

TRU TeamWorks

November 11, 2004

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
11/14/04 - 11/20/04: 28

INEEL - 4
LLNL - 1
NTS - 4
RFETS - 15
SRS - 4
(subject to change)

3,128 total shipments
received as of 11/10/04

Disposal

Waste disposed as of
11/10/04:
57,225 waste drums
3,879 standard waste
boxes
1,245 ten-drum
overpacks
24,912 cubic meters



The Big Story:

New kids on the block

New NMED team members, old pros at WIPP ...



Operations:

Thinking big

New technologies would pave way for large container wastes ...



Operations:

The view from down under

Panel 3 crews make earth-moving progress ...



Safety & Security:

Get a load of this ...

Picking up the paper takes on a whole new meaning ...



Working Smart:

Survey says:

TeamWorks' new look is not the only change you'll notice ...



Our Team:

People make it happen

The latest on WIPP team news ...



Our Team Extra:

A salute to WIPP vets

TeamWorks salutes WIPP veterans on this special day ...



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

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Josh Stein, SNL

Stein takes top honors at WM '04

Joshua Stein of SNL-Albuquerque has received the award for Best Poster at Waste Management (WM) 2004 for his poster "Assessing the Effect of Actual Waste Emplacement Patterns on the Performance Assessment of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant."

The poster presented an analysis of the long-term repository performance impacts of random and non-random waste emplacement.

Poster sessions at WM are graphic presentations of scientific papers and frequently require more planning and preparation than oral presentations.

The award will be presented to Stein at the WM 2005 in February.

-- Submitted by Steve Casey, CBFO

NMED opens local WIPP office

This month WIPP is pleased to welcome the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) group to the project. NMED will officially open oversight offices in Carlsbad and at the WIPP site November 22.

While there are a number of oversight groups and organizations involved in WIPP, NMED and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are the primary regulators. NMED oversees WIPP compliance to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, while EPA regulates radioactive waste disposal.



NMED office personnel in general employeee training. Back row (L to R) Joan Carter, Sandy Jowers (SWB receptionist) and John Haschets. Front row (L to R) Bob Weeks, Julie Desai and Tom Klein.

Seven full-time employees will staff the local offices. NMED has hired five staff members and expects to add two additional employees by the opening date.

Two "new hires" bring valuable WIPP experience with them: Tom Klein, NMED environmental engineer, and John Hatchets, NMED environmental scientist, are former EEG employees.

Many will recognize Joan Carter as the smiling face at the Skeen-Whitlock Building receptionist desk. Carter will be the new NMED office administrator. Bob Weeks will fill the health physics position, and Julie Desai is an environmental scientist.

"The primary mission of the local office will be to conduct environmental monitoring and scientific studies of environmental and worker safety issues at and around the WIPP facility," says Charles Lundstrom, director of NMED's Water and Waste Management Division. "We look forward to building a solid relationship with the WIPP facility to ensure the continued safety and protection of human health and the environment."

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Did you know?

NDA and NDE are non-intrusive characterization techniques.

Non-destructive assay (NDA), used to determine the waste's radiological properties, is accomplished by measuring gamma rays and neutrons emanating from the container, then "back calculating" to determine radiological properties of the contents and their distribution.

Non-destructive examination (NDE) uses X-rays and a video system to inspect waste container contents. Operators can verify the waste's physical form, identify objects and ensure the absence of prohibited items.

Thinking big

Nearly 24 percent of DOE's legacy TRU waste is packaged in containers too large to handle with existing technology. But a recent contract award at Savannah River Site (SRS) promises to help clear the path for disposal of large-item wastes without costly size reduction and repackaging.

Bert Crapse, DOE TRU Waste Project manager at SRS, told *TRU TeamWorks* this week that Canberra Industries Inc. was chosen to fabricate a large-package non-destructive assay (NDA) system, while HYTEC Engineering Inc. will build a non-destructive examination (NDE) prototype.

Last year, EM-20 and CBFO set aside funds to develop NDA/NDE technologies to characterize waste packaged in oversize containers (5' x 5' x 8'). Existing NDA/NDE equipment is designed to characterize wastes in 55-gallon drums and standard waste boxes.

The three-phase award began with concept proposals in early 2004 and is now in the second-phase of equipment fabrication and testing. The final phase will include WIPP certification of the equipment, scheduled in early 2006.

"Nearly 50 percent of Savannah River's TRU waste is currently stored in oversized boxes and containers," says Crapse. Inside the containers and boxes are large items such as gloveboxes, fans, ductwork, pumps and piping.

"This technology will reduce the need to repackage and size-reduce the waste to fit smaller WIPP containers. I also expect this will reduce the overall number of shipments to WIPP," Crapse says, referring to the new technologies.

Dan Taggart, LANL/CB, who assisted DOE in developing bid solicitations, estimates savings "in the area of \$1.5 billion," if large waste items don't have to be resized and repackaged.

These large containers of waste would also require a new shipping container since they are too large to fit in the TRUPACT-II. One option being pursued by DOE is TRUPACT-III, a large, rectangular shipping package in development by Packaging Technology Inc. of Tacoma, Wash.

Crapse says the NDA/NDE technologies will be built as mobile modular concepts that could be deployed to other DOE sites that store TRU waste in oversized boxes.



Oversize TRU waste boxes are located at many DOE sites.

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“In the underground, different crews work together to get the job done. Everything we do is a team effort that involves several different groups. It takes all of us, working together safely everyday, to make progress. You can’t say one group completed the room, it takes everyone.”

— Blas Castaneda, WTS
Mining Operations

Three down, five to go

Three out of eight, or close to 40 percent, of the disposal panels planned for WIPP are now complete. Bob Kirby, Underground Operations manager, says mining operations in Panel 3 wrapped up in early July as scheduled. Budwine Electric Inc. is wiring the panel for electrical and communication systems, while mining and ground control crews finish roof bolting.

Mining crews began rough cutting Panel 3 in February 2003. A total of 130,000 tons of salt have been hauled topside from Panel 3 to make room for future waste disposal.

Kirby says Room 3 of Panel 2 should be filled this week, with disposal beginning in Room 2 immediately following Room 3 closure activities. He estimates that all seven of Panel 2's disposal rooms will be filled by April 2005.

Looking ahead, Kirby says they will begin mining Panel 4 in January and a permit modification has been submitted to NMED to request permission for disposal in Panel 4. WIPP panels are mined on a "just in time" basis to minimize the maintenance required to ensure 13-foot clearance in active disposal rooms. Mined out openings creep in at an average rate of three inches per year.



Mike Nunley, WTS, installs roof bolts in Panel 3.



Justin Kirkes, WTS, runs the EIMCO miner.



Gary Ashford, WTS, watches co-worker Randy Wilson run the EIMCO miner in Room 7 of Panel 3.

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Whatever happened to the Trading Post?

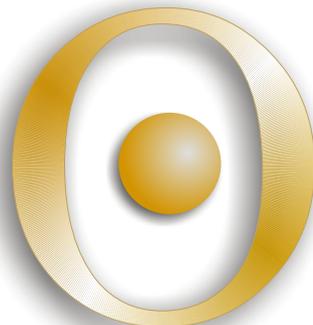
A popular request in the recent survey was to bring back the Trading Post, a want ad section last published in *TRU News* in the mid-1990s. While it was widely used, it has since been disallowed due to its commercial nature and its use of employee time and government resources.

In search of the golden newsletter

Look what you did! Your comments in the recent *TRU TeamWorks* survey led to many improvements in today's issue. The e-newsletter enjoyed good overall readership, but your comments also showed us that there were many other things we could do to make it even better.

And so, we set out in search of the golden newsletter one that everybody reads, everybody learns from and everybody looks forward to the next issue. Here's a quick overview of what's new and exciting.

- **Focusing more on people** Look for more employee quotes, group profiles, photos and video clips. WIPP employees are the ones that make it all happen.
- **Changing format** Many preferred the format of previous newsletters, *WIPPtoday*, which was web-based or *TRU News*, which was a traditional printed newsletter. We've returned to an html format, but have retained pdf versions in the archives for reference and easy printing.
- **Sneak peeks** A listing of articles is now included in the e-mail message so you have a general idea of what's inside without having to click on the link.
- **Page 1 central** Page 1 has been re-designed to give you an idea of what's inside at a glance and to serve as a central information hub. Everything you need to access is just a click away from here. Plus, the latest transportation and disposal numbers will always be right on page 1.
- **Expanded topics** Watch for more coverage of business-related and administrative topics, the so-called non-disposal-related areas of WIPP. You'll also see expanded coverage of security in our new Safety and Security articles.
- **Our Team/Announcements** Two of the most popular sections have been combined to put key employee news just one click away from the main page.
- **Items of interest** Each page has a column on the left-hand side that can be used for short news articles, interesting facts, WIPP trivia, employee photos, etc. Be sure to watch for these items throughout *TRU TeamWorks*.
- **Animations** Keep an eye on the *TRU TeamWorks* banner on page 1 and other graphics and charts that will be animated to give our pages more interest and interactivity.



Thanks again for all of your great ideas to make *TRU TeamWorks* golden. We hope you like the changes and will let us know ... one way or the other. Our [e-mail](#) inbox is always open to your suggestions and opinions.

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What you should know about your DOE badge

DOE's Security program mandates that each time a photo ID badge is issued it must have a new, unique number. This requirement has created some confusion for employees since badge numbers are used for other identification purposes at WIPP.

Please be aware that the information on the badge is specific to the badge, not the employee.

If you are issued a new badge here are guidelines to remember:

- **WTS employees** - The original badge number issued upon employment is your employee number. Use that badge number to access your timesheet in PALS. The new badge number is used for tracking purposes by Security and Technical Training.
- **Non-WTS Employees** - Security does not issue employee numbers. Please address the use of employee numbers through your respective Human Resource representative. Your current DOE badge number is used for tracking by Security and Technical Training.

If your badge is lost or stolen, contact Security immediately.

Any WIPP employee whose badge has become faded, broken or cracked should contact Hector Saldana at 234-8418 for a replacement.

Any significant change in facial features also warrants a new badge. This will ensure easy recognition by Security when you are entering the WIPP site or any other DOE facility.

- Submitted by Craig Suggs, WTS

Safe lifting in the office environment

Employees who work with heavy machinery and equipment know all about proper lifting techniques. Those that work in offices, however, don't always recognize the potential hazards of incorrectly lifting something until it's too late.

A recent change in how copy paper is distributed at WIPP brings proper lifting techniques to the forefront. Rather than paper being delivered to copy machines, departments must now pick up their own paper at the WIPP site warehouse or the receiving area at the Skeen-Whitlock Building. Sounds like a good time to remind everyone about proper lifting techniques so we can avoid unnecessary injuries.

Here are some tips for lifting properly, whether lifting a paper box or any heavy object:

- Before lifting, know where you're taking the load and check for clear passage from Point A to Point B.
- Lift only loads that you can safely handle. When in doubt, ask for help.
- Avoid reaching over other objects to lift the one you want. Establish good footing
- Bend at your knees as you grasp the object
- Keep your back as straight as possible, centering your body over your feet
- Get a full grip with both hands
- Let your legs do the work. Lift your head and shoulders first, then let your legs push your body up slowly and smoothly. A slow, deliberate move avoids injury; rapid jerking motion invites pain.
- Lift with the load close to your body
- Avoid twisting your body at the waist. If you have to change direction, move your feet first
- Make sure you can see where you're going. Move slowly with small steps.
- Reverse the procedure to set the object down
- To unload, face the spot you have chosen and lower the load slowly
- Bend your knees again and let your legs, not your back, do the work
- Keep your fingers away from the bottom when you put an object down
- Use a cart or hand truck for longer moves



How much does a case of paper weigh?
Move your mouse over the photo above for the answer.

Remember, it's not so much the weight of the package that hurts your back, but the way you move it.



Sandy Harrison and Porf Martinez, Portage employees at CTAC, demonstrate team lifting techniques.

[See the video](#)

(Video file size is 500 kb)

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Birthdays

David Lewis, WTS - November 3
 Donna Carter, L&M - November 12
 Beverly Schrock, WTS - November 12
 Prissy Dugger, CTAC - November 13
 Russell Riddle, NCI - November 16
 Dora Lopez, L&M - November 18
 Leslie Rostro, NCI - November 18
 Bobby St. John, WTS - November 18
 Alfred Hinojos, WTS - November 21
 Kathy Gibson, WTS - November 22
 John Giblin, WTS - November 23
 Norm Frank, CTAC - November 26
 Joe Vasquez, L&M - November 28
 Greg Van Soest, LANL/CB - November 28
 Dan Taggart, LANL/CB - November 30



Congratulations to **John** and **Leslie Aragon (WTS)** on the birth of their daughter, **Johnna Racquel**. Johnna was born at 5:10 a.m. on November 17. She weighed 8 lbs, 3.6 oz and was 19½ inches long. Proud siblings are **Gabrielle** and **Breeanna**. Proud uncle is **Kevin Aragon (WTS)**.

Technical Training Home page update

General Employee Training (GET) self-paced modules are available from the Technical Training home page, under the heading of "Resources and Links." The GET modules will be removed from QMIS to prevent duplication. Also, the monthly training calendar has been included on the Technical Training home page under the heading of "Calendar and Events."

-- Submitted by Tom Lichty, WTS

Safety Calendar Update

Thanks again for submitting your photos for the 2005 WIPP Safety Calendar. The calendar project continues, despite current budget constraints. The 2005 calendar will be available to employees online in pdf format, monthly. Watch for details to follow.

-- Submitted by the WIPP Safety Awareness Committee



The staff of TRU TeamWorks wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving.

We will publish again on December 2.

DOE Awards Battelle Energy Alliance Contract

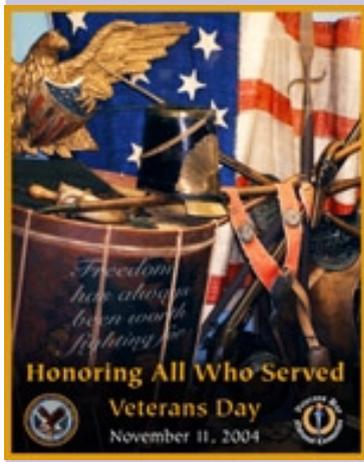
Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced DOE has selected the Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC (BEA) to establish the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as the nation's premier laboratory for nuclear energy research, development, demonstration and education within a decade.

The Idaho National Laboratory will combine the research and development components of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory West. BEA, owned by Battelle Memorial Institute, teamed with several institutions, including Battelle Memorial Institute, BWXT Services Inc., Washington Group International, the Electric Power Research Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Veterans Day is set aside to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. This national holiday is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty. *(Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.)*

A Salute to WIPP Veterans

In our last issue, *TRU TeamWorks* invited current and past WIPP employees to submit veteran information for inclusion in today's special salute. Take a moment to thank these individuals and other veterans for their service to our country. Please be advised that this list includes only the information that was submitted to *TeamWorks*.

Ed Ater, WTS

U.S. Air Force
 1966-1977
 Vietnam conflict 1971 -1972
 Dang, Vietnam
 366 Tac Fighter Wing

Specialist Drew Aveson (son of Kent Aveson, WTS)

Active U.S. Army
 Combat Engineer with the 10th Mountain Division
 Ft. Drum, New York
 Enlisted January 2004

Dwayne Baca (son of Joe Baca, WTS)

1st Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force
 Presently stationed at Dyess AFB, Abilene, Texas

Joe Baca, WTS

U.S. Marine Corps
 1968 - 1972
 4 years of service in Vietnam

Joseph E. Bealler, WTS

U.S. Navy, USS George Washington CVN-73, nuclear
 Bosnia, Persian Gulf, during Operation Desert Shield
 March 1993 - March 1999

Michael Bryant, WTS

U.S. Navy USS Asheville (SSN 758)
 August 1991 - August 1997

Steve Childress, WTS

Sgt., U.S. Air Force
 97th Bomb Wing, 42nd Air Division, Strategic Air Command,
 (SAC)
 April 1975 - April 1979

Bob Cullum, WTS

U.S. Army
 October 1972 - February 1979
 Service in Korea, 1974-75

Butch Daszczyzak

U.S. Navy
 1964 - 1967
 USS Charles H. Roan

Ron Dickert, WTS

U.S. Air Force
 1960 - 1964

David L. Hughes, WRES

U.S. Army
 1969 - 1972
 Vietnam service, 1970

Kevin Hughes, WTS

U.S. Navy
 USS Constellation
 Vietnam conflict, 1971 - 1973
 Navy Reserve and the Army National
 Guard 1970 - 1993
 Life member, VFW
 Member, American Legion

Dennis Hurtt, DOE

U.S. Army
 July 1964 - July 1967
 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Division
 Cu Chi, South Vietnam
 Vietnam conflict

Thomas Lichty, WTS

U.S. Navy
 Electronics Technician, Petty Officer 2nd
 class
 1975 - 1981
 U.S.S Bainbridge CGN-25
 Stationed off Vietnam coast to help
 refugees after the U.S. withdrawal. Also
 the first to arrive at "Gonzo Station," the
 Naval position in the Indian Ocean during
 the Iran hostage crisis.

Gary R. Morrison, WTS

U.S. Navy
 June 1963 - July 1969
 Five campaigns in Vietnam
 Proud to be an American. God bless our troops.

Curtis Potter, WTS

U.S. Navy
 June 1974 March 1978

Cynthia Ramirez, L&M

U.S. Air Force
 RAF Lakenheath, UK
 Fairchild AFB, Spokane, WA
 September 1979 - August 1985
 Member, American Legion
 Member, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 13
 Carlsbad

Hector R. Saldana, SFPS

U.S. Air Force
 November 1959 - December 1979

Wayne Treadway, WTS

U.S. Navy
 January 1964 January 1968
 Vietnam conflict

Bob Walker, L&M

Sgt., U.S. Air Force
 1971 1974
 Tactical Air Command, 1st Tac Fighter Wing, 1st.
 Supply Squadron/Base Supply
 MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida (1971-1973)
 Alaskan Air Command/Material Air Command, 5010
 Supply Squadron
 Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska (1973-1974)

Tim Wygant, (WID employee facility operations, April 1992 to May 1997)

U.S. Navy
 September 1978 - March 1992
 Currently a Senior Reactor Operator/Control Room
 Supervisor, Salem Nuclear Generating Station PSEG
 Nuclear, LLC