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of Energy Carlsbad Field Office

September 2013

WIPP Quick Facts

(As of 9-29-13)

11,629

Shipments received since opening
(10,924 CH and 705 RH)

88,852

Cubic meters of waste disposed
(88,500 CH and 352 RH)

169,339

Containers disposed in the underground
(168,627 CH and 712 RH)

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



File Photo

WIPP receives 700th remote-handled transuranic waste shipment

On Sept. 12, the 700th shipment of remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) waste reached the gate at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The milestone shipment was transported to WIPP in an RH-72B shipping package that originated from the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) program at DOE's Idaho site.

"Safety is the most important aspect of every shipment," said EM Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco. "This milestone demonstrates the significant progress being made in our safe, compliant and efficient cleanup efforts. This accomplishment is shared among the dedicated WIPP team and at all the sites involved." CBFO has responsibility for WIPP and the National TRU Program.

RH-TRU waste is one of two types of TRU waste disposed at WIPP and represents approximately four percent of the anticipated disposal volume. It has a higher surface dose rate than the contact-handled (CH) TRU waste, which comprises the remainder of the disposal volume.

Disposal of RH-TRU waste began in January 2007, nearly eight years after WIPP received its first shipment. Since beginning operations in March 1999, WIPP has received more than 11,500 shipments of defense-related TRU waste, which safely traveled over 13.8 million loaded miles.

While RH-TRU waste has been shipped from eight sites, the Idaho site provided the largest number - 360 - of the RH-TRU waste shipments. The Idaho Cleanup Project attributed the success to close collaboration between the EM headquarters and field offices, WIPP and contractors. This collaboration has allowed for significant progress towards meeting the Idaho Settlement Agreement commitments. That agreement between

the state of Idaho, DOE and the U.S. Navy requires DOE to safely remove TRU waste from the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the Idaho site.

WIPP honored for sustainability

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) was recognized as one of two finalists at the New Mexico Sustainable Business Summit held in Albuquerque in August 2013.

The second annual summit, presented by Albuquerque Business First and the New Mexico Green Chamber of Commerce (NMGCC), is a business expo and awards luncheon to recognize organizations that have "green" practices integral to the way they operate.

WIPP was selected as an honoree in the category of sustainable workplace. "I'm very proud of the WIPP team," said Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco. "It's essential to protect human health and the environment, and we encourage the WIPP Team to look for ways to improve our processes." CBFO has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program.

WIPP received the award based on improvements in the Environmental Monitoring and Hydrology Field Laboratory. The laboratory found ways to improve efficiencies and reduce the overall amount of hazardous waste generated in the ground water monitoring program. The improvements resulted in zero hazardous waste being generated in 2012. By eliminating the generation of hazardous waste at the WIPP facility, WIPP was able to avoid hazardous disposal impact to the environment, including the emissions, cost and risks of transporting hazardous waste to approved landfills. As a result of these efficiencies, costs were avoided and available resources were used in the management of the National TRU Program and TRU waste disposal.

Established in 2010, the NMGCC is made up of eight regional chapters at varying stages of development and representing a variety of communities. All chapters operate under the mission of the N.M. Chamber of Commerce. While working towards the similar goals of advocating for renewable energy, strengthening local economies, and incorporating the green business advantage, their focus varies throughout the different regions in keeping with the diversity that exists in N.M. Chapters of the NMGCC are members of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies.

Carlsbad Field Office employees complete annual Feds Feed Families effort

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), working in conjunction with other federal agencies, recently completed their 2013 Feds Feed Families effort to combat national hunger. The DOE campaign is now completed and for the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) the results are commendable.

The local effort was organized by Norma Castaneda and David Hoffer, who handled logistics and kept their coworkers informed on the campaign's progress throughout. CBFO employees donated over 1,270 pounds of food—surpassing the target goal of 810 pounds. Each full-time employee was encouraged to contribute at least 15 pounds of non-perishable food items. Two contributors, George Hellstrom and Lea Chism, received distinction as Hall of Famers by donating between 250-500 pounds of food.

DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM), which includes the CBFO, posted some great numbers. EM surpassed its goal of collecting 50,000 pounds of food by more than 3,600 pounds.

Since the program began in 2009, federal workers have donated and collected 15.2 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items to support families across America. Last year, more than 7.2 million pounds of food was collected.

In the United States, it is estimated that 1 in 6 people do not have access to enough food to sustain a healthy life.

Transportation safety recognition



CBFO National TRU Program Transportation Logistics Manager Andy Walker participated in the annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Conference and Exhibition in Denver in September. At the event, he presented a plaque to Richard Swedberg (right), who is retiring from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (Western Services Division), to recognize his contributions to the WIPP transportation program's success.

SafetyFest gives a boost to regional safety

Around 200 individuals received training and participated in safety-based discussions during the inaugural SafetyFest of Southeastern New Mexico on September 11-13, held at the Pecos River Conference Center in Carlsbad, NM. This free, three-day safety and health event was put together by the Southeastern New Mexico Roadway Safety Integrated Project as part of its overall push to raise the level of safety in this corner of the state. Its mission is to bring together commercial industry, federal, state, local governments and law enforcement agencies to collectively monitor, evaluate and mitigate potential traffic-related hazards to prevent vehicle accidents in Lea and Eddy counties.



Following a welcome by Farok Sharif, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP) President and Project Manager, and Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway, attendees received instruction and participated in safety discussions on OSHA updates and requirements, corporate wellness, road and driving safety, industry safety and best practices, drug and alcohol use in the workplace and workplace violence.

Day two and three were comprised of 13 specific training courses taught by instructors from the New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs. Among the classes offered were Distracted Driving, Record Keeping, First Aid/CPR, Accident Investigation, Focus 4 Hazards, Lockout/Tagout, Arc Flash, Confined Spaces, Scaffolding, Near Miss Training, Combustible Dust and Excavation and Trench Line.

The event was co-chaired by NWP Communications Manager Donovan Mager and Economic Development Corporation of Lea County Director of Research and Business Development Melinda Allen and was supported by safety professionals from nuclear, oil and gas, mining, and other regional industries.

Informational booths were available for business and organizations and WIPP had two of its trucks with some of the latest safety



WIPP receives top mine safety award

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) received top safety honors from the New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety (BMS) and the New Mexico Mining Association (NMMA) during the association's 2013 conference held in Albuquerque, N.M. on Sept. 4-6.

Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), the WIPP management and operating contractor, was named Safe Operator of the Year based on its safety performance. NWP and its heritage companies have received the prestigious award 25 of the past 27 years.

"We're very pleased that WIPP employees were honored with this award," said DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) Manager Joe Franco. "Safety is the top priority at WIPP, and we work very hard to continually improve processes in the workplace. It's gratifying that NWP and all WIPP employees have been recognized for their efforts." CBFO has responsibility for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program.

In addition to the Safe Operator of the Year Award, the following eight NWP work groups were recognized for having a zero frequency rate (no reportable injuries) for the year: Mine Maintenance; Instrumentation and Control Maintenance; Facility Restoration; Facility Operations; Waste Handling Operations; Radiological Control; Mining and Ground Control Operations; and Surface Maintenance.

"I congratulate our employees on a job well done," said Farok Sharif, NWP President and Project Manager. "Safety awards must be earned. It requires vigilance and a questioning mind and attitude. Our employees consistently perform safely on every job, every day. I am extremely proud to be part of a team that, for years, has illustrated their commitment to a safe work environment."

Minimum criteria for the Safe Operator of the Year Award include an injury rate below the national average and no fatalities from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. During that time period, NWP employees worked 1.37 million hours without recording a single injury that required a day away from work.

According to the latest available U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average national mining injury rate was 2.2 in 2011 compared to 0.00 for NWP. From July 2012 to June 2013, NWP's injury rate was 0.15, which is lower than most libraries.

of its trucks with some of the latest safety features available to view. NWP Health Services personnel conducted free cholesterol screenings. In addition, Visionary Solutions brought a simulator from Tennessee that allowed conference attendees the chance to experience the challenges of safely driving a semi-truck.

The regional event is expected to take place again next year in Hobbs.

In the above photo, NWP EST Coordinator Ronnie Doporto speaks during the Road and Driving Safety panel discussion. Also shown are panelists Eunice City Manager Marty Moore and Eddy County Emergency Preparedness Manager Joel Arnwine.

“WIPP’s mining operation is, without a doubt, one of the safest in nation,” said Terence Foreback, New Mexico Mine Inspector, who presented the award to NWP. “It is my honor to present this award for the 25th time in 27 years, which is a good indication of how WIPP employees keep safety at the forefront of everything they do.”

NWP is a URS-led company that includes partner B&W Technical Services Group and major subcontractor AREVA Federal Services.

Pictured above are NWP President and Project Manager Farok Sharif, NWP Safety & Health Manager Tom Ferguson, NMMA President Randy Logsdon, NWP Mining Manager John VandeKraats, NWP Crew A Mining & Ground Control Manager Edmundo Hernandez, NM State Mine Inspector Terence Foreback and CBFO Mine Operations Project Manager Don Galbraith.



The U.S. Department of Energy

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

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