



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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For Immediate Release

National TRU Program Director Selected

CARLSBAD, N.M., November 18, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) announced that J.R. Stroble has been selected as director of the National TRU Program (NTP). The NTP was created in 2000 to integrate efforts to clean up and dispose of transuranic (TRU) defense-related wastes temporarily stored at waste generator sites around the country.

“J.R. is very knowledgeable about many aspects of the TRU Program, and it is with great pleasure that I announce his appointment as director of NTP,” said Ed Ziemianski, Interim Acting CBFO Manager. “J.R. was selected over several other highly talented employees from the Carlsbad Field Office.”

Stroble had previously been CBFO’s Remote-Handled Waste Certification Manager. As NTP director, he will oversee waste characterization, certification and transportation processes at the generator sites to ensure that permitted wastes are shipped to and disposed of at the Department’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad. He will also supervise the TRU waste transportation system, and assure that approved equipment and techniques used to characterize and certify wastes are compliant.

Casey Gadbury, who now serves as the Director of the Office of Site Operations, previously held the position.

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"I am honored to have been chosen for this important position in the DOE Carlsbad Field Office," Stroble said. "We have a great future ahead of us in this office, and I will strive to help lead this office to fulfill its mission and to plan for the future."

Stroble was born and raised in Carlsbad and received a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Engineering Technology from Texas Tech University.

"It is an honor to be a home town representative in this office," he added. "I have had the pleasure of working with many role models and influential leaders in my 20 years at WIPP, and I am grateful for those opportunities."

Stroble has been a part of WIPP's TRU Program for close to 20 years, both as a contractor and as a federal employee. He began his WIPP career as an engineer while the facility was preparing to open. Stroble spent a significant portion of his career as a Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) manager of the Central Characterization Project, which handles preparing waste for shipment to WIPP.

Stroble became a CBFO employee in 2007, when he took over as the Certification Manager of CBFO's remote-handled waste program. During his time with CBFO, he has been integral in a number of high profile projects, including the negotiations of the 10-year WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Renewal. He has also served in an acting role as the Director of the Office of Site Operations and Director of the National TRU Program.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic waste from people and the environment. Waste temporarily stored at sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.