

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 8-30-07)

6,009

Shipments received since opening

50,153

Cubic meters of waste disposed

92,749

Containers disposed in the underground

WIPP receives 6,000th shipment

On August 29, WIPP received its 6,000th shipment of TRU waste. The shipment of contact-handled TRU waste originated at the Idaho National Laboratory. After the 1,392-mile drive, the milestone shipment reached WIPP at 12:27 a.m.

"This is a milestone in project safety," said Dr. Dave Moody, manager of the DOE Carlsbad Field Office. "WIPP drivers have logged more than 6.5 million miles transporting waste to WIPP without a serious injury.

"To appreciate the magnitude of this accomplishment, that's about the same distance as 13 round-trips to the moon. I congratulate the employees of WIPP and the waste generator sites for their earnest dedication to safety."

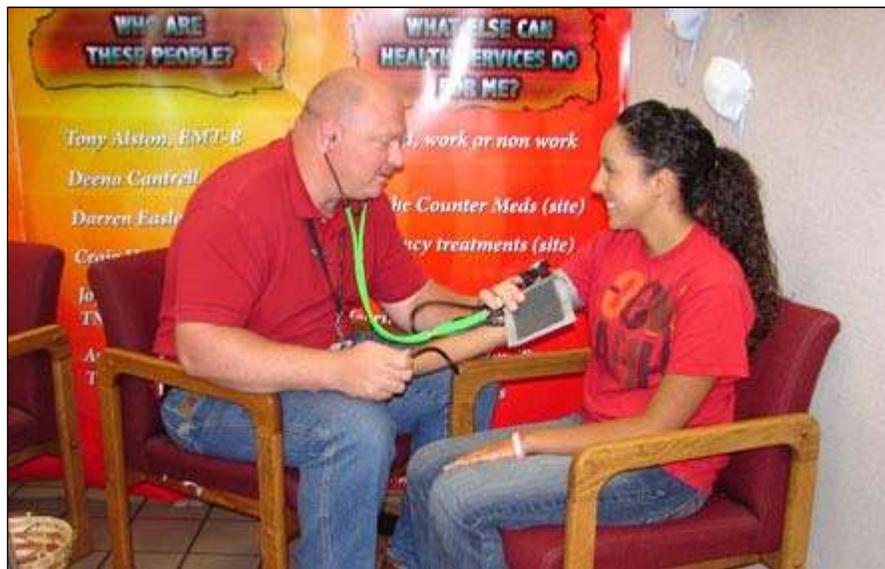
Earlier this month, DOE surpassed 50,000 cubic meters of TRU waste disposed underground in the WIPP repository.

Scenes from the 2007 WIPP Safety Fair



WIPP Safety Fair focuses on wellness

Safety. Now that's something to celebrate! In recognition of WIPP's unequaled safety culture, managers fired up the grills this week at WIPP's annual safety fair to treat employees to a lunchtime cookout.

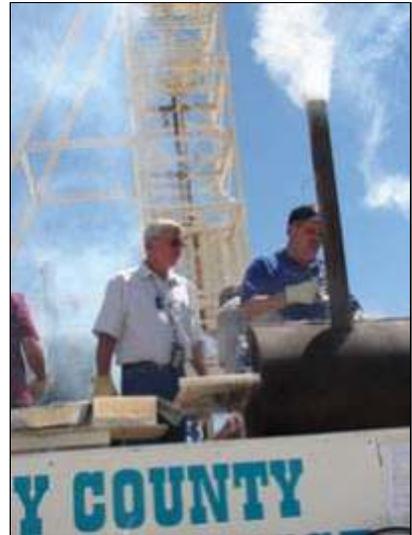


Tony Alston checks Lee Ba rtoc's blood pressure.

"Our employees are the ones who make this a safe place to work," says WTS Safety Manager Craig Herndon. "They deserve all of the credit for this project's safety milestones."



2007 has been a great year for safety. WTS' end of July Total Recordable Case Rate, which is based on recordable injuries and hours worked, is 0. That compares to a rate of 1.14 for the same time last year. Overall, WIPP safety has also done well, with a rate of 0.46, which is lower than any other similar time period in WIPP history.



Russ Whiteley and Craig Herndon at the grills at WIPP.



The focus of this year's safety fair was Wellness. Underscoring this theme was the active participation of several local businesses and organizations. Informational displays were available at both the site and in-town from the Carlsbad Medical Center (CMC), Pecos Valley Physician Group, the CMC Sleep Studies Lab, United Blood Services, the Eddy County DUI Task Force and the Eddy County Sheriff's Office.

"We're sharing valuable information about health issues," said Sherry Reese from the CMC, who is herself a former WIPP employee. "We also get the opportunity to show people some of the new technology and services offered by our physicians."



This week, CMC is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The hospital originally opened its doors in 1977 as Guadalupe Medical Center. Later this year, the CMC emergency department expects to become the first emergency room in southeast New Mexico with a Level III Trauma Center certification, which will improve the facility's ability to care for and transfer trauma injury patients to other trauma centers, as necessary.



Erin Smith (United Blood Services), at right, registers Regina Carrasco for the upcoming blood drive.



In addition to the information that was available to WIPP employees, WTS Health Services' nurses and EMTs set up to provide a free mini-health clinic. They checked employees' vital signs (pulse, respiration & blood pressure) and updated emergency contacts and medication files. Participants were also eligible for drawings for first aid kits, seat belt cutters, key chain CPR kits, 5-in-1 lifesaver kits and other prizes.



"Not only do we want to have updated medical records for everyone," says WTS nurse Anita Self, "We also want to help employees be proactive in their health care, which includes watching out for high blood pressure and other problems that can often go undiagnosed."

Retrieval Project safely completed

Crews at WIPP have successfully and safely completed retrieval operations for a standard waste box (SWB) containing a 55-gallon drum that was not certified. The waste container was mistakenly sent to WIPP from the Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility and disposed underground. By the time the error was discovered, 36 rows of waste had been placed in front of it. The New Mexico Environment Department ordered the removal of the drum from the repository.

To reach the SWB, the rows of waste in front of it were safely and systematically moved from Panel 4 Room 6 to Rooms 4 and 5. The waste container was removed from the WIPP underground on August 17 and returned to Idaho the following day. WIPP shipments resumed August 21.

WIPP's ERT Team places at national competition



WIPP's Emergency Rescue Team recently competed and placed fifth at the International Rescue and Emergency Care Associations annual competition in Boise, Idaho. The team enhanced its knowledge of new rigging techniques and its ability to solve medical and rigging problems. Pictured above are Captain Edward McGary, Medic Darren Easley, Medic Albert Castillo, Utility Gary Chism, Utility Adrian Munoz, Rigger Eddie Roybal, Rigger Craig Heine. Not pictured are Alternate Rogelio Savala, Trainer Robert Paslay, Tex Winans and Lloyd Piper.

Corporate Board holds summer meeting in Idaho

Idaho Falls gave a warm welcome to about 100 DOE and contractor personnel who traveled from sites around the country for a National TRU Waste Corporate Board meeting July 18-19.

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to

TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

Lloyd Piper, CBFO deputy manager, explained ongoing regulatory, business and technology approaches for optimizing WIPP's shipping and disposal capacity. Court Fesmire, with CBFO's Office of the National TRU Program (NTP), reviewed challenges and goals for each site. He also outlined NTP plans to assist sites with waste inventory issues and prioritization.

Topics included in the meeting's sessions included updates on large container characterization equipment, the TRUPACT-III shipping cask and activities at sites around the DOE complex.

A DVD was shown outlining remote-handled TRU waste operations at Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the first and only site to ship remote-handled TRU waste to WIPP. Meeting participants also had the opportunity to tour INL's Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, where contact-handled TRU waste is retrieved, characterized, treated and packaged prior to shipment to WIPP.

A pre-meeting workshop was held July 17 for site representatives to discuss implementation of a new DOE technical standard for the development of safety basis documents. The standard is intended to bring consistency to hazard analysis and safety control development.

Corporate board meetings provide an opportunity for participants to discuss TRU waste issues and network with personnel from around the complex.

Submitted by Victoria Parker (LANL-CO)

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](mailto:TRUTeamWorks)

