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For Immediate Release
**Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC
Earns Superior Star Award for Safety**

CARLSBAD, N.M., September 20, 2001 – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has recognized Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) for its ongoing safety performance with the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) “Superior Star” award. WTS is the management and operating contractor for DOE at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Dr. Inés Triay, Manager of DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office, today presented the award to WTS President and General Manager John Lee during a ceremony at the WIPP facility.

“Safety is our number one priority at WIPP,” said Dr. Triay. “Westinghouse has built an outstanding safety culture at WIPP and demonstrates a superior commitment to the safety and health of its employees.”

For a site to be recognized under DOE’s VPP, it must report injury/illness incidence rates and lost-time workday injury/illness rates well below the Bureau of Labor Statistics national average. Facilities must also demonstrate achievement in meeting annual DOE-VPP goals and strong involvement in the VPP Participants Association.

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Westinghouse earned WIPP's initial VPP Star status in October 1994. The project has maintained that status through the recertification process, which occurs every three years. WIPP was the first DOE site to earn the VPP Star.

Because many DOE facilities continue to perform at above average levels, the agency established annual achievement awards called the "Star of Stars." The awards are given at two levels -- "Star of Excellence" and "Superior Star."

To qualify for the Superior Star award, a site should report injury/illness incidence rates and lost workdays due to injury/illness at least 50 percent below the Bureau of Labor Statistics national average and continue to meet all annual DOE-VPP goals. The Star of Excellence is awarded to operations that achieve reporting rates at least 75 percent below the national average. Sites must also continue to demonstrate continued outreach and mentoring to other facilities striving for VPP status.

WIPP, a cornerstone of the 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 southeastern 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.