

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 4-15-12)

10,420

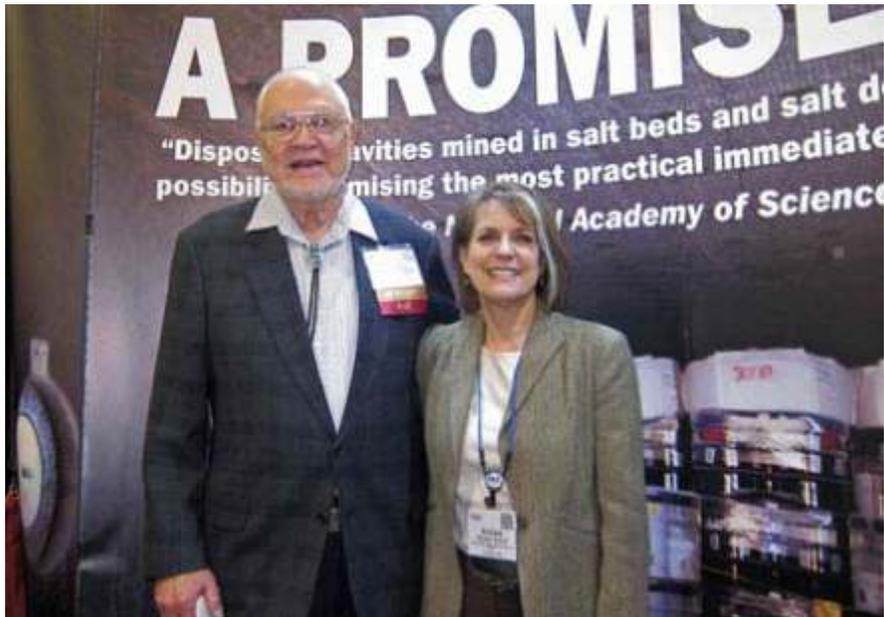
Shipments received since opening
(9,884 CH and 536 RH)

80,936

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(80,666 CH and 270 RH)

158,554

Containers disposed in the
underground
(158,018 CH and 536 RH)



Wendell Weart and WTS Deputy Strategic Communications Manager Susan Scott at the WIPP exhibit in Arizona.

WIPP front and center on international stage

WIPP was a prime topic of conversation at the 2012 Waste Management Symposium held recently in Phoenix, Ariz. More than 2,000 participants from 39 countries attended this year's conference, which included 105 technical sessions, 500 papers and an exhibit hall packed with the nuclear industry's latest technologies. Government representatives and nuclear professionals from around the globe came to share their experience in radioactive waste management.

"I was extremely pleased with this year's sessions on WIPP and the overall quality of information presented," said Roger Nelson, DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Chief Scientist and member of the conference's program advisory committee.

Nelson and CBFO Senior International Programs & Policy Advisor Abe Van Luik organized and moderated one of two sessions related to the final report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future (BRC). The second session drew nearly 300 people to hear panelists David Martin, Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department, and former Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest discuss WIPP contributions to radioactive waste management, transportation safety and public consensus building. BRC Commissioner Al Carnesale told the audience that the WIPP model will be important as America looks to its nuclear future.

Russ Patterson, CBFO Compliance Certification Manager, coordinated two of the most intriguing sessions of the conference. Conference goers were invited to participate in two half-day discussions on WIPP's permanent marker system. Though WIPP decommissioning is still decades away, panel discussions have been ongoing since the mid-'90s on how to structure and convey a "keep out" message that warns future generations not to disturb long-lived radioactive wastes disposed deep underground.

"These sessions produced thought-provoking ideas from some of the best minds in



National Nuclear Fuel Cycle Summit participants learn about WIPP

The Carlsbad Department of Development sponsored the National Nuclear Fuel Cycle Summit in Carlsbad earlier this month, bringing together experts in all things nuclear. Speakers included Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, NM Environment Department Secretary Dave Martin, NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Secretary John Bemis, URENCO President and CEO Gregory Smith, Takeshi Ota of TEPCO in Japan and Blue Ribbon Commission Member Per Peterson.

WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif gave a presentation on the WIPP experience that focused on the Permian Salt Formation, Carlsbad's early champions of the WIPP project and lessons learned from 13 years of safe operations.

A WIPP exhibit was also staffed throughout the conference to provide information and answer questions. Summit participants also had the opportunity to take a tour of WIPP to see the facility first-hand.

the industry," said Patterson. "Clearly half of participants were from other countries interested in deep geologic disposal."

The WIPP truck and RH72-B shipping package created a stand-alone exhibit on the convention center floor, giving conference participants a chance to see the remote-handled transuranic (TRU) waste shipping package up close and to ask questions of CAST Transportation driver Randy Anderson (shown at right), who drove the first TRU waste shipment through WIPP's gates in 1999. In September 2011, WIPP celebrated its 10,000th safe shipment.



WIPP's presence at the conference included a large exhibit that was titled "A Promise Kept," in reference to the 1957 National Academy of Sciences report identifying natural salt formations as an ideal medium for radioactive waste disposal and DOE's pledge to safely cleanup Cold War waste from around the nation's weapons complex.

Members of the Carlsbad Department of Development also staffed a community-sponsored exhibit to communicate local pride in the project and the role the community played in bringing WIPP to southeast New Mexico.

In its 38th year, the annual symposium is regarded as the premier international conference for the management of radioactive materials.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski tours WIPP



United States Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska recently toured WIPP to learn more about the project and its national cleanup mission. Senator Murkowski is the ranking member on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development. Above, Senator Murkowski was joined on the tour by CBFO Manager Joe Franco (left) and URS Washington TRU Solutions President and General Manager Farok Sharif.

WIPP marks 13 years of safe operations

It's official. WIPP is now a teenager. On March 26, WIPP marked 13 years of safe operations since the first waste receipt from Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1999. The project has come a long way since its infancy, having taken on national cleanup of defense-related transuranic waste that has resulted in legacy waste from 21 sites being cleaned up, to date.

As of the 13-year anniversary date, WIPP had received 10,378 shipments, logged more than 12 million loaded miles, emplaced 80,519 cubic meters of waste and had emplaced 157,879 waste containers in the underground repository.



Joe Harvill makes a return trip to CTAC

“Right now, I’m a newbie,” says Joe Harvill.

True, he just began work as Portage, Inc.’s Senior Manager at the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Technical Assistance Contractor (CTAC) on March 1. But anyone who knows Joe Harvill can tell you he’s not your ordinary new-kid-on-the-block.

As a sophomore in high school, he knew his interest and career path involved the nuclear industry. He never wavered and graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor’s degree in nuclear engineering with minors in mathematics and chemistry.

Harvill worked for the Water Reactor Division of Westinghouse in Pittsburgh for about four and a half years before moving to Carlsbad in 1984 to work for the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division. Some of his early work involved establishing the radiological baseline program in advance of the anticipated opening of WIPP in 1988. He continued working on environmental monitoring, environmental compliance and safety analysis until 1991.

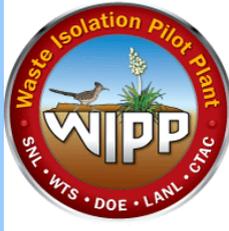
That’s when he did his first tour of employment at CTAC. Working for Commodore Advanced Sciences and later Stoller, his work scope broadened as he provided technical support for the CBFO environmental compliance, safety and health and National TRU Programs.

After about 10 years at CTAC, he re-joined the WIPP management and operating contractor, URS Washington TRU Solutions, which is a successor to what used to be Westinghouse. There, he supported preparation of the TRU Waste Baseline Inventory Report and several related documents such as the National TRU Waste Management Plan, the Compliance Certification Application, etc. Later, working for the Central Characterization Project, his focus for the last eight years has been on developing the non-destructive assay program and the dose-to-cure, or remote-handled characterization program.

With more than three years remaining on Portage’s technical assistance contract with the DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office, Harvill is looking forward to using his broad experience in his new role. CTAC’s main focus in recent years has been its solid Quality Assurance program. He’d like to build on that, now, by bolstering the technical support to CBFO in areas such as international programs, the National TRU Program, regulatory compliance and safety.

"I'm happy to be back," he said about his return to CTAC. "It's been great to reconnect with old friends and I look forward to new challenges here at CTAC."

Outside of work, Harvill has been coaching youth soccer teams for 26 years. He and his wife Danette have been married for nearly 19 years. They have six children and recently celebrated the birth of their second grandchild.



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

To be added to the TRU TeamWorks update notification list or to submit comments or suggestions, please contact us at TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.
