



Above: The shipment departing the Idaho National Laboratory.

Below: The truck arriving at WIPP.



## WIPP celebrates the first arrival of RH-TRU waste

On Tuesday night, the temperature may have been low, but the spirits were high at WIPP. A crowd of more than 70 people, mostly employees, braved temperatures in the 30s to welcome the first shipment of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste to WIPP.

"This is a great day," said CBFO Manager Dave Moody. The crowd seemed to agree – clapping, whistling and cheering as the truck pulled into WIPP's front gate at about 10:45 p.m.



Posing near the first RH-72B cask (l to r): Deputy CBFO Manager Lloyd Piper, CBFO Manager Dave Moody, Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest, DOE Environmental Management's Chief Operating Officer Inés Triay and WTS General Manager Dick Raaz.



Lynn Whiting (WTS) was among the employees celebrating Tuesday night.

Joining WIPP employees at the event were representatives from sites around the DOE complex. The guests were in Carlsbad this week to attend a meeting of the National TRU Waste Corporate Board, which coordinates resources and schedules related to TRU waste cleanup. Normally, they see WIPP trucks departing their sites en route to WIPP. Tuesday's historic arrival allowed them to see the flip-side of the process.

Dr. Inés Triay, former CBFO manager and now the chief operating officer for DOE's environmental management program, was among the corporate board members that came out to the site.

"We owe this huge accomplishment to a very devoted team of individuals," said Triay. She acknowledged the contributions of regulators, as well as federal and contractor employees at the sites, DOE headquarters and WIPP.

For some, the scene was strikingly similar to WIPP's historic first shipment of contact-handled TRU waste in 1999. But it was clear from the shipping cask that this shipment was different.



John Garcia (WTS), George Basabilvazo (CBFO) and Randy Britain (WTS) at the arrival.

The first RH-TRU waste shipped to WIPP arrived in an RH-72B. While up to three TRUPACT-IIs can be trailered at once, the RH-72B rides solo due to the weight of its lead lining (approximately 37,000 pounds empty). Each end of the cask is protected by a circular impact limiter, making its appearance unique.

The shipment—expected to arrive last weekend—was delayed by wintry weather.



More than 70 people braved the cold temperatures to be on-hand for the first RH-TRU waste shipment to WIPP.



WTS Transportation Manager Angela Johnson had 10 reasons to smile.

## Record number of WIPP trucks overnight

The first RH shipment to WIPP received a lot of attention, but it wasn't the only truck to arrive Tuesday night. CH-TRU waste shipments began coming through the gate at nearly 20-minute intervals. Within three and a half hours, nine shipments had arrived, bringing the total to a record 10 shipments.

"It brought a smile to my face to see all of those trucks," said Angela Johnson, WTS transportation manager. "We typically don't see this many arrivals in such a short period of time."

Johnson said the reason behind the large number of overnight arrivals was primarily weather-related. WIPP shipments during winter months are often disrupted by wintry weather in Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado. However, this time New Mexico's weather

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that was to blame. Once the driving conditions were favorable, shipments that had been delayed were released.

The RH shipment originated at Idaho National Laboratory, as did eight of the CH shipments. The last shipment to arrive (at about 2:10 a.m.) came from the Hanford Site in Washington.

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## National TRU Waste Corporate Board meets in Carlsbad

With the historic first remote-handled waste shipment arriving at WIPP as a backdrop, representatives from DOE sites around the country converged in Carlsbad for a meeting of the National TRU Waste Corporate Board.



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### Interested in WIPP?

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Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest welcomed around 100 people to the Pecos River Village Conference Center for the two-day meeting, which featured an interactive session for sites to discuss issues related to RH-TRU waste.

Dr. Inés Triay, chief operating officer for the DOE's environmental management program, expressed her thanks for the work that went into the historic RH shipment and gave an overview of clean-up progress around the complex.

While in Carlsbad, the board members were updated on recent WIPP accomplishments and priorities for the future. Some of the meeting's other sessions included discussions about large container characterization equipment, the TRUPACT-III shipping cask and key performance indicators.

Site representatives provided updates on activities and plans for the future.

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Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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