

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 11-23-09)

**8,079**

Shipments received since opening  
(7,776 CH and 303 RH)

**64,467**

Cubic meters of waste disposed  
(64,319 CH and 148 RH)

**125,770**

Containers disposed in the  
underground  
(125,469 CH and 301 RH)

## Deputy Secretary of Energy Visits WIPP



**Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman (right) speaks with Carlsbad Field Office Manager Dave Moody and Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management Ines Triay in the underground on their recent visit to WIPP. Poneman spoke with WIPP employees at the Skeen-Whitlock Building auditorium and was presented with a plaque in honor of his visit.**

## WIPP increases recycling rate

A big "well done" goes to every WIPP employee and contractor who recycled materials last fiscal year! Because of your contributions, WIPP's recycling program continued to be a success.

In FY09 more than half of our hazardous and sanitary waste was recycled rather than being sent to a landfill. This is performance for which we can all be proud.

## Site Prepares for Maintenance Outage

For the second year in a row, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will undergo an extensive maintenance outage during the holiday period. Maintenance will help to ensure the facility continues to operate in a safe and reliable manner in the years to come.

The outage will officially begin on November 28, continue through the holidays and officially end on December 31. Shipments will be temporarily curtailed to accommodate the projects on-site, but will resume at the beginning of 2010.

John VandeKraats, project manager, said there are essential and non-essential projects that will be done on the surface and underground during the outage. Here is a summary of some essential projects that will be completed during the outage:

- z Waste Shaft Station floor and rail leveling and alignment—the waste shaft station floor will be trimmed to remove floor heave, and the rails leveled.
- z Waste Shaft Station steel realignment—the waste shaft station steel will be shifted horizontally and level adjusted. These adjustments are necessary due to salt creep of the shaft walls causing the steel to shift over time.
- z South 700 between East 140 and West 30 widening—widen the South 700 drift to at least 25 ft., mine the floor to attain at least 14 ft. clearance height, install ground control and replace the existing airlock. This work is part of the alternate waste transport route project.
- z Pump house Check and Gate Valves—replace the 10" discharge check valve for each of the two fire pumps and three 10" gate valves in the suction and discharge piping for each of the two fire pumps. Both the check and gate valves are over 20 years old.
- z RH Grapple Hoist Swivel Adapter—install a swivel adapter in the remote-handled (RH) waste grapple hoist wire rope to aid in aligning the grapple with RH canisters.
- z Supplemental Ground Control Installations —install a ground support system in the E300 drift from S3080 to S3310 and in the E140 drift from Bulkhead 415 to S700.
- z Waste Hoist Control Room air handling unit (chiller) replacement—remove and upgrade the air handling unit serving the waste hoist controls and Control Room.

“We plan to have all of the essential projects completed during the outage,” Vandekraats said. “There are ancillary projects that will be worked in parallel with the outage. We will take advantage of the fact that we won’t be handling waste and it will be convenient to do these projects at that time.”



**File Photo**

**South 700, between East 140 and West 30, will undergo mining to widen the drift for the alternate waste transportation project. This project is one of many that will be done as part of WIPP's maintenance outage.**

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## WIPP honors Veterans



**Above: The Carlsbad Veterans Honor Guard held a flag-raising ceremony in honor Veterans Day at the Skeen-Whitlock Building. The ceremony included a speech from Carlsbad Field Office Manager Dave Moody and vocal performances of the national anthem and God Bless the U.S.A.**

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## New Load-Haul-Dump set to be delivered



Procurement is complete on a new Load-Haul-Dump (LHD). The new LHD, which was purchased with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds, will cost approximately half a million dollars and came in under budget. The new LHD will replace an existing one which was removed from service. LHD's are used in the WIPP underground to haul and move salt that has been mined to create new disposal areas. The new LHD is expected to be delivered in January 2010.

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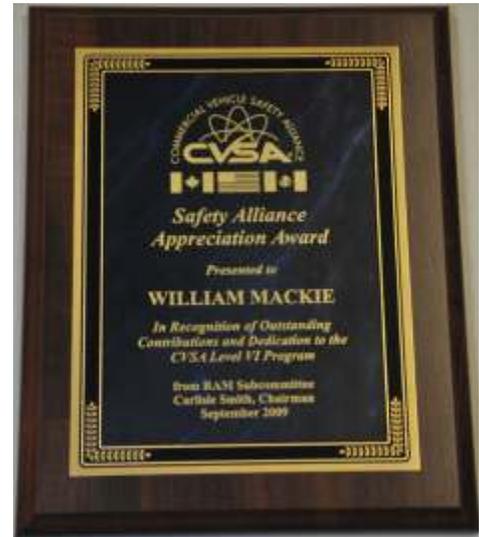
## Commercial Vehicle and Safety Alliance honors Bill Mackie

One of the most important pieces of the WIPP puzzle is transportation. And if it weren't for Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Institutional Affairs Manager Bill Mackie, many of the WIPP routes used today may have never opened.

Even though Mackie has been with CBFO for only three years, he worked on WIPP shipments with the Commercial Vehicle and Safety Alliance (CVSA) for the last 10 years. And in that time he helped refine CVSA's Level VI program, which is the North American standard inspection for transuranic waste and highway route controlled quantities of radioactive materials. A WIPP shipment must go through this inspection prior to leaving a waste generator site.

All of this work is the reason he was one of three people to receive the CVSA Safety Alliance Appreciation Award for "Outstanding Contributions and Dedication to the CVSA Level VI Program" in a recent Radioactive Materials (RAM) subcommittee meeting in Baltimore.

The RAM subcommittee is part of the Hazardous Waste Committee of the CVSA, and concentrates on the commercial movement of radioactive materials. It provides technical expertise related to the transportation of radioactive materials in an effort to reduce incidents and encourage uniformity and consistency in the application of regulations.



Mackie says the award is great, but it is all just part of the job he loves to do.

"I firmly believe in the CVSA and what it does," Mackie said. "And because of it, WIPP's transportation safety record is what it is, and I just do my part to help."

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## TRUPACT-III testing takes place in Albuquerque



**Above: The TRUPACT-III goes through the drop test at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. For this test, the container was cooled to -20 degrees Fahrenheit, then dropped on a corner from 30 feet.**

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## What can Bob do for you?

With more than 9 million loaded miles driven over the past ten years, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is averaging about 2,500 loaded transportation miles a day.

Running in second place in total miles driven, however, is probably Stoller employee Bob Walker, who handles WIPP's mail routes and averages about 90 miles a day.

Walker's recently seen some pretty major changes to his route, thanks to the addition of the Carlsbad Field Office's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act office on Canal Street and WIPP's new business management office on Main Street.

His current route, he said, involves leaving the Skeen Whitlock Building at 9 a.m. He then heads north, stopping at Sandia National Laboratories-Carlsbad Programs Group office, the WIPP Records Archive, the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, the New Mexico Environment Department-Carlsbad office, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act office, Stoller, Los Alamos National Laboratory-Carlsbad Operations office and the Washington TRU Solutions business management office. Then he makes his daily trip to the WIPP site. That's a few more stops than the route had a few years ago, but Walker has no complaints.



"It's been a great job for a guy like me," he said. "I'm outside half the day making my rounds, enjoying the fresh air and the people I see in my travels."

With so many people moving from one office to another, one challenge has been tracking down the right person for the right piece of mail.

One way Walker said people can assist him is to not use the WIPP mailing address as a personal change of address when they move to Carlsbad. "I'll get the junk mail from then on," he noted.

Walker has handled WIPP's mail and Fed Ex shipments for almost ten years now. He's previously worked as a potash miner, a cabinet maker, a business owner and "assorted weird jobs over the years."

Oh yeah, and he enjoys listening to all kinds of music during his daily route. "You name it, I've listened to it," he said. "I especially enjoy The Allman Brothers and the old school blues artists."

