

# TRU Solutions News

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## For Immediate Release **Westinghouse Earns 15<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Mine Safety Award**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., September 26, 2001** – Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) has been recognized for "excellence in underground operations and an outstanding record for safety" at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Westinghouse has received the award in the category of "large, non-producing mine."

A non-producing mine is one that does not mine a product for profit. This award recognizes Westinghouse's close attention to safety in a mining environment.

WTS is the management and operating contractor for the DOE at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

On September 17, New Mexico State Inspector of Mines Gilbert Miera and New Mexico Mining Association President Tony Trujillo presented WTS with the "Mine Operator of the Year" award. The presentation took place at the New Mexico Mining Association's annual convention in Albuquerque.

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>.