

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 02-27-08)

**6,465**

Shipments received since opening

**53,545**

Cubic meters of waste disposed

**98,523**

Containers disposed in the underground

## The President's Award for Safety Excellence



## Back-to-back safety awards presented at WIPP



At the site ceremony, CBFO Deputy Manager Vernon Daub and CBFO Site Operations Director George Basabilvazo present the Voluntary Protection Program Star of Excellence award to Curtis Sanders, III, and Mary Ann Mullins.

Never mind the Oscars ... WIPP's winning a few awards of its own. WTS and WRES employees received back-to-back awards following the safest year in the history of WIPP. The awards, one from DOE and the other from the Washington Division of URS Corporation, honored employees for outstanding safety achievement.

"Our employees' commitment to safety is unsurpassed," said Farok Sharif, WTS president and general manager. "I'm incredibly proud of our entire organization. Receiving these safety awards is affirmation that we are doing things right."

Presenting the DOE Voluntary Protection Program's (VPP) Star of Excellence award to employees, Carlsbad Field Office Deputy Manager Vernon Daub said, "Only the safest DOE sites earn VPP Star status. WIPP has a strong safety culture that is continually reinforced by employee efforts to achieve zero injuries."



Scott Burns and Lana Steven accept the Star of Excellence award from Vernon Daub.

The VPP award was accepted on behalf of all employees by Scott Burns, Lana Steven, Curtis Sanders, III and Mary Ann Mullins at dual ceremonies at the Skeen-Whitlock Building and at the WIPP site.

WIPP was the first DOE site to become a VPP Star site in 1994. Washington employees have maintained Star status ever since. The volunteer program is designed to promote safety and health through the active participation of employees,



Brad Giles, vice president, Safety and Health, from the Washington Division of URS Corporation presents the President's Award for Safety Excellence. **Top** - Giles with WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif. **Middle** - Giles with Art Chavez (WRES) and Diana Murray (WTS). **Bottom** - Giles with Justin Kirkes (WTS) and Jill Farnsworth (WTS).

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**In memoriam:  
Joe Reese**

Long-time WIPP employee Joe Reese passed away on Saturday, February 23, 2008. A memorial service is tentatively planned for mid-March. Details will be available in the Carlsbad Current-Argus when finalized.

We offer our deepest condolences to Joe's family and friends.

management and government at DOE contractor sites. To achieve this award, WTS and WRES maintained a total recordable case rate at least 75 percent below the industry's national average.

Brad Giles, vice president, Safety and Health, from the Washington Division of URS Corporation, also presented employees the corporate President's Award for Safety Excellence for achieving at least one year and one million hours without an injury causing days away from work. The last such injury to a WTS employee occurred in November 2006.

"This is a very big deal for the company," said Giles. "This is the fourth year out of five that WTS has received this award."

The President's award was accepted by Art Chavez (WRES), Diana Murray, Justin Kirkes and Jill Farnsworth.

State and local elected officials who attended had high praise for WIPP's safety record.

"Dealing at a state and federal level, being able to talk about WIPP safety is invaluable," said New Mexico State Representative John Heaton. "Anytime the topic is about nuclear, WIPP is the core of the discussion."

Noting WTS' current recordable case rate for fiscal year 2008 of only 0.48, State Senator Vernon Asbill poked a little fun at himself and his colleagues in the state legislature.

"That's about how many bills we passed this year," Asbill joked before taking a more serious tone to encourage employees. "Other legislators are amazed at what we have accomplished down here. Maintain your focus. We want to continue to talk about how safe we are."

Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest outlined the three reasons he believes WIPP is successful.

"The first is safety. The second is safety. And the third is safety," Forrest said. "I give all the credit to the workforce. What has been achieved is just the tip of the iceberg if we continue to focus on safety. The sky's the limit!"

Based on Occupational and Safety Administration recordable injury rates, 2007 was the safest year in WIPP history. Of six recordable cases at WIPP last year, none involved mining, waste handling or disposal.

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## Did you see that loop?



Photo: Soledad Sifuentes (WTS)

Students at Alta Vista Middle School in Carlsbad study potential and kinetic energy by designing a "roller coaster". The project was part of National Engineers Week. See related article in today's issue of TRU TeamWorks.



## WIPP Security Contract Awarded

Department of Energy. Department of Defense. Department of Homeland Security. Department of Health and Human Services. They've been there and done that and now Security Walls, LLC of Knoxville, Tenn. is coming to WIPP.

WTS awarded a subcontract valued at over \$18 million to Security Walls and its teaming partner Triumph Technologies, Inc. to provide security services at WIPP. The initial 12-month subcontract includes four one-year options.



Photo: Clayton Ardoin (SFPS)

Juanita Walls (center), chief manager for Security Walls LLC has been at WIPP to work on transition of the security contract. Pictured with Walls above are WTS Security Superintendent Stan Michelson (left) and WTS Security Manager Scott Cassingham (right).

"Security plays a key role at WIPP. I certainly want to congratulate Security Walls on this competitive award and we look forward to a smooth transition," said Farok Sharif, WTS president and general manager.

Security Walls was established in 2003 and is an 8(a)-certified small, disadvantaged, woman-owned business. The company's chief manager, Juanita Walls, brings an impressive array of experience to the table. Walls retired as a senior special agent from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in 2003 after a 25-year career.

During her tenure with the FBI, Walls handled background and security investigations of high-level public officials, including the president of the United States, arrested and prosecuted the head of a major organized crime family and served on career boards to interview and select prospective new agent candidates.

In 1979, Walls was one of only three women selected to assist with the security and relocation of the Shah of Iran and his family during the uprising in Tehran. The mission was a presidential order carried out by the FBI using Air Force Two.

Triumph Technologies, Inc., headquartered in Falls Church, VA., is a service-disabled veteran, woman-owned corporation and specializes in program management, information technology and security services to government and private industry. The firm's president and chief executive officer, Gloria Redman, retired from the military after a career in the intelligence field. Triumph is currently providing program support to WIPP on a separate contract, which includes records management and other support services.

Walls says the team is looking forward to a seamless transition and maintaining excellence in security support.

“We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to fostering great relationships with WTS, DOE and the Carlsbad community,” said Walls.

Together, Security Walls and Triumph Technologies offer more than 45 years of experience in investigative and security services. Richard De Los Santos will serve as the local security manager for the Security Walls, LLC and Triumph Technologies, Inc (SWAT) team. Security Walls expects to maintain current security staffing levels under the new contract.

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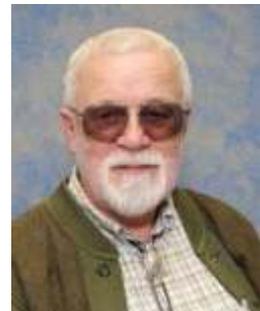
## Sifuentes and Rempe Honored by Washington Division of URS

Congratulations to Soledad Sifuentes and Norbert Rempe for being named Engineer of the Day as part of the Washington Division of URS activities for National Engineering Week. Each day, Washington Division selected several engineers from throughout the company to highlight.



Sifuentes, a mechanical engineer with 20 years of experience in nuclear, mechanical, civil, architectural and construction industries, was highlighted on February 21. She provides technical consultation to the Integrated Waste Handling Engineering Department in the design and development of waste handling processes to ensure timely and safe emplacement of remote-handled TRU waste.

Rempe, who has more than 30 years of professional experience, was highlighted on February 22. His current areas of responsibility include serving as liaison for underground science experiments (astro-particle physics) unrelated to waste isolation, geotechnical engineering support and providing support for international cooperation in repository science and technology.



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### Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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## Students apply engineering principles to projects

Building bridges, designing roller coasters and testing aeronautical engineering principles were among the activities that 1,290 students at 15 local schools participated in last week. With approval from CBFO, 17 WTS engineers celebrated National Engineers Week by fanning out to area schools to make presentations about the engineering profession, their role at WIPP and challenging students with a problem to be solved by the application of engineering principles.



Ashok Kadakia working with students at Alta Vista Middle School.



Students at Alta Vista Middle School listening to advice from Soledad Sifuentes.



Marco Ruiz lends a hand to a student at Paradise Ranch on a lever project.



Potential future engineers and current students at Sunset Elementary School pose by their bridge project.

Jaci Davis, WTS cognizant engineer for the environmental monitoring systems at WIPP, spent two days with approximately 250 advanced placement chemistry, physics and science freshman through senior students. For her project Davis led the students in building kites from paper, bamboo and string. The students then attempted to fly their creations and determined the best design based on the test flight results. She also met with the MESA Society students after school to answer their questions about the engineering profession.

During the after school session, Davis gave the students five index cards and some tape and asked them to build a structure that would support a stack of books. Two students, who are considering a career in engineering, built a five-column structure that held 42 heavy biology books.

National Engineers Week is an annual international event designed to increase public awareness of the engineering profession and to pay tribute to engineers for their great contributions to the world. WTS engineers are involved in all aspects of WIPP operations from waste handling to mining to packaging and transportation.

National Engineers Week also gives us the opportunity to shine the spotlight on careers in engineering. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for jobs requiring science, engineering, math and technical training are increasing by about 24 percent a year. Unfortunately, the talent pool to fill these jobs continues to decline, because fewer students are choosing math and engineering as a career. WTS' goal was to inspire more youth in math, science and engineering to address future needs in the field.



Students from Riverside Elementary School construct their bridge under the watchful eye of Curtis Chester.

*Information provided by Judy Seal, WTS Engineering*

## Community plans health and safety fair

The 2008 Eddy County Health & Safety Fair is coming up on March 15. Stop by and support our community as we focus on what matters most ... health and safety. Details are in the flyer below.



**2008  
Eddy County  
Health & Safety Fair**

Sponsored by Eddy County Community Health Council & Carlsbad Medical Center

**It's FREE!**

**DATE**  
Saturday  
March 15

**TIME**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**PLACE**  
GERRELLS  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE  
NATIONAL PARKS HIGHWAY  
CARLSBAD

**HEALTH SCREENINGS & FUN, FUN, FUN!**

- Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, Body Fat Analysis
- Experts Available to Answer Questions
- Learn to Prevent Illness & Manage Your Health
- Samples of Products for Health/Raffles
- Delicious Food, Demonstrations, Entertainment
- Kids' Face Painting & Balloon Animals (Bring Your Parents!)
- Register to Win Prize Drawings
- Donate Blood

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY**

**EDDY COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
FUNDED IN PART BY NEW MEXICO HEALTH

For Information Call  
**Candace Autry**  
887-9511

**CARLSBAD MEDICAL CENTER**

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

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