

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

TRU Solutions
Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC

TRU Solutions News

Media Contact

Bill Keeley
(505) 234-7594
<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>

For Immediate Release

Westinghouse Again Recognized For Safe Underground Operations at WIPP

CARLSBAD, N.M., October 3, 2001 – Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC recently was awarded the "Certificate of Merit" for safe underground operations at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Westinghouse is the management and operating contractor for DOE at WIPP.

The company's underground operations include mining, hoisting, maintenance, engineering and other related activities. The Certificate of Merit, presented to Westinghouse by the New Mexico State Inspector of Mines and the New Mexico Mining Association, recognizes WIPP's underground operations for "superior performance in promoting safety in the mining industry" by achieving a zero frequency rate (no accidents).

Just last month, Westinghouse received its 15th consecutive Mine Operator of the Year award from the New Mexico State Inspector of Mines and the New Mexico Mining Association in the category of "large, non-producing mine."

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the nation's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons.

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Located in Southeast New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation 2,150 feet (almost one-half mile) underground. Waste disposal operations began at WIPP March 26, 1999.

Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residues, and other disposable items contaminated with radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

For more information about WIPP, call 1-800-336-9477, or visit the WIPP Web site at <http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>.

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