

# TRU Solutions

## News

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Westinghouse Earns Safety Excellence Award**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., December 17, 2001** – For the third time this year, Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) has been recognized for safety excellence by the New Mexico State Mine Inspector.

WTS is the management and operating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

On December 6, New Mexico Inspector of Mines Gilbert Miera presented WTS with the “Safety Excellence Award” in the category of “non-producing large mine.” The presentation took place at the state mine inspector’s annual conference in Socorro.

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

In September, WTS received its 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive Mine Operator of the Year award from the New Mexico Inspector of Mines and the New Mexico Mining Association, along with the Certificate of Merit from the state mine inspector.

“We are honored once again to receive this recognition,” said John Lee, WTS President and General Manager. “We are committed to safety in everything we do.”

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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.

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.ws>.