



A publication of the U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office

December 2013

WIPP Quick Facts

(As of 12-16-13)

11,783

Shipments received since opening
(11,066 CH and 717 RH)

90,075

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(89,720 CH and 355 RH)

170,411

Containers disposed in the underground
(169,687 CH and 724 RH)

*CH - Contact-handled transuranic waste
RH - Remote-handled transuranic waste

Blanket Brigade lends its support to Christmas on the Pecos



Change in records process promotes sustainability and provides cost savings



Members of the WIPP team provided cost savings by implementing sustainable practices. The boxes shown account for one hardcopy of an audit report.

In support of the CBFO initiative to “go green,” the Carlsbad Field Office Technical Assistance Contractor (CTAC) recently changed its process from creating multiple hardcopies of audit reports to using electronic copies--saving over \$17,600 per year. CTAC is responsible for the technical and quality assurance resources for CBFO.

“This reduction in the use of natural resources highlights our effort to promote sustainable operations,” said Susan McCauslin, CBFO National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Officer and EMS Coordinator.

Generator sites that ship waste to WIPP must be audited and certified or recertified before waste will be accepted. During this audit process, information is captured, copied, and included as part of the audit report. In addition to the original audit report, four hardcopies were previously required – two copies were retained as WIPP records and two copies were provided to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). WIPP personnel typically audit eight large generator sites and several smaller sites each year.

The amount of paper required for these audits is staggering. For example, the audit report and supporting documentation for a large generator site could often require enough paper to fit in several bankers’ boxes. Along with the paper, creating each copy took approximately 10 hours of staff time.

Given the number of sites audited each year, the volume of paper required for each hardcopy, and the labor associated with making the four copies, CTAC recognized that changing the process would provide a reduction in natural resource use and cost savings. Working with



Brianna Pinzel, daughter of Marcus Pinzel with the Carlsbad Field Office, and Kameron Mager, son of Donovan Mager with Nuclear Waste Partnership, brave freezing temperatures to ensure visitors taking part in Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Pecos are warm by arming them with blankets before they board their boat.

For more than 10 years, WIPP employees and their families have volunteered for the Blanket Brigade, a group that distributes blankets to visitors who flock to Carlsbad to see the beautiful Christmas lights adorning dozens of houses along the Pecos River.

CBFO, CTAC was able to transform the hardcopy record process into one that used electronic copies and maintained compliance with the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

"The success of CTAC and the WIPP Records Management Services in implementing this change is a great example of the collaboration of different organizations focused on using sustainable practices," said Lynn Johnson, of NWP's Office of Site Environmental Compliance and the Sustainability Coordinator at WIPP.

McCauslin noted, "We also recognize and appreciate the support of NMED which modified their process allowing for one rather than two hardcopy reports to be provided for their use."

In WIPP's new records process, all documentation resulting from a site generator audit is assembled as a single "master copy." This master copy is indexed and electronically scanned to portable document format (PDF). The PDF record provides a searchable and "protected-from-alteration" file that replaces the need for multiple hardcopies. A single hardcopy is provided to NMED and electronic copies are retained by applicable WIPP departments.

Safety minute: Watch out for slippery surfaces

Winter doesn't officially begin until December 21, but wintery weather hasn't waited. Even at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southeast New Mexico, where the winter is typically considered to be mild, snow and ice can cause a hazard. And that is certainly true at DOE sites and other locations across the country.

One of the biggest hazards is ice. Be especially careful when walking outside in cold weather, as icy conditions in parking lots and on sidewalks can lead to injury-causing slips and falls.

Unfortunately, it is also easy to bring those hazards indoors with us. When we walk indoors, melting snow and ice on our shoes is tracked in and can create another slipping hazard. Be sure to wipe your feet if a mat is available to you maintain proper traction on tile or other floor surfaces. This also prevents leaving a trail of water on the floor that can cause a hazard for others.



Carlsbad Field Office Deputy Manager selected

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) announced the selection of Dana Bryson as the Deputy Manager for CBFO, which has responsibility for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and National Transuranic (TRU) Program.



Since 2008, Bryson has served as Deputy Assistant Manager and then River Corridor Division Director for DOE's Richland Operations Office. Responsibilities included cleanup and restoration of the 220 square miles of the Columbia River Corridor, which includes former plutonium production reactors and fuel fabrication, research and support facilities at the Hanford Site, Washington. Prior to 2008, Bryson served in numerous Federal Service management positions with the Office of River Protection, Richland and the U.S. Navy.

"Dana brings more than 30 years of nuclear engineering experience and expertise to the position that should benefit CBFO and WIPP stakeholders," said CBFO Manager Joe Franco. "I'm pleased to announce his selection and to begin working with Dana in his new position following his arrival this month."

"I'm impressed with the dedication of the people performing the WIPP



Above: Recent weather conditions at the U.S. Department of Energy's in-town office facility in Carlsbad, N.M. resulted in ice on trees, sidewalks and parking lots. Just a few days prior, the high temperatures were around 80 degrees.

and National TRU Program mission," said Bryson. "I'm pleased to join the WIPP team in this important work, and my wife and I are enthusiastic about becoming part of the Carlsbad community."

Bryson has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Oregon State University and is a certified Senior Technical Safety Manager.

WIPP security organization management change



WIPP's Management and Operating (M&O) Contractor, Nuclear Waste Partnership (NWP) LLC, will assume management of the WIPP Security organization on January 1, 2014. Security at WIPP was previously managed through Security Walls LLC based out of Knoxville, Tenn.

NWP anticipates the majority of the Security Walls personnel working at WIPP will accept employment with NWP.

The decision to assume security management was made after a thorough analysis concluded NWP's management of the security contract provides the best value for the DOE.

Did you know?

In 2013, WIPP met its second milestone in the 3706 Transuranic (TRU) Waste Campaign by removing 1,800 cubic meters of waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

This milestone is part of the framework agreement between LANL and the State of New Mexico for the complete removal of aboveground TRU waste stored in LANL's Area G by June 30, 2014.

The framework agreement was created in 2011

WIPP's holiday spirit shines



Above: Holding up some of the donated coats, (from left) CBFO's Margaret Gee, NWP's Yolanda Navarette, Dana Dorr, and Yolanda Salmon (not pictured) spearheaded the Karing for Kids Koat Drive.

As December temperatures consistently drop below freezing, Carlsbad residents bundle up to keep warm. Sadly, for struggling families, adequate winter clothing may not be a reality. Schoolteachers sorrow as students come to school cold and without coats. However, WIPP employees are making a difference in the lives of Carlsbad children with the second Karing for Kids Koat Drive. Between November 15 and December 12, WIPP employees donated new or gently used winter coats, sweaters, gloves, scarves, and hats which will be provided to children in need.

"The generosity of WIPP employees represents their character and compassion," said Carlsbad Field Office Manager (CBFO) Joe Franco. "This winter we have helped to keep children warm throughout the community."

Working with counselors and teachers in the public schools, WIPP is able to provide coats and other winter items to those children in the most need. The demand has been great; even before the completion of the drive, coats were being requested and presented to children in need.

The framework agreement was created in 2011 after the the largest forest fire in New Mexico's recorded history came within the vicinity of LANL.

CBFO's Margaret Gee, one of the organizers of this campaign, noted that "although this is a WIPP campaign, other Carlsbad residents and businesses have heard about what we are doing and have donated to this campaign."

For instance, the Carlsbad Wal-Mart donated six coats/sweatshirts to this drive. Additionally, Carlsbad schools provided the WIPP coat drive flyer to their staff and parents for participation. As a result of this, coats and other winter clothing was provided to students directly though the schools.

In total, over 168 winter items were donated from WIPP with additional coats and winter clothing still being provided directly to the schools from parents and staff.



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.

