

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 3-28-10)

8,350

Shipments received since opening
(8,011 CH and 339 RH)

66,124

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(65,958 CH and 166 RH)

129,706

Containers disposed in the
underground
(129,375 CH and 331 RH)

Final Nevada Test Site waste disposed at WIPP



File Photo

The WIPP Central Characterization Project (CCP) has successfully completed TRU waste removal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). The CCP team was deployed to characterize contact-handled TRU waste at NTS to meet transportation requirements for shipment to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). A total of 25 shipments were sent from NTS to INL to undergo the characterization/certification process. The last shipment of NTS waste left Idaho and arrived at WIPP on January 28, 2010.

NTS marks the 15th TRU waste site to be cleaned up.

WIPP EMS gets an 'A' with "Best in Class" award



Susan McCauslin (CBFO) led the project team, which consisted of (above) Nathan Langford (left), Laura Garcia and Alan Grow stand in front of the salt pile. This team, along with Curtis Chester (not pictured), received DOE's "Best in Class" award for their pollution prevention efforts during the construction of a new salt storage water evaporation pond.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Environmental Management System (EMS) received ISO 14001 certification last year for best environmental management practices. Recently, the WIPP EMS earned the 2009 "Best in Class" award from the Department of Energy (DOE) for fuel conservation efforts during the construction of the new salt storage water evaporation pond at the WIPP site.

Excavated soil was being hauled to an existing soil stockpile area one mile, and approximately 15 minutes, away from the construction site. Project leader Alan Grow made a simple, but significant decision to establish a new soil stockpile area, less than a quarter of a mile from the construction site. The move cut drive time to and from the haul site to just under three minutes and reduced estimated total miles from 13,500 to 6,500. The greatest benefit was cutting fuel usage by 50 percent, from 3,250 gallons to 1,325 gallons.

Shortened drive time eliminated 867 hours in labor costs and created a safer work environment for haul truck drivers who had used a service road to get to the original stockpile site. Moving the excavated soil site closer minimized the possibility of haul trucks crossing paths with maintenance vehicles.

"After the change, all the benefits became evident," Grow said. "Sometimes simple changes can have large, positive impacts."

WIPP was one of three sites to be recognized with this award. The Nevada Test Site and Savannah River Site also received the award for good Pollution Prevention practices. These sites will be formally submitted to DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS) for Pollution Prevention and White House Closing the Circle Awards nomination process.

New Load, Haul, Dump vehicle arrives on-site



A new Load, Haul, Dump (LHD) vehicle has arrived on-site. It took multiple trips to get the vehicle into the mine, the vehicle was disassembled to get it into the underground. The LHD was purchased with American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds.

Knowing the WIPP Environmental Policy



An Environmental Policy is and has been in effect at WIPP from the time the site received the first shipment of TRU waste. The policy, which is supported by both CBFO and WTS management, establishes the standards for how employees and contractors will protect the environment while working at WIPP. As part of maintaining the ISO 14001 certification of the Environmental Management System, all employees and contractors working for WIPP must know the policy, where to find it and how WIPP will operate and comply with it. The WIPP policy can be found in QMIS (DOE/WIPP 04-3310) or from the WIPP Environmental Management System Home page at <http://bellview/wsaf/P2/EMS.htm>.

Legislators start their day early with WIPP update



CBFO Manager Dave Moody gave N.M. Legislators a WIPP update at the annual legislative breakfast. The breakfast is hosted by Washington TRU Solutions and provides a WIPP update to N.M. elected officials. Above, Dr. Moody (left) stands with southeastern N.M. Legislators (l to r) Rep. William Gray, Rep. John Heaton, Rep. Gay Kernan, Rep. Don Bratton and Rep. Carroll Leavell.

Nothing starts a day in Santa Fe like a cup of coffee and a WIPP update. It happens each year during the New Mexico Legislative session.

The annual WIPP Legislative Update gives legislators and other invited officials the opportunity to hear about the progress made at WIPP during the previous year.

CBFO Manager Dave Moody delivered a presentation addressing WIPP safety, transportation, disposal, cleanup of TRU waste sites and work related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Moody also updated guests on the status of two major regulatory processes WIPP is involved in this year: compliance recertification by the Environmental Protection Agency and renewal of the WIPP hazardous waste facility permit by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

"We just got lucky that they both happened to fall in the same year," he joked. NMED Secretary Ron Curry also spoke and commended the WIPP technical group for developing a strong working relationship with his Department.

The early 6:30 a.m. start time has been an eight-year-old tradition.

"It's all about their schedule," said WTS Communication's Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator Rose Scott. "Their legislative business begins early and fills their whole day. Dr. Moody makes sure they get the information they need and that they are out in time for committee meetings or other state business."



The WIPP Legislative Update is sponsored by southeast New Mexico legislators, including Senators Carroll Leavell, Vernon Asbill, and Gay Kernan along with Representatives John Heaton, Donald Bratton, William "Bill" Gray and Shirley Tyler.

WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif stands with Representative James P. White and his wife Jacquie after the breakfast.

Among the new faces this year was Senator John Pinto of Tohatchi, N.M. Senator Pinto is one of the longest serving members of the New Mexico Senate, currently in his ninth four-year term. Also in attendance was Representative James White of Albuquerque, N.M. Representative White is serving in his first term, succeeding Richard Berry, who resigned the seat to become the new Albuquerque mayor.

Third annual New Mexico Mine Safety and Health Conference

The 2010 New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference will be held at the Macey Conference Center in Socorro, N.M. from May 3-5. This year's conference theme is "Going the Distance", emphasizing health issues.

This conference is geared toward all Partners in Safety, including management, employees (especially underground miners), regulators, educators and supervisors. Anyone with an interest in mining is encouraged to attend.

Click [here](#) for a registration pamphlet or go to the N.M. Mine Safety and Health Web site at www.nmminesafety.com for more information.

Registration for the conference will go through May 4.

NRC Commissioner Dale Klein visits WIPP



Dale Klein, one of three NRC commissioners, recently visited WIPP. Klein toured the surface and underground before meeting with CBFO Manager Dave Moody and WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif. Klein concluded his tour with a trip to the Gnome Site. Above, Klein is being shown the RH-TRU waste disposal process by CBFO Chief Scientist Roger Nelson.

Relay for Life sign-ups are around the corner



Mark your calendars! Carlsbad's 12th annual Relay for Life event is just around the corner. This year's relay will be held on April 30-May 1 at the Beach Band shell. Participants can enter in one of three ways: Start a Team, join a team or donate to an already formed team.

Come support the fight against cancer!

WIPP completes RH Shipments from GEVNC



File Photo

The U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant continued its march toward cleanup of the nation's defense-related transuranic (TRU) waste. WIPP received the last shipment of remote-handled TRU (RH-TRU) waste from the General Electric Hitachi Vallecitos Nuclear Center (GEVNC) in California.

In mid-September, WIPP began a shipping campaign from GEVNC that resulted in

32 shipments of RH-TRU waste departing GEVNC.. Using American and Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the WIPP Central Characterization Project characterized and certified all the RH-TRU waste for shipment and final disposal at WIPP.

A small amount of contact-handled TRU waste still remains at GEVNC and is scheduled to be removed mid-year. WIPP CCP will also characterize that single shipment, which will be sent to the Idaho National Laboratory for certification prior to shipment to WIPP.

The GEVNC research facility is located 40 miles south of San Francisco, Calif. Research activities conducted for DOE at GEVNC in the 1960s resulted in TRU waste being stored at the facility.



WIPP recognizes National Engineer's Week



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.

Andres Delgado of Operations works with Monterrey Elementary School students to build a Land Rover using engineering ideas. 28 WTS engineers visited more than 2,300 students at 16 area schools.

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

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