

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 11-9-10)

9,150

Shipments received since opening
(8,715 CH and 435 RH)

71,990

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(71,768 CH and 222 RH)

139,143

Containers disposed in the underground
(138,709 CH and 434 RH)

WIPP surpasses 4 million safe hours



[File Photo](#)

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant recently surpassed 4 million hours without an injury causing days away from work. This marks the third time since opening in 1999 that WIPP has exceeded the 4 million hour mark. In 2002, WIPP reached a high of 5.9 million hours. To date, WIPP employees have worked at more than 4.2 million hours without a days away injury.

The calculation is based on the number of hours worked by everyone employed by the WIPP project, including WIPP employees at other DOE sites. A new record could be achieved by summer of next year.

"This is a significant safety accomplishment by the WIPP team and is indicative that safety is a core value of all WIPP employees," said URS Washington TRU Solutions Safety Manager Tim Rotert.

Veteran's Day Celebration



CBFO and WTS employees served as the honor guard as part of the CBFO Veteran's Day Celebration. Included in the honor guard were (right to left) CBFO employees Andy Walker, Bill Mackie, David Hoffer, Art Welton and Washington TRU Solutions Deputy General Manager Pat Yocum.

Disposal in Panel 5, Room 3 complete



Disposal activities in Room 3 of Panel 5 are now complete, leaving just two rooms out of seven remaining within the panel. Currently, RH-TRU waste is being disposed in Room 1 of Panel 5, while CH-TRU waste is now being disposed in Room 2.

Disposal in Panel 5 began in May of 2009.

CBFO restarts National Analytical Management Program

The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has restarted a program that will place the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's science lab – located at the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center – at the center of a joint effort between DOE and EPA.

The program, called the National Analytical Management Program (NAMP), will simplify funding and research exchange between participating DOE analytical labs and research laboratories affiliated with the Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Response Laboratory Network (ERLN). The ERLN is a national network of laboratories that addresses chemical, radiological and limited biological threats during environmental responses and significant national incidents.

Agencies within the EPA's lab network can now work with participating DOE labs under a single established funding agreement through CBFO. The program officially restarted on September 24.

"As it was, the ERLN needed a separate agreement with each (DOE) lab it works with, with separate funds going to each lab," said Oba Vincent, CBFO Senior Strategist. "Under the new program, all of the funding and coordination will work through one central point (the NAMP), which will expedite the analytical services between the labs and the ERLN, which is key, especially in the case of emergency."

The NAMP has not been funded since the 1990s when it was at Idaho National Laboratory. Recently, however, a move was made by WIPP's management and operating contractor, URS Washington TRU Solutions, to join analytical labs from all over the DOE complex with the ERLN.

Vincent, who will manage the NAMP for the CBFO, said it is a great time and place to restart this program because it is cost effective, plus all participants have been enthusiastic about the change.

“This program now gives us the opportunity to provide a necessary link between the DOE labs and the EPA labs,” he said. “The idea has garnered plenty of positive feedback from everyone involved.”

Honorees Pictured:

Kirstie Nixon, Director, Motor Carrier Services Division at Colorado Department of Revenue

Safety Director (retired) Alan Rutledge

District Supervisor Roger Reisig

Senior Port Supervisor Clay Droste

MCSAP Officer and Lead WIPP Inspector Armando Aviles

Senior Port Officer Gary Canfield

Officer Rueben Romick

Officer David Loesch

MCSAP of James Moore, MCSAP officer

Dwayne Curtis, MCSAP officer

Tammy Ottmer, Colorado WIPP program manager

Colorado Port of Entry officers honored



Inspection officers from the Colorado Port of Entry Program were recently honored for their contributions to public safety. Their work included inspection of the trucks that transport transuranic (TRU) waste for disposal at the WIPP site in Carlsbad, N.M., to assure the trucks were among the safest on the nation’s highways.

The port of entry officers, who are certified by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), have inspected WIPP trucks since the DOE began shipping TRU waste through Colorado in April 1999. The officers were responsible for performing CVSA Level VI inspections on the WIPP trucks-- the highest safety standards in the commercial vehicle industry.

CBFO Institutional Affairs Manager Bill Mackie and Tammy Ottmer, the Colorado WIPP program manager from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, presented the awards.

The ports of entry stopped conducting inspections of WIPP shipments in August due to provisions to a Colorado law signed in May. The Colorado State Patrol has assumed oversight responsibilities of the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program.

CBFO supports “Feds Feed Families” initiative

Fed up with hunger, WIPP’s “fed” employees are doing their part to make sure that members of the Carlsbad community are well-fed.

As part of a national “Feds Feed Families” initiative, federal employees of the Department of Energy’s Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) recently donated a whopping 1,219 pounds of food and supplies to the Carlsbad Community Kitchen.

“This shows the generous nature of the Carlsbad Field Office team,” said Interim Acting CBFO Manager Ed Ziemianski. “In the short while I’ve been here, the CBFO has

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impressed me with how much DOE is a part of the community and cares about how to make a positive difference for all.”

All together, DOE employees and contractors across the country collected more than 120,000 pounds of food and supplies during the federal government’s second annual “Feds Feed Families” campaign, which ran from June 7 through Sept. 7, but was extended until Sept. 30 in Carlsbad to facilitate a higher level of giving.

“For a first-time event, this office stepped up to the challenge and demonstrated a very kind and giving spirit. Many local families will benefit from everyone’s giving,” said Steve Casey, one of the program’s CBFO coordinators.

Supplies collected locally included canned vegetables and fruits, flour, sugar, rice, beans, salt, pepper, pasta and soap. All of the materials were delivered to the Carlsbad Community Kitchen, a local nonprofit organization.

“What they do there is nothing short of miraculous,” said CBFO co-coordinator Meg Milligan. “Teri Able and her dedicated staff feed hundreds of needy individuals every week in Carlsbad.”



Teri Able, with the Carlsbad Community Kitchen, stands next to some of the 1,219 pounds of food recently donated to the organization by employees of the Department of Energy’s Carlsbad Field Office.

CBFO employees will soon be participating in another important local charity effort, as the United Way of Carlsbad and South Eddy County begins its annual campaign this month. CBFO employees support the local United Way and its member agencies through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) drive. In fact, CBFO employees, through the CFC, donate an average of \$20,000 a year to a variety of charitable organizations, some of which are local, including the Boys & Girls Club and CARC Inc.

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an email message to: TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

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

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