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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **Washington Group International Receives Contract Extension To Manage Transuranic Nuclear Waste for U.S. Department of Energy**

### **Five-Year Option Includes Aggressive New Performance Goals**

BOISE, Idaho - Washington Group International, Inc. (NASDAQ: WGII) today announced that its Washington TRU Solutions subsidiary has received a five-year contract extension to manage and operate the United States Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Washington TRU Solutions is jointly owned by Washington Group and Weston Solutions, of West Chester, Pennsylvania.

The extension was granted when the DOE exercised a five-year option as part of a contract the Washington Group subsidiary won in 2000. During the five-year option period, Washington TRU Solutions will manage operations worth approximately \$704 million. The contract includes performance goals to accelerate cleanup of transuranic nuclear waste left from production of nuclear weapons and related research. Transuranic – or TRU – waste includes protective clothing, tools, and other material contaminated with manmade radioisotopes that are heavier than uranium.

The WIPP – managed by Washington Group since 1985 – is the world's first underground repository certified to safely and permanently dispose of transuranic waste. In addition to managing the repository, located in 2,150-foot-deep geologic salt beds, TRU Solutions also characterizes the waste and coordinates the national transportation program to ship it to the WIPP.

"Since the 1980s, we have managed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant – through its design, construction, licensing, and operation – and are pleased the DOE has reinforced its confidence in us by exercising its option

to work with us through 2010," said Stephen G. Hanks, Washington Group president and chief executive officer. "This new agreement is designed to expedite the environmental cleanup of DOE sites across the country while reducing the overall cost of the effort for the taxpayers."

The performance goals call for TRU Solutions to dispose 20,000 additional cubic meters of waste, finish cleanup of some sites five to 10 years early, and cleanup 70 percent of all legacy TRU waste by the end of 2010, compared with 53 percent targeted during prior planning. To help accomplish these accelerated goals, TRU Solutions plans to deploy an innovative THOR<sup>SM</sup> waste-processing unit to accelerate disposal of the more challenging waste streams.

"We are very pleased to take this step," said Kyle McSlarrow, Deputy Secretary of Energy. "Continuing this contract is very important to the ongoing cleanup of transuranic waste at our nation's defense facilities. Washington TRU Solutions has a sustained track record of excellent performance and has signed up to new, aggressive performance goals that will accelerate the disposal of TRU waste in a safe and timely manner."

Washington TRU Solutions employs 600 people on the WIPP site that began licensed operations in March 1999.

Washington Group International, Inc. ([www.wgint.com](http://www.wgint.com)) provides the talent, innovation, and proven performance to deliver integrated engineering, construction, and management solutions for businesses and governments worldwide.

With approximately 27,000 employees at work in over 40 states and more than 30 countries, the company provides professional, scientific, management, and development services in more than two dozen major markets including: power generation, transmission and distribution, and clean air solutions; environmental remediation; heavy civil construction; mining; nuclear services; defense, homeland security, and

global threat reduction; industrial, chemical, and pharmaceutical processing; manufacturing; facilities operations and management; transportation; and water resources.

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This news release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as may, will, could, should, expect, anticipate, intend, plan, estimate, or continue or the negative thereof or other variations thereof. Such forward-looking statements are necessarily based on assumptions and estimates of management and are inherently subject to various risks and uncertainties. Actual results may vary materially as a result of changes or developments in social, economic, business market, legal, and regulatory circumstances or conditions, both domestically and globally, as well as due to actions by our customers, clients, suppliers, business partners, or government bodies. We are subject to numerous factors, including demand for new power generation and for modification of existing power facilities, public sector funding, demand for extractive resources, capital spending plans of our customer base, and spending levels and priorities of the U.S., state and other governments. Results may also vary as a result of difficulties or delays experienced in the execution of contracts or implementation of strategic initiatives. For additional risks and uncertainties impacting the forward-looking statements contained in this news release, please see “Note Regarding Forward-looking Information” and “Item 1. Business – Risk Factors” in Washington Group’s annual report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2003.