

2017, a nuclear fuel cycle series will begin, presenting topics ranging from uranium mining, nuclear fuel fabrication, nuclear fuel recycling, waste forms, and final disposal. Additional series on nuclear forensics and nuclear medicine are in development.

Acknowledgements:

- NAMP Administrator Berta Oates, Carlsbad Field Office Technical Assistance Contractor, Portage, Inc.
- NAMP Director Oba Vincent, Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office
- NAMP Education and Training Subcommittee Co-chairmen: John Griggs, Director, EPA National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory; and Mansour Akbarzadeh, Manager, Science and Development / WIPP Laboratories
- Patricia Paviet, Spectra Tech, Inc.

For more information on NAMP and to access the archived webinars, visit the NAMP website at www.wipp.energy.gov/namp.



TRUPACT-II



HalfPACT

NRC Approves Changes to TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has established an elaborate and robust system for safely transporting defense-generated transuranic, or TRU, radioactive waste from generator sites to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for permanent disposal. A key component of the WIPP Transportation System is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT Type B packagings.

Earlier this year, the NRC approved Revision 23 to the TRUPACT-II and Revision 6 to the HalfPACT Safety Analysis Reports (SAR) through its issuance of Certificate of Compliance 71-9218, Revision 21 for the TRUPACT-II and Certificate of Compliance 71-9279, Revision 7 for the HalfPACT.

The primary purpose of these revisions was to add a new authorized payload container (Criticality Control Overpack [CCO]) that holds a greater quantity of fissile material. By allowing more content per container, the CCO increases overall TRU waste shipping efficiency by reducing the number of shipments required to transport the waste. The CCO is only used as a payload container within the TRUPACT-II or HalfPACT and cannot be used alone as a transportation package.

The SAR revision also changed the designation of the TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT from a double containment vessel to an inner single containment vessel and an outer confinement vessel. The TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT packagings are comprised of an inner containment vessel (ICV) that provides the primary containment boundary and an outer confinement assembly (OCA) that provides a secondary confinement boundary when its optional O-ring seals are utilized. The designation change is in full compliance with federal requirements for Type B packagings designed to ship plutonium contaminated waste in excess of 20 curies.

It is important to note the SAR revisions do not impact the ability of these Type B packagings to protect human health or the environment. Additionally, these revisions continue to meet all the requirements for an NRC approved Type B packaging as required for use at WIPP.

WIPP mine rescue teams excel in contest

Feeding the hungry

WIPP teams recently returned from a successful showing at the 31st annual Missouri Mine Rescue Contest in Rolla, Missouri. Out of 10 competing teams, the WIPP Blue Team was named “overall winner,” with first place finishes in both the field competition and first aid, and a third place finish in the tech team contest.

WIPP’s Red team also had a commendable showing, placing fourth overall with a first place finish in the tech team contest and a fourth place finish in the field competition.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration evaluates each team’s performance during a simulated mine disaster/rescue scenario. In addition to the rescue simulation, teams are evaluated on other skills including first aid, gas testing, maintaining a complex self-contained breathing apparatus, and through written examination. This competition provides an opportunity for WIPP teams to strengthen their abilities and better prepare should they be called upon to respond to an actual mine emergency.



CBFO Manager Joe Franco congratulates Norma Castaneda and David Hoffer for leading a CBFO project to help feed the less fortunate in the local community. The duo co-chaired the CBFO’s participation in the national Feds Feed Families effort, in which they and their co-workers collected more than 1,270 pounds of food. This total was 400 pounds more than the local office’s target goal.

Safety Minute – Halloween Decorations



October 31 brings an assortment of painted and masked characters to our doors as children dress up in costume to celebrate Halloween. Many enjoy decorating their homes with fake spider webs, carved pumpkins, eerie lights and other displays to both thrill and frighten those who knock on their doors and exclaim “trick-or-treat.” In planning your Halloween decorations, safety must be a priority. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides the following Halloween decoration safety tips:

- Keep candles and jack-o'-lanterns away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame. Indoor jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, and other furnishings that could be ignited.
- Flameless candles, light sticks and flashlights provide a safe lighting alternative in jack-o'-lanterns and areas where children will have access.
- Remove obstacles from lawn, steps

NWP Awarded DOE Legacy of Stars Award



Pictured: Kevin Miller, Brad Davy and Farok Sharif.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently awarded Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), WIPP’s management and operating (M&O) contractor, the Legacy of Stars Award in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The award was presented to NWP at the VPP Participant’s Association National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

“We are pleased with the continuous safety efforts of NWP and its employees,” said Joe Franco, DOE Carlsbad Field Office Manager. “This award represents the continuous focus to safely perform work by the men and women who work at WIPP.”

The VPP program promotes safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among labor, management and government at DOE contractor sites. Star status is the highest level that can be achieved and is reserved for companies that demonstrate outstanding protection of employee safety and health.

“Safety is central to everything we do; achieving this elite designation validates our work and the safety-focused culture we strive to create.”

- Remove obstacles from lawns, steps and porches when expecting trick-or-treaters.
- Use only decorative light strands that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets.
- Don't overload extension cords.

Fun fact: The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that over **1.23 billion** pounds of pumpkins were grown in the United States last year.

said Farok Sharif, NWP President and Project Manager, who received this award with Kevin Miller, United Steel Workers (USW) Local Bargaining Unit VPP Ombudsman, on behalf of NWP.

Sharif continued, "I am also pleased to accept this award with Kevin Miller who represents the union labor force that is so vitally important to achieving our mission; without the combined efforts of our union and non-union labor, receiving this award would not have been possible."

To earn the DOE Legacy of Stars designation an organization must achieve the Star of Excellence Award for four consecutive years. NWP and has maintained Star status through the continued pursuit of safety and health excellence, the implementation of outstanding outreach and mentoring efforts, and by maintaining a recordable injury rate that is 75 percent better than the average of comparable U.S. businesses.

WIPP was the first DOE site to earn Star status in 1994 and has consistently maintained that status and received Star of Excellence Awards. This is the second DOE Legacy of Stars award for the WIPP M&O contractor.



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

To be added to the TeamWorks update notification list or to submit comments or suggestions, please [click here](#) to send us an e-mail message.

To read past issues, visit the [Archives](#) page.

