

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 9-26-10)

8,970

Shipments received since opening
(8,557 CH and 413 RH)

70,610

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(70,399 CH and 211 RH)

137,177

Containers disposed in the
underground
(136,768 CH and 409 RH)

CBFO Manager Dave Moody to take over at Savannah River

Carlsbad Field Office Manager Dr. Dave Moody has accepted the manager position at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. He leaves WIPP after being CBFO's manager for the last five years. In 2005, Moody took over for then CBFO Manager Inés Triay, who is now Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.



Dr. Dave Moody will become the new manager at the Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C.

Moody has overseen some of WIPP's most important milestones including the disposal of the first remote-handled transuranic (TRU) waste shipment, the complete cleanup of TRU waste at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Center, achievement of 10 years of safe operations and WIPP's transportation system surpassing 10 million loaded miles.

Ed Ziemianski will serve as the CBFO acting manager until a new manager is selected. Ziemianski managed DOE efforts to characterize, certify and ship TRU waste from the Idaho National Laboratory site to WIPP.

"I am honored to serve as the acting manager of the Carlsbad Field Office and look forward to leading the efforts at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant while DOE seeks a replacement for Dr. Moody," Ziemianski said. "The accomplishments achieved by Dr. Moody, along with his highly talented federal and contractor staff, are truly remarkable. I will do everything I can to make the transition as smooth as possible while continuing to support the environmental cleanup objectives for our nation."

In an upcoming issue, TRU TeamWorks will provide a more in-depth look at Moody's tenure as CBFO manager.

Standiford receives recognition from state senators

Dan Standiford, Washington TRU Solutions waste data system administrator, received recognition from both New Mexico state senators Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall for attending the New Mexico

Construction on South Access Road underway

The three-mile stretch of road that allows access to the south side of the WIPP site is undergoing major construction to create a new, wider road. Construction activities began earlier this summer, with survey crews marking the new road path. Effective September, 23, the road will be closed to all through traffic until the project is completed in winter 2010.

Broadband and Smart Grid Summit in Moriarty, NM, last month. The summit focused on stimulating economic development in rural areas of New Mexico and the use smart grid technology to help electric utility customers track energy usage to find new ways to conserve energy and save money.

Both Bingaman and Udall moderated panel discussions. Standiford was one of approximately 200 people who were able to attend the summit.



File Photo

The road was constructed specifically for access to the WIPP site, but the road is also used heavily by oilfield companies operating in the vicinity. After a number of years, the road has begun to show significant wear and tear. The project is being paid for through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

ARRA funds allotted to WIPP also have been used to successfully complete the cleanup of TRU waste at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Site 300, both in California.

Lucky Briggs nominated for Excellence in Government Program

Lucky Briggs, CBFO lead program analyst, will have an opportunity to further his leadership and management skills. Briggs was selected for the Excellence in Government Fellows Program, which offers federal employees a chance to strengthen leadership skills through a year-long series of coursework. The program kicks-off in Pennsylvania in October.

Briggs says he is excited to learn skills that will not only apply to his immediate job scope, but also open doors to future projects. "I'm honored to represent CBFO in this program and I hope to bring back what I learn and apply it to this project," he said. "The training and networking can set me up to help lead other projects throughout the DOE complex or maybe even internationally, which is a goal of mine."



CBFO lead program analyst Lucky Briggs

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David Garcia, Director of CBFO's Office of Business, nominated Briggs for a spot within the program. Garcia said Briggs' leadership qualities made him a logical choice.

"Lucky cares about his employees and that is important," Garcia said. "What I'm hoping Lucky gains from this program is a greater understanding of how the federal government operates, because that will only help him as he progresses through DOE."

Carlsbad Field Office hosts international salt conference

The deep salt beds that are home to WIPP served as a backdrop for an international conference on the "ABC's of Salt" Sept. 15-17.

Scientists from Germany and the United States met in Carlsbad to share research on how the actinide elements – radioactive elements with atomic numbers between 90 and 103 – react in a variety of hypothetical scenarios that might arise in a salt repository.

CBFO sponsored the event, with the Los Alamos National Laboratory- Carlsbad Operations (LANL-CO) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) serving as technical organizers. Stoller Corporation also provided significant support to the conference. Representatives with Sandia National Laboratories, Illinois Institute of Technology, New Mexico State University and the Korean Radioactive Waste Management Corporation also participated in the conference.

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The "Actinide and Brine Chemistry in a Salt-Based Repository – ABC-Salt" program included two days of information exchange about research between the 45 participating scientists, along with a tour of WIPP.

Don Reed, WIPP scientist with Los Alamos National Laboratory, explained that such research is important for demonstrating compliance during recertification applications with the Environmental Protection Agency. Germany also is developing a deep geologic repository for radioactive waste in salt deposits.

"We're really keeping ahead of the curve. This is maintaining state-of-the-art knowledge that both Germany and the U.S. can share," Reed said.

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

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