

# TRU TeamWorks

December 2, 2004

## Tools

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## Feedback

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

## By the Numbers

### Shipments

Scheduled to arrive  
12/05/04 - 12/11/04: 28

Hanford - 3  
LLNL - 2  
NTS - 2  
RFETS - 16  
SRS - 4  
(subject to change)

3,167 total shipments  
received as of 12/01/04

### Disposal

Waste disposed as of  
12/01/04:  
57,765 waste drums  
    3,956 standard waste  
        boxes  
    1,262 ten-drum  
        overpacks  
25,247 cubic meters



### The Big Story:

## An "excellent" adventure

The Center of Excellence team readies for action ...



### Operations:

## Go with the flow

Scientists study well connections at WIPP ...



### Operations:

## Small company, big impact

TechSpecs: the AK experts ...



### Safety & Security:

## The person behind the badge ...

There's more to a badge than meets the eye ...



### Working Smart:

## Ahoy there, beware!

New software piracy controls could spell trouble if you're not careful ...



### Our Team:

## Team milestones

From birthdays to graduations, check out the latest WIPP team news ...



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

**Quick clicks  
has moved!**

Thanks to a smart employee suggestion, we've moved the Quick clicks to the bottom of each page so you don't have to scroll back up to move to the next page!

**Healthy Surfing**

Health Services has a new Web site on the WIPP Intranet. The site offers a variety of useful information, including an introduction to the health services team and useful recommendations for diet and exercise. It can be accessed from the WIPP Intranet home page. The site will be updated monthly, so be sure to check back often. For questions or suggestions regarding the site, contact Mary Williams at Ext. 8997.

**DeVito Honored  
for Volunteer  
Works**

**Paul DeVito (WTS)** has been named the Landsun Hospice volunteer of the year for 2004. According to the Landsun Hospice *Stars in Motion* newsletter, Paul was chosen because he offers a compassionate spirit to Landsun hospice patients, their families and the Hospice staff. Paul has been a Landsun volunteer since February 2003.

-- Excerpted from *Stars In Motion, Landsun Hospice*

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**Center of Excellence opens its  
doors**

**S**ome people are wary of change; **Bill Bartlett is not one of them. "A little uncertainty makes life interesting," he says. So when Bartlett was asked to become the executive director for the Center of Excellence for Hazardous Materials Management (CEHMM), he accepted almost immediately.**



**Bill Bartlett is the new executive director of CEHMM.**

Located at 307 W. Greene street in Carlsbad, CEHMM is a young organization with big plans. Once it is up and running, this not-for-profit research and development group will work toward the safe management of hazardous materials in this region, including the U.S.-Mexico border. CEHMM will also work toward the improvement of worker safety, human health and the environment.

Turning this vision into reality will take a team with lots of imagination and the talent to turn good ideas into working programs. If this sounds like an intimidating task, Bartlett's not worried. He's excited. "Carlsbad already contains an impressive pool of technical talent and several renowned scientific institutions, as well. CEHMM has garnered excellent support from these groups. Working together, we can fulfill our mission and possibly attract complementary programs to the area in the process."

Though CEHMM is a WIPP spin-off organization, Bartlett makes it clear that the Center is not a WIPP support organization. "We are chartered to conduct our operations within five major areas: center management, education, monitoring, research and development, and information technology support," he explains. "These may coincide with WIPP activities, but the programs will not be developed to address WIPP needs."



**CEHMM staff left to right: Missy Villalpando, Susan Stokum, Joe Field and Bill Bartlett. Not pictured, Lisa Roback.**

**Center Management**

Center management is CEHMM's first priority. The group is currently working to build its infrastructure and policies. "Like any business that is just starting out, we had to acquire office space, furniture, computers and basic necessities. We are now working to establish human resource policies, benefits and other employee tools."

Hiring of technical personnel will begin next spring. Existing funding will maintain 15-20 personnel. CEHMM will also pursue opportunities to develop additional funding sources. Success in those endeavors could allow the group to grow significantly. Bartlett hopes that CEHMM will become a tool for economic development in the region.

**Education**

Educational aspects of CEHMM will eventually include short courses on nuclear and hazardous materials management offered to commercial, government and emergency response organizations. These courses will be taught by CEHMM staff in cooperation with the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center.

**Monitoring**

CEHMM will develop and administer effluent monitoring programs related to U.S.-Mexico border area concerns. The group will also focus on ways to reduce hazards to the public resulting from effluent emissions.

**Research and Development**

A technical advisory committee, made up of local and national experts in hazardous materials management, will select projects for research by CEHMM staff. One exciting project under consideration involves bio-diesel fuel (diesel gasoline with vegetable oil added to reduce emissions).

**Information Technology Development**

CEHMM is considering the development of a physical and virtual technical library that would be made available to researchers, stakeholder groups, those working within the hazardous materials industry and students. CEHMM may also develop a mechanism for publishing conference materials, and possibly, hold technical conferences in Carlsbad.

"The Center of Excellence was created to build upon the talents that exist in this area and take them further," concludes Bartlett. "Along the way we can help to grow Carlsbad economically while producing technologies to make the world a better place."



## Food for thought

"Tasty" information is available at the Food for Thought link on the Health Services web site!



## SNL-CPG welcomes new employee



**Kay Vugrin** recently joined SNL-CPG's Performance Assessment team and is working with SNL-CPG's Hydrology team to implement improvements in the nSIGHTS numerical well-test analysis code, which analyzes transient pressure and flow-rate data to estimate hydraulic parameters of interest. Kay is a recent graduate of Virginia Tech where she received a M.S. in applied math. She is currently completing her Ph.D. dissertation with Virginia Tech, in addition to her work with SNL-CPG. She looks to complete the requirements for a Ph.D. in applied math later next year.

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## Well connected

**W**IPP's lead hydrologist, Rick Beauheim, wants to know all he can about groundwater flow around WIPP. He discusses SNL-CPG's latest well test with the enthusiasm of an investigative scientist, "We want to know how the water wells all around the WIPP site are connected." Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, Beauheim's team completed tests on a new well drilled west of the WIPP site.

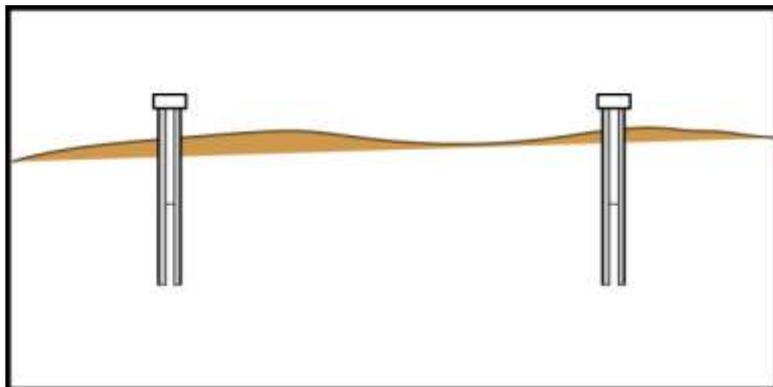
As test wells are pumped, pressure is released in the Culebra, causing fluctuation in the natural groundwater flow. The 25-foot-thick Culebra Dolomite of the Rustler Formation is the most transmissive of the water-bearing zones above the WIPP horizon. To create a computer model of groundwater flow, Beauheim says other WIPP wells are monitored when a new well is pumped, and the resulting data show which wells experience a change in pressure, when and at what rate.

While not all are active, there are approximately 70 test wells at WIPP, strategically located within miles of each other. Beauheim's team pumped the new 600-foot well 24 hours a day for over 31 days at a rate of 16 gallons per minute. He says the team monitors the wells by setting "Trolls," self-contained pressure gauges, beneath the wells' water surface at around 300 feet. The Trolls have a feed to the surface that technicians can connect a PDA or laptop to and download the data.

**T**he test in the west well is the first of three planned to determine well connectivity. A second test will be performed north of WIPP in early 2005, followed by a third on the south side next summer. Data generated by the new tests will be used to calibrate the model of flow between wells.

When asked about the sensitivity of the tests, Beauheim says it's not uncommon to see pressure variations related to non-WIPP pumping. "We can tell when local ranchers are pumping stock wells in the Culebra."

Groundwater monitoring and modeling activities are vital to long-term compliance with state and federal regulations. WIPP performance assessments identify Culebra groundwater flow as a disposal system parameter.





## The Soapbox

Read the latest Soapbox article - before it changes!

Find it on the Health Services Intranet site

## TechSpecs - A small company with big impact

**T**echnical Specialists LLC may be small, but the company provides significant support to WIPP's Central Characterization Project (CCP). "TechSpecs" collects and writes all of the acceptable knowledge (AK) at sites where CCP operates. The 10-person firm also reviews program documents and requirements to ensure TRU wastes are properly analyzed for acceptance at WIPP and are packaged to strict payload controls for shipment.

Trey Greenwood, TechSpecs president, says, "Our job is to answer the phone, no matter when or where it rings." That's the kind of flexibility Greenwood's customer needs. TechSpecs' job is to stay ahead of mobilized CCP teams and equipment as they relocate to TRU generator sites to set up, characterize and load TRU waste for shipment to WIPP.

In preparing a site to ship, TechSpecs will dispatch a lead to the site. Greenwood says the painstaking work of AK development requires team effort. "We may look at thousands of documents before writing the AK for 5,000 drums - or five drums. There's a lot of ground to cover, but our staff knows AK better than anyone out there." He adds that seven members of TechSpecs' team are qualified to do AK work, having gained years of experience at WIPP or other TRU sites. Others provide support to AK or perform project level data review and verification.

**G**reenwood and Mark Doherty, both former WIPP employees, founded the Carlsbad-based company in 2001. When asked if the hands-on company had a secretary, Greenwood quips, "We're our own office people."



Mark Doherty (left) and Trey Greenwood formed Technical Specialists LLC in 2001. Other TechSpecs members are: Randy Fitzgerald, Kenneth Lickliter, Jim Maupin, Jeff Harrison, Kevin Peters, Diane McCabe, Sheri Nance, Steve Schafer and Rob Tayloe.

Since its inception, TechSpecs has assisted CCP at seven TRU waste generator sites and has written AK for 11 sites with varied waste streams. The company is currently supporting AK at five sites

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## Geyser greets SNL-CPG and SWB workers

Thar' she blows. An early morning water geyser greets employees at the Skeen-Whitlock and SNL-CPG buildings Thursday, December 2. City workers braved cold, wet conditions to shut off the ruptured fire hydrant, located across the street from both buildings. Click on the picture to see a video clip of the water geyser (file size is 828 kb).



## SNL-CPG welcomes new employee



**Martin Nemer** is a new member of the SNL-CPG Performance Assessment staff. Martin will be responsible for chemistry models used in the WIPP Performance Assessment. Martin recently received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Yale University. He also served in a Post Doctoral research position with Los Alamos National Laboratory prior to coming to SNL-CPG.

## Protecting software from 21<sup>st</sup> century pirates

**W**ith software piracy becoming so prevalent, many companies are now making their installation discs more secure and harder to copy illegally. Microsoft is a prime example.

The biggest changes have come with the XP and 2003 versions of Microsoft Windows and Office. The software is pre-loaded on many new computers, and employees at WIPP and other places receive the more secure discs when upgrading their software to newer versions. Windows XP now requires activation within 30 days of installation or the software quits working. Office requires the exact same disc to be inserted for a repair or reinstall.

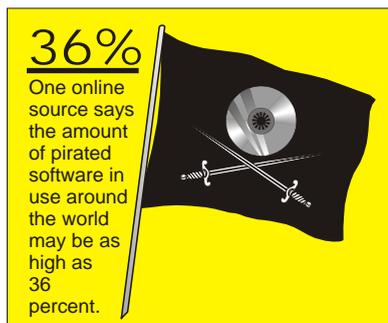
**S**o what does all of this mean to us at WIPP? If your computer has a problem with either of these programs, the original disc is required for ETSG Technical Support to work on it. Technical Support recommends the following:

Lock the discs that come with your new computer or with upgrades along with the activation key in a secure cabinet. The activation key (registration number, CD key, license key, authorization code, etc.) is the number usually located on the back of the disc's case or sleeve. It is very important that you have that number.

Know where they are so that if you need assistance from Technical Support they will be able to use it in your computer.

These tips can help keep WIPP's software secure from software pirates. If you have any questions, contact Technical Support at Ext. 7422.

*Contributing Writer - Leslie Rostro, NCI*



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## Patterson receives professional certification

**Terry Patterson, WTS**, accepts his certification as a Safety Trained Supervisor from WTS Operations Manager **Scott Anderson**, Operations Deputy Manager **Steve Youngerman**, and WTS General Manager **Steve Warren**, look on.

Patterson was certified by the Council on Certification of Health, Environmental and Safety Technologists. Applicants must meet rigorous experience and training requirements before they are accepted into the program. Course work includes several training modules and a comprehensive final examination. Patterson is the first WTS employee to receive this certification.

## Badges - what are your responsibilities?

**A**s WIPP employees, we have responsibilities that come with wearing a badge. Badges are a part of the WIPP Security and Safeguards System. Our badges identify who we are and what company we work for.

Remember to bring your badge and key card (if one is required) to work. Do your part to keep temporary badge issuance to a minimum. Badges must be worn above the waist, on the outer most layer of clothing with the photo facing forward while on WIPP property, including Carlsbad offices.

Employees and visitors are required to physically hand their badge to Security officers for examination in order to enter the WIPP site. Any badge that appears altered will be confiscated.

Remove your badge when leaving WIPP property. All too often, WIPP employees forget to remove their badges while leaving work and wear their badges into grocery stores, restaurants and other places. This makes employees vulnerable to targeting.

Don't leave your badge unattended or unsecured.

**B**adges are not for unofficial identification purposes such as cashing checks, etc. If you are planning to travel on business, request an "Official Letter of Travel." This letter will enable you to receive government rates while on business travel.

WIPP Security officers are trained to reject badges in poor condition. Get a new badge if yours becomes worn or damaged, if your name changes, you change employers or if there is a significant change in your facial appearance.

If your badge has an expiration date, you will have to obtain a new badge on or before that date. Security badges are the property of the U. S. Government and must be returned upon expiration or when they are no longer needed. Failure to account for your badge by returning it to WIPP Security or reporting it lost/stolen will result in denial of future badging services.



Security officer Robert Valenzuela (SFPS) inspects Carol Knowles' (SFPS) security badge.

## WTS accepts DOE VPP honors



DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) honors were presented to WTS by **CBFO Acting Manager Lloyd Piper** on November 17.

Top left: **Bertha Cassingham (WTS)** receives an outreach award for outstanding performance and leadership in furthering the advancement of the DOE VPP.

Top right: On behalf of all WIPP employees, **Bill Beeman (WTS)** accepts the DOE's special achievement award for 10 years of maintaining a VPP Star site from Lloyd Piper.

Bottom left: **Steve Warren, WTS general manager**, accepts DOE's award for maintaining a VPP Star site at the Superior Star level.

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Birthdays announced in *TRU TeamWorks* must be submitted for publication. If a birthday is submitted by someone other than the person celebrating, *TRU TeamWorks* must obtain permission before the information can be published.

[Submit a birthday](#)



## Birthdays

- Earl Bradford (SNL-CPG)** - December 3
- Kevin McTaggart (LANL/CB)** - December 3
- Don Galbraith (CBFO)** - December 5
- Ron Galbraith (WRES)** - December 5
- Luann Underwood (WTS)** - December 5
- Robbie Morrison (WTS)** - December 9
- Allison Pangle (CTAC)** - December 10
- Bill Foster (WRES)** - December 12
- Joyce Harmon (WTS)** - December 15

## Northwood holds commencement program



Northwood University held its fall commencement program on November 20. Several WIPP employees received their degrees. Standing in the photo above (from left) are Beverly Schrock, Deanna Ybarra, Raul Navarrete, Priscilla Ridenour, Yolanda Navarrete, Porf Martinez, Luann Underwood, Randy Chatfield, Helen Pettus, Kyle Darrah, Lisa Will and Martin Keathley. Kneeling is Tammy Bowden.

### Bachelor of Business Administration

Management: Porf Martinez, Raul Navarrete, Yolanda Navarrete, Helen Pettus, Beverly Schrock, Luann Underwood

Management Information Systems/Management: Randy Chatfield and Kyle Darrah

Management / Minor in Entrepreneurship: Martin Keathley, Lisa Will and Deanna Ybarra

Computer Information Management/Management: Priscilla Ridenour

### Associate Degree

Management: Tammy Bowden, Randy Chatfield, Preston Harvey, Porf Martinez, Raul Navarrete, Priscilla Ridenour, Melissa Rojo, (not pictured above) and Deanna Ybarra

Computer Information Management: Priscilla Ridenour

Management Information Systems: Randy Chatfield

**CTAC/Portage Holiday Party**  
December 11  
Carlsbad Country Club  
6:00 p.m.

**S M Stoller Christmas Party**  
December 4  
Holiday Inn  
6:30 p.m.

**WTS Christmas Party**  
December 4  
Civic Center  
6:00 p.m.  
Employee and 1 guest free with ticket  
Additional guests,

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