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WIPP Quick Facts

(As of 6-23-13)

11,384

Shipments received since opening
(10,712 CH and 672 RH)

87,209

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(86,874 CH and 335 RH)

167,525

Containers disposed in the underground
(166,857 CH and 668 RH)

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

WIPP teams demonstrate excellence at mine rescue competition



WIPP's mine rescue teams recently competed at the Southwest Regional Mine Rescue Competition in Taos, New Mexico. Not only did the Blue and Red Teams take first and second place overall, respectively, but they also swept the competition, placing first in every category.

"Our two teams did an outstanding job," said U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office Manager Joe Franco. "Mine safety is critical to our mission and I appreciate their skill and dedication to providing extremely well trained emergency response organizations for our workers, facility, community and entire industry."

The Blue Team won the Field competition, in which teams are faced with a simulated mine rescue scenario and have to use all their skills to safely accomplish their objectives. The team also took third place in the First Aid contest and received the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Holmes Safety Award. The Blue team had only 13 total discounts with the closest competitor, having 45.

The Red Team won the First Aid and the Team Technician competitions, completing the sweep of first place finishes in all categories. In addition, WIPP's Mine Rescue Trainer Richard West won the Trainer contest.

All members of the mine rescue teams have regular jobs at WIPP for Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, which is the managing and operating contractor. Their service on the teams is voluntary and they put in a lot of time to train. Their ultimate purpose is to rescue someone from the mine in the event of an underground emergency. WIPP also has agreements with local Potash mines for mutual aid, adding to the level of safety and protection for all area mines.

Mine rescue competitions such as this are held regularly throughout the country and are often evaluated by officials from MSHA. The purpose of the competitions are to continually improve mine safety at all mines in the United States.

Above, members of WIPP's mine rescue teams pose by their newly won trophies. Shown with the team members is Don Galbraith (second from right), who represented the CBFO at the competition. Below are the trophies won by the WIPP teams.

Franco part of senior-level delegation to France



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco was recently part of a senior-level DOE delegation to France. Led by Environmental Management (EM) Senior Advisor Dave Huizenga, the group recently toured nuclear cleanup facilities in France, including a disposal site and a laboratory researching a potential underground radioactive waste repository.

The trip was part of an initiative to draw from the lessons learned in waste treatment and disposal of other countries and gain experience from waste management efforts performed by various international organizations. Also, the EM delegation and French officials expressed interest in sharing lessons learned from EM's experience with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Above, the EM delegation touring the Underground Research Laboratory in France; EM Lead International Affairs Specialist Ana Han, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management Frank Marcinowski, CBFO Manager Joe Franco and EM Senior Advisor Dave Huizenga.



WIPP Lab's Corey White impressive at London Marathon



On the heels of the Boston Marathon bombing, thousands of runners gathered in London for the 33rd London Marathon, undeterred by recent events. Amid increased security, the event proceeded following a moment of silence

Midwest state officials meet in Carlsbad; Get close look at WIPP



The Council of State Governments (CSG) – Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee recently met in Carlsbad. The purpose of the visit was to allow representatives from member states the opportunity to tour and learn about WIPP and its mission.

Following the tour, CSG held a quarterly meeting to explain the role state governments play in overseeing shipments of transuranic waste and other radioactive shipments that pass through the Midwest.

NM State Representative Cathrynn Brown provided the group with opening remarks and welcomed them to Carlsbad. Representatives from the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and the Carlsbad Mayor's WIPP Task Force provided presentations explaining their respective roles and responsibilities in the transportation of nuclear

for victims of the Boston tragedy. Among those to take part in the 26.2-mile race was WIPP Laboratories Scientist and Team Lead Corey White. And not only did he participate, but he also posted some impressive results!

Out of around 34,631 runners, White was the 108th person to cross the finish line and the third American to finish the race.

White's finish time was 02:37:08 (two hours, 37 minutes and eight seconds), which put him among some of the world's best runners. The April 21 event was won by Tsegaye Kebede of Ethiopia on the men's side with a finish time of 02:06:04 and Kenya's Priscah Jeptoo on the women's side with a time of 02:20:15.

Above, White (in the white shirt) coming off the Tower Bridge in London.

material, including WIPP shipments.

The Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee brings the Midwestern states together to identify, prioritize and work with the U.S. Department of Energy to resolve regional issues related to DOE's transport of radioactive waste and materials. The committee comprises representatives of the executive and legislative branches of government in the 12 Midwestern states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Above, the delegation is shown underground at WIPP during their recent visit.



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

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