

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 03-26-08)

6,544

Shipments received since opening

54,140

Cubic meters of waste disposed

99,539

Containers disposed in the underground

... WIPP enjoys the support of surrounding communities, is an international benchmark for radioactive waste management and is a true success story for the Department of Energy. You are proving that permanent deep geologic disposal of radioactive waste can be safely and efficiently achieved. Keep up that outstanding performance, and let's make our 10th anniversary next year even more exceptional!

Today, on behalf of Dr. Dave Moody and the Department of Energy, I congratulate each of you and thank you for a job well done.

Roger Nelson
CBFO Chief Scientist

WIPP marks nine-year anniversary



It was cold and dark, but people still lined the streets of Carlsbad, N.M., waiting for the first shipment of waste to pass on its way to WIPP. Lights flashed, horns honked and people cheered as the truck made its way through town. At about 4:00 a.m., a crowd of several hundred employees, local officials and stakeholders celebrated the first arrival at the WIPP site.

A lot has changed since that first shipment on March 26, 1999. The safe arrival of trucks at WIPP's gate has become the norm. Crowds no longer gather in anticipation as weekly shipments have far exceeded original estimates.

With an emphasis on safety, WIPP has spent the last nine years methodically achieving the environmental cleanup mission it was created for.

Cleanup

From coast to coast, the opening of WIPP has allowed the cleanup of defense-related transuranic waste from 13 sites. The most notable example to date is the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) near Denver, Colo. RFETS sent 2,045 shipments of waste to WIPP in a shipping campaign that ended in April 2005.

Transportation

Safe shipping protocols are key to the success of WIPP. To date, WIPP has received more than 6,500 shipments, traveling more than seven and a half million loaded miles. For comparison, the distance from the earth to the moon is roughly 240,000 miles. That means that WIPP's loaded miles traveled is equivalent to more than 31 trips to the moon (15 round-trips).

WIPP has received direct shipments from nine sites. The site with the highest number of shipments to WIPP is Idaho National Laboratory with 2,753. WIPP was initially expected to receive 17 shipments per week, but that number is often surpassed. In December 2006, WIPP received a record 35 shipments in a single week.

Disposal

Disposal of waste at WIPP has also been a great success. The first waste disposed

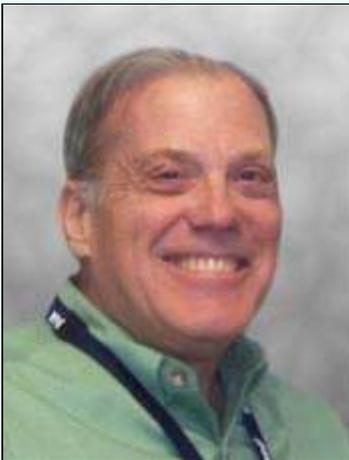
CBFO staff on the move

CBFO and the WIPP project is bidding farewell to three well-liked and talented individuals.



Hurtt

Dennis Hurtt, CBFO's manager of public affairs, is retiring after 14 years at WIPP. He will be relocating to Arizona. Hurtt is credited with overseeing many of the stakeholder involvement and outreach activities that guided WIPP from its preoperational phase through today.



Rose

Also departing this month is CBFO Legal Counsel Mike Rose. Rose has worked at WIPP for three and a half years. He has accepted a new job in Washington, D.C. with the U.S. Air Force. At a recent luncheon, he praised the people at WIPP for being the ones who have made this project successful, noting that the project's success will lead to disposal of other types of waste in other locations.

at WIPP came from Los Alamos National Laboratory and was emplaced in Panel 1 of the repository. For nearly eight years, crews at WIPP continued to dispose of contact-handled TRU waste, filling disposal rooms and ultimately the first three panels.

In January 2007, WIPP began receiving remote-handled TRU waste. In all, more than 54,000 cubic meters of the 175,564 cubic meters of waste authorized by Congress have been safely disposed at WIPP.

While disposal operations have proceeded, mining has continued and Panel 5 has now been completed. Mining of Panel 6 is expected to begin in the near future.

DOE announces plans to treat and characterize waste in Idaho prior to shipment to WIPP

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is amending the Record of Decision for the *Waste Management Program: Treatment and Storage of Transuranic Waste*, originally issued in 1998. The amendment will allow DOE to send both contact-handled (up to 8,764 cubic meters) and remote-handled (up to 255 cubic meters) TRU waste from a number of DOE sites to its Idaho site to be treated and characterized at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility (AMWTF) and at Idaho's remote-handled TRU waste facility prior to being shipped to WIPP for disposal.



Workers at Idaho National Laboratory load TRU waste into a TRUPACT-II shipping container bound for WIPP. Source: www.amwtp.inl.gov.

TRU waste would be accepted for treatment and characterization in accordance with the provisions of the Idaho Settlement Agreement, which allows DOE to treat waste that comes from other DOE sites and requires that the waste be treated within six months of receipt and shipped out of Idaho within six months after treatment is complete. Treating wastes from other sites will not impact DOE's ability to meet its commitment to treat and ship to WIPP all 65,000 cubic meters of TRU waste stored in Idaho by 2018. Over 21,000 cubic meters of TRU waste have been shipped from Idaho to WIPP for disposal.

The DOE sites that are now eligible to send TRU waste to Idaho have small amounts of TRU waste and may lack the costly facilities necessary to process the waste in compliance with state of New Mexico, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and WIPP



Curfew

And finally, Lucinda Curfew, secretary for the CBFO Office of Business will also be leaving this month. Curfew, who has worked at WIPP for three and a half years, will be moving to Alaska. She has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of the Interior. Coworkers presented her with a southwestern wind chime so she'll take a remembrance of New Mexico with her.

In the other direction, CBFO's new National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer Susan McCauslin was welcomed to the DOE NEPA community in an article published in a newsletter titled "NEPA Lessons Learned." McCauslin has more than 20 years of experience in managing environmental compliance programs and remediation projects. She has worked for CTAC for the last five years.

CBFO has also recently welcomed Glenn Gamlin as a facility representative in the CBFO Office of Site Operations. Gamlin previously worked at the Savannah River Site.

requirements. The use of these existing specialized facilities in Idaho will prevent duplicative characterization and the cost of establishing new facilities at sites across the country.

Most of the waste from the following DOE generator sites will be sent to INL for treatment and characterization: the Argonne National Laboratory; Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory; General Electric Vallecitos Nuclear Center; the Hanford Site; Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory; Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; the Nevada Test Site; Separations Process Research Unit; Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and Sandia National Laboratories.

Characterization and treatment of waste at the AMWTF will reduce the volume of some transuranic waste (e.g., waste containers that hold a relatively small volume of waste when compared with the container volume), thus reducing the number of shipments needed to transport waste to WIPP for disposal and the volume of waste that would be disposed of at WIPP.

WTS donation to Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad



Sylvia De Los Santos, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Carlsbad, accepts a donation for the Club from Washington TRU Solutions President and General Manager Farok Sharif.

RAP team provides around the clock response capability

WIPP RAP Team members

DOE Team Leader Greg Sahd
Marsha Beekman
Hung Chiou
Tom Goff
Candice Jierree
Ron Macaluso
Russ Whiteley

Respond. Assess. Advise. In the event of a radiological incident, that's the purpose of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Radiological Assistance Program (RAP). Established in the 1950s, RAP is a first-responding resource for assessing the emergency situation and advising decision-makers on what further steps could be taken to evaluate and minimize the hazards of a radiological emergency.

The nation is divided into eight regions that each has a minimum of three RAP teams. WIPP is within Region 4, which includes Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. One of Region 4's RAP teams is based at WIPP.

Along with teams from around the nation, WIPP's RAP team is capable of providing assistance in all types of facility or transportation incidents involving radiation or radioactive material. Team members normally arrive at the scene within four to six hours after notification and conduct an initial assessment of the area. RAP response is tailored based on the scale of the event and additional teams and resources can be deployed as necessary.

Team members are trained in the hazards of radiation and radioactive materials to provide initial assistance to minimize immediate radiation risks to people, property and the environment. One way team members maintain their readiness is by participating in exercises. In October, WIPP RAP Team Captain Marsha Beekman was one of seven representatives from Region 4 to participate in TOPOFF 4, a national exercise sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"TOPOFF 4 involved more than 15,000 participants with venues in Washington, D.C., Phoenix, Ariz., Portland, Ore., and Guam," says Beekman. "It was amazing to be a part of such a large, important effort."

The exercise scenario began with terrorists detonating a radiological dispersal device or "dirty bomb" in Guam, later in Portland and then Phoenix, causing casualties and widespread contamination. The exercise included a television station with live broadcasts, much like CNN. Coverage included reports at each bomb scene, interviews with governors and news briefings by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.

"I participated as a player for RAP in the Maricopa County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) providing information on radiological control of the incident," added Beekman. "I am usually the WIPP RAP team captain and provide leadership to the RAP team to perform radiological tasks. As an EOC representative the role was very different."

Exercises are one component of national preparedness and help build an integrated federal, state, territorial, local and private sector capability to prevent, or rapidly respond to and recover from, a terrorist attack or major disaster.

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.

Check your area code



It's been six months since New Mexico was split into two area codes and about six months until October 5, when the use of the new area code is mandatory. While most WIPP-related telephone numbers will be switching to the new 575 area code, some numbers, such as the Santa Fe Office and certain numbers in Albuquerque will retain the 505 area code.

Which area code you will use? Check the link below for a site provided by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission on the 505/575 split.

Also, please check your listing in WIPP's electronic phonebook, especially if you are based out of the immediate WIPP area, to be sure that your number is correct. To make directory changes, click on the "send directory changes" button inside the phonebook.

More information on the area code change:

<http://www.nm575.info/>

WIPP setting safety record every day

We've talked about recordable injuries before, but today we're talking about a lack of recordable injuries. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines a recordable injury as anything that goes beyond first aid. A few examples include getting stitches (or even just one) any time a doctor prescribes medication for treatment, a broken bone, or being put on restricted duty.

Recently, the employees of all organizations participating in the WIPP mission – both at WIPP and those performing WIPP-related work at generator sites – have been setting a new record for days worked without a recordable injury every day. As of today, the record stands at 160 days without a recordable injury, the longest run of safe days in the history of WIPP.

WIPP employees have good reason to be proud. Over the years, the average number of days between recordable injuries has been about 30. The previous record was 123 days, which was reached in April 2007. The record before that goes back nearly six years to May 2002 when WIPP employees reached 111 days without a recordable injury.

Congratulations to all WIPP employees, who are taking the goal of zero injuries to heart.

WTS Engineers thanked for National Engineers Week activities

WTS engineers received high praise for participating in local schools as part of National Engineers Week celebrations. Here are some comments received from schools and students:

"We wanted to let you know how wonderful it was having Ashleigh [Wilson] and Michael [Marquez] in our building during "Engineers Week." They are excellent role models and represented your company very well. Thank you for sharing them! Sincerely, Craft Elementary"

Comments from students at Riverside Elementary School addressed to Curtis Chester and Howard Katz:

"Thank you guys for showing us a presentation, it was very interesting. I loved building the bridge and learning about mechanical engineers and what they do."

"I wish you'd come back every week to let us build a bridge and teach us more about being an engineer."

"You know I think being an engineer's cool."

Thanks to the following engineers for volunteering their time to promote the field of engineering among our local youth: Pete Allen, Will Carr, Tim Chambers, Curtis Chester, Bob Cullum, Jaci Davis, Hardip Dhingra, Tim Goodwin, Ashok Kadakia, Howard Katz, Michael Marquez, Clair Ransom, Norbert Rempe, Marco Ruiz, Soledad Sifuentes, David Squires and Ashleigh Wilson.

