



Washington Group International
Integrated Engineering, Construction, and Management Solutions

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For Immediate Release

**Washington TRU Solutions is Mine
Operator of the Year**

CARLSBAD, N.M., October 6, 2004 – Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) was named Mine Operator of the Year by the New Mexico Mining Association for the 18th year in a row. The award was presented September 25, during the association's annual convention in Ruidoso.

Association president Leroy Apodaca recognized WTS for its outstanding safety performance at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a half-mile deep repository where the U.S. Department of Energy disposes of radioactive defense wastes. WTS has operated the facility for the Energy Department since 1985.

Subhash Sethi, WTS repository development project manager, accepted the 2004 award on behalf of WTS employees. "We congratulate our employees for their commitment to safety. It is their day-to-day efforts that make WIPP a safe place to work and a true success story. I'm honored to receive this award on their behalf."

Sethi credited safety and teamwork for the successful completion of a number of WIPP facility upgrades in 2004 and recognized ongoing safety efforts of operations crews mining Panel 3, one of eight panels planned for the WIPP repository. A panel consists of seven underground disposal rooms, each the length of a football field. Panel 3 is scheduled for completion in early 2005.

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In 2004, the WTS recordable injury rate – based on Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards that calculate the number of injuries and hours worked – has been at its lowest in company history.

Washington TRU Solutions LLC, part of Washington Group International's Energy and Environment unit, has managed and operated WIPP for the Department of Energy for 20 years. Just last month, Washington Group International was named to 2004's top 17 safest U.S. companies by Occupational Hazards, the leading magazine of safety, health and loss prevention.