

TRU Solutions News

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Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC Assumes WIPP Operations

CARLSBAD, N.M., February 1, 2001 – Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) today assumed responsibility for the management and operation of the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Heading up the new management team is Henry F. “Hank” Herrera, President and General Manager of WTS. A retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, Herrera has more than 27 years of nuclear operations and radioactive waste management experience. He spent 24 years in nuclear submarine service, during which time he commanded two fleet ballistic missile submarines. Herrera also served as a key advisor to top military leaders including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (General Colin Powell).

After retiring from the Navy in 1998, Herrera applied his executive management skills and nuclear operations expertise to improve operational performance and worker safety at DOE’s Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C.

“We’ve built a great team of diverse, mission-focused managers ready to accept the challenge of moving WIPP into full operation as a cost-effective, safe repository for transuranic waste,” said Herrera.

The WTS mission is to dispose of transuranic waste in an environmentally sound and safe manner while exceeding customer expectations for reducing costs and accelerating schedules.

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Also joining the WTS staff is Charles D. Massey, Ph.D., Assistant General Manager for Programs. Dr. Massey comes from Albuquerque, N.M., where he directed radioactive waste management operations, environmental and regulatory assessments, nuclear materials management, transportation safety and security for Sandia National Laboratories.

Darold G. Haug is Chief Financial Officer. Haug has 32 years of experience managing financial systems for government and commercial projects, including transuranic waste management at his most recent post — DOE's Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site near Golden, Colo.

Candice C. Jierree, Manager of the Environment, Safety and Health (ES&H) Department, is responsible for managing all of WIPP's ES&H programs designed to protect workers, the public and the environment. Jierree joins WTS from BNFL, Inc., in Idaho, where she was the ES&H Manager for the Advance Mixed Waste Treatment Project.

The WTS senior staff includes several other managers with years of WIPP experience. David P. Reber is the Assistant General Manager for Operations. Reber has been with WIPP for four years, two-and-a-half years as Operations Manager.

John J. Garcia, Operations Manager and Chief Engineer, has been at WIPP for 12 years.

Michael S. Kearney has seven years experience supporting WIPP. Kearney is the National TRU Waste Program Operations Manager.

Terry L. Frye continues as the Human Resources Manager, a position he's held for three years.

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Michael W. Lipscomb will enter his fifth year as Quality Assurance Manager at WIPP.

Chris L. West, who has been the Communications Manager for four years, will continue at his post.

Gloria J. Barnes, who has been at WIPP for six years, continues as General Counsel.

Ron R. Head remains as Internal Audit Manager. Head has been at WIPP for 10 years.

DOE awarded Westinghouse TRU Solutions the WIPP management and operation contract on December 15, 2000.

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's clean-up effort, is designed to permanently dispose 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.carlsbad.nm.us>.