready for shipment.

LANL-CO: A vital partner at WIPP

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) plays a dual role in WIPP operations. Not only is LANL a major generator facility, projected to ship approximately 12,000 cubic meters of legacy CH-TRU waste to WIPP by 2010, and has significant ongoing TRU waste generation activities, but LANL is a project partner that has been involved in WIPP operations since 1994. In 2000, LANL expanded its participation at WIPP and the LANL Carlsbad Operations office (LANL-CO) was opened. Here is a look at the important role this organization fills at WIPP and beyond:



The LANL Carlsbad Operations office.

Topic Links

Home
Characterization News
Transportation News
Disposal News
Safety News
Working Smart
Announcements
Our Team

Tools

Acronym List
Archives
Links
WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

Technical solutions for difficult waste

LANL-CO leads a multi-organizational team that develops solutions for long-range issues that impact TRU waste characterization, transportation and disposal. It was the LANL-led team that provided technical analyses for elimination of unnecessary TRU waste requirements. LANL-CO was instrumental in developing large box non-destructive analysis and non-destructive examination, as well.

LANL-CO manages the Corporate Board, a group of key TRU waste complex decision-makers, and handles interface activities among generator sites for CBFO. LANL support includes complex-wide meetings, development of shipping strategies and implementation of strategic initiatives.

Actinide chemistry

In partnership with the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, LANL-CO personnel are conducting actinide chemistry studies – the study of radioactive elements heavier than uranium – in support of WIPP’s repository performance modeling.

TRU waste inventory

A significant contribution to the Compliance Recertification Application (CRA), LANL-CO compiled, verified, and developed a complex-wide TRU waste inventory. This included all waste inventory information for the WIPP Performance Assessment as required by the Environmental Protection Agency for recertification.

Using the information obtained for the CRA as a starting point, the team is now implementing a DOE complex-wide strategic inventory database that contains critical inventory information from all TRU waste sites. This database will be used not only for the next recertification in 2009, but also for strategic planning purposes.

Central Characterization Project (CCP)

LANL-CO supports Central Characterization Project team efforts at a number of generator sites, helping the teams obtain process knowledge as required by the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Major LANL-CO accomplishments include development of a unique database for source documents, a roadmap that defines acceptable knowledge elements, and development of container tracking spreadsheets for each waste stream.

Additionally, LANL-CO leads all complex-wide mobile loading efforts. This nationally recognized team loads and certifies shipments for transport to WIPP.

Uniquely qualified

In its dual role as TRU waste generator and WIPP technical advisor, LANL provides comprehensive insight for optimizing TRU waste clean-up operations at generator sites, combined with a unique understanding of WIPP needs and dynamics.

CH packaging safety analysis reports

Revision 20 of the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report (SAR) and Revision 3 of the HalfPACT SAR are part of ongoing WTS efforts to improve and streamline existing transportation requirements. WTS submitted the two SAR applications on behalf of CBFO to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in August 2003. Following thorough review, NRC approved the revisions last month.

The CH SAR revisions consolidated the payload requirements for both the TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT shipping packages into a single document. Additionally, supporting payload analyses, common to both shipping packages, were consolidated.

The TRUPACT-II SAR was rewritten and condensed from five volumes down to one. Thus, the documents were streamlined to facilitate future revisions and NRC review, as well as making it easier for TRU waste shippers to find and follow the requirements.

The revision included over 20 primary payload expansion initiatives and an additional authorized payload container. The S300 pipe overpack will be used by LANL, in conjunction with the previously approved S100 pipe overpack, to shield sealed neutron source waste forms with higher neutron dose rates down to allowable CH waste limits. The S300 pipe overpacks are essentially a 12-inch standard pipe overpack with the addition of polyethylene neutron shielding material inside of the pipe component.

Revision 20 also implements changes in shipping time frames. Generator sites within 1,000 miles of WIPP will now have a 20-day shipping window. Prior to the revision, the shipping time frame was 60 days, regardless of proximity to WIPP. The 60-day figure was based on a projected number of days for adverse conditions, such as weather, and doubled by the NRC for added assurance.

After millions of shipping miles, WTS determined that the maximum shipping time for sites within 1,000 miles would be 10 days. That doubled renders a 20-day limit.

Another substantial change is implementation of the 10-day “controlled shipment” option for wastes with higher decay heat. Because such shipments potentially experience a higher rate of hydrogen gas production, the shipments are made within 10 days to ensure hydrogen concentrations do not exceed 5 percent by volume.

The controlled shipment designation is available to all sites that ship high-decay-heat TRU waste, but the site must obtain CBFO approval before shipping. The requirement ensures that 10-day controlled shipments are given priority handling.



Topic Links

Home
 Characterization News
 Transportation News
 Disposal News
 Safety News
 Working Smart
 Announcements
 Our Team

Tools

Acronym List
 Archives
 Links
 WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

By the Numbers

Shipments scheduled to arrive at WIPP week of 09/19/04 - 09/25/04: **29**

INEEL - **12**
 NTS - **2**
 RFETS - **15**

(subject to change)

Total shipments received at WIPP as of 09/15/04: **2,972**

Mining our own business

A common question posed by WIPP visitors and media is: “How much waste will be disposed of at WIPP?” The amount, specified in the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act, limits WIPP waste capacity to 6.2 million cubic feet or about 175,000 m³. The WIPP repository design includes eight hazardous waste disposal units or panels, each containing seven rooms roughly the length of a football field (300-foot long, 33-foot wide and 13-foot high).

The Land Withdrawal Act did not, however, specify how quickly the panels could be constructed or filled. In the early '90s, planners projected WIPP would receive an average of 12 TRU waste shipments per week. Based on that, they assumed that only Panels 1-3 would be filled in the first 10 years of operation. In issuing WIPP’s permit, NMED limited construction to Panels 1-4, plus access drifts, and limited waste disposal to Panels 1-3.

After 5 years of increased efficiency, WIPP has far surpassed original estimates: Panel 1 was filled and closed in 2003, Panel 2 is 60 percent full and construction of Panel 3 is nearly complete. Earlier this month, WIPP shipped and processed its highest weekly number of TRUPACTs: 77.

To meet disposal demands, DOE asked NMED in May 2003 for a permit change to allow stepped-up construction of Panels 5-8 and disposal of waste in Panels 4-7 during the current 10-year permit term (which began when WIPP opened in 1999). The permit change does not increase the repository design capacity.

Miners predict Panel 2 will be filled by January 2005. Sean White of WRES Permitting and Compliance adds, “This permit modification will allow WIPP to support ongoing risk reduction and TRU waste cleanup acceleration efforts in the DOE complex. We anticipate a draft permit from NMED this fall.”

Topic Links

- Home
- Characterization News
- Transportation News
- Disposal News
- Safety News
- Working Smart
- Announcements
- Our Team

Tools

- Acronym List
- Archives
- Links
- WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

By the Numbers

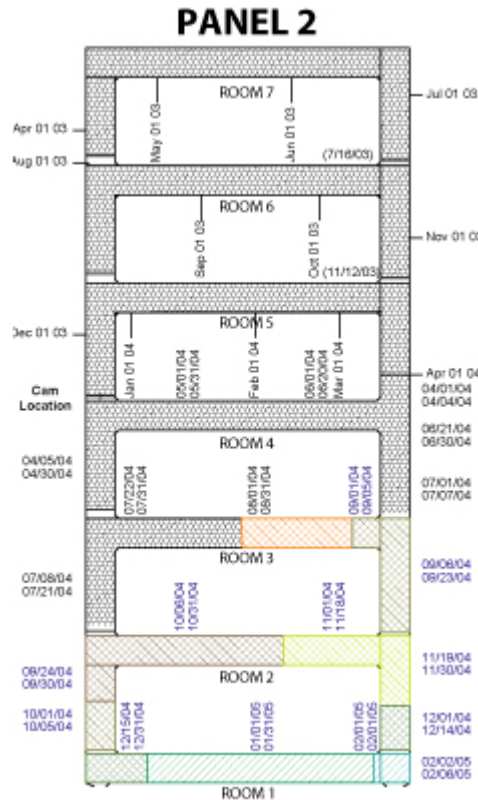
Waste disposed in the WIPP underground as of 09/15/04:

55,285 waste drums

3,585 standard waste boxes

1,193 ten-drum overpacks

23,718 cubic meters



Panel 2 progress

Tornado doors are part of WHB safety design

Children are often asked by parents “were you raised in a barn?” Of course, the answer is no, but the point is made – close the doors behind you. That childhood lesson seems more important as adults when paying the heating and cooling bills at home, but it’s also important at WIPP for another reason: safety.

Topic Links

- Home
- Characterization News
- Transportation News
- Disposal News
- Safety News
- Working Smart
- Announcements
- Our Team

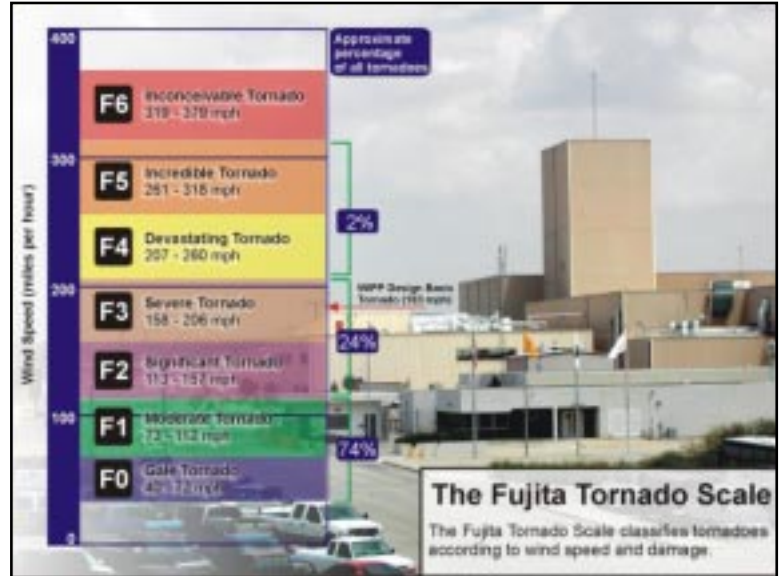
Tools

- Acronym List
- Archives
- Links
- WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

All of the exterior doors of the Waste Handling Building (WHB) and TRUPACT-II Maintenance Facility (TMF) are tornado doors. Along with the use of airlocks, the tornado doors serve two very important purposes. First, they are designed to help maintain differential pressure in the WHB. The building and associated ventilation are designed so that if an opening were to exist between the inside and outside of the building, air would flow into and not out of the building. This ensures that in the unlikely event of a radiological release inside the WHB, radiation would not escape the building into the environment.



The second important purpose is to protect the WHB and the TMF, which share a common wall, in the unlikely event of a tornado (thus the name tornado door). The doors ensure that the WHB maintains confinement of transuranic waste and radioactivity, even in the event of a Design Basis Tornado (DBT). The DBT is the worst case postulated tornado for WIPP and has a peak wind of 183 miles per hour.

Just closing the doors, however, is not enough. “Some doors have a crash bar mechanism, which latches closed automatically,” says Anne Strait, WTS Nuclear Safety manager. “But others have levers that are rotated to open the door and rotated in the opposite direction to properly latch the door closed.”

Postings on each of the tornado doors are there to remind us to close the doors when not in use, but let’s also remember to latch them closed, if required, so they will continue to provide the defense-in-depth protection they are designed for.

Slam the door shut on spam

If Jessie James were alive today, he'd probably rob you at mouse point. Thanks to unsolicited commercial e-mail, otherwise known as spam, what used to require a gun and a horse now only needs a computer and a mouse. Fortunately, there are actions we can take to prevent us from becoming spam victims.

At WIPP, spam is a serious problem that is battled continuously. Both incoming and outgoing e-mail messages are automatically checked for key words and other signs of spam. Any messages that are flagged must be checked by computer security staff before they are allowed to continue through the WIPP system. "The number of messages flagged varies by day and even hour," says Paul DeVito, WTS Cyber Security manager. "But, it's not uncommon for our system to flag 1,020 messages in a single day."

In a series of on-line articles, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) outlines some specific steps that may not eliminate spam entirely, but will greatly reduce its volume. Many of these are already addressed at WIPP by NCI staff to protect project computers and the network, but they can also be useful at home.

- Disable Windows Messenger Service (On the Control Panel, go to Administrative Tools, then Services, then Messenger. Under the Startup drop-down menu, select Disabled, click Stop, and then click OK).
- Use a software or hardware firewall to make you invisible on the Internet and block unauthorized communication between your computer and external sources. This is especially important if you have high-speed Internet access through a cable model or a DSL connection.
- Avoid displaying your e-mail address in newsgroup postings, chat rooms or Web sites.
- Check privacy policies before submitting your e-mail address to anyone. "Opt out" if they plan to sell your address.
- Create two e-mail addresses, one for your personal use and the other for public use that can be changed or cancelled if spam becomes a problem.
- Create a unique e-mail address.
- Use an e-mail filter to weed out potential spam.
- Report spam to your ISP, the sender's ISP and the FTC at spam@uce.gov.

Of course, all of these actions do not replace the need for up-to-date virus protection software.



Topic Links

Home
 Characterization News
 Transportation News
 Disposal News
 Safety News
 Working Smart
 Announcements
 Our Team

Tools

Acronym List
 Archives
 Links
 WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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

Topic Links

- Home
- Characterization News
- Transportation News
- Disposal News
- Safety News
- Working Smart
- Announcements
- Our Team

Tools

- Acronym List
- Archives
- Links
- WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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



CAST drivers honored for heroic actions

Claude Beebe and Mark Beene of CAST Transportation were recently recognized by WTS and CBFO for their heroic efforts while on the job. Beene used his training and quick reaction to avoid being involved in a massive pile-up on a Wyoming interstate highway. Beebe also reacted quickly, pulling a motorist from a burning vehicle.



WTS Manager Steve Warren, Claude Beebe, Mark Beene and acting CBFO Manager Paul Detwiler stand together during the award presentation.



Beebe and Beene are joined by the manager of the Carlsbad CAST Transportation office, Gaylon Fuller (center).



WTS employees eligible for vehicle purchase discounts

WTS employees are eligible to obtain discounts on personal purchases of Ford and GM vehicles through the following corporate partnership programs:

Ford

The Ford Partner Recognition program provides special vehicle discounts to partner employees and their spouses. The program rewards partner company employees, introduces Ford Motor Company products to new customers and recognizes the loyalty of current owners. For more information, or to take advantage of the program, log onto www.fordpartner.com and enter the Washington Group International partner code: **L7RDB**.

GM

WTS employees are eligible to receive discounts on GM vehicles through the Supplier Discount program. For more information, log into the GM Supplier Discount Web site at www.gmsupplierdiscount.com. Insert the Washington Group company code: **841161**.

The Web sites require verification of employment with Washington Group. Employees should remember not to access the Web sites during normal duty hours.

Topic Links

Home
Characterization News
Transportation News
Disposal News
Safety News
Working Smart
Announcements
Our Team

Tools

Acronym List
Archives
Links
WIPP Home Page

Feedback

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



Birthdays

Helen Pettus (WTS) - September 16
Bennie Armijo (WTS) - September 24
Kathy Kessler (WTS) - September 24

Lila King (SMS) - September 26
Randy West (WTS) - September 28



Picnic planned

WTS, WRES, L&M, NCI and SFPS employees are invited to attend a joint picnic. The picnic will be held at the Riverwalk Recreation Center on Saturday, September 25, from 4–8 p.m. Great picnic foods will be provided along with snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy, pickles and drinks. Food service will begin at 5 p.m.; snacks will be available throughout the picnic.

Activities include:

- Horseshoe tournament coordinated by Ronnie Rhoades and Bobby Thomas. Prizes will be awarded.
- Door prizes to be awarded at 7 p.m. Sign-ups for door prize tickets for adults and kids will be available as you enter.
- A children’s carnival, including a ring toss, hole-in-one golf, bowling, basketball toss, bowl toss with ping pong balls, duck pond, fishing, sand pools, roulette and wheel-of-fortune
- Jumpers for kids
- Cake walk
- Bingo
- Clown, temporary tattoos, hair painting, face painting and arts and crafts



Document Zone now available

The 3rd quarter issue of *The Document Zone* is now available to WIPP employees. *The Document Zone* is an internal publication for WIPP records coordinators, but is of interest to all WIPP employees. To access the *Zone*, access the L&M Technologies home page, then follow the links to Records Management-Project Records Services-The Document Zone.