

## WIPP Quick Facts (As of 9-10-09)

### 7,762

Shipments received since opening  
(7,487 CH and 275 RH)

### 62,351

Cubic meters of waste disposed  
(62,221 CH and 130 RH)

### 119,958

Containers disposed in the underground  
(119,688 CH and 270 RH)

## WIPP trucks surpass 9 million loaded miles



File photo

With more than 9 million loaded miles driven, the WIPP transportation system is vital to the Department of Energy's national cleanup mission. The system encompasses all aspects of getting TRU waste from Point A to Point B. This includes the two transportation carriers, CAST Specialty Transportation and Visionary Solutions LLC; coordination of resources by the WTS transportation group, first responder training along the shipping routes and satellite tracking with the TRANSCOM system.

The first 342 loaded miles were traveled from Los Alamos National Laboratory in March 1999, when the historic first shipment to WIPP was made. Since that time, thousands of shipments have safely arrived at WIPP from sites around the country.

### Just how far is 9 million miles? 9 million miles is equivalent to:

- z Traveling around the earth at the equator more than 1,135 times
- z More than 18 round-trips to the moon
- z Flying from Los Angeles to New York City and back 1,827 times
- z A racecar competing in the Indy 500 ... for 18,000 consecutive years

## CBFO hires five new employees

Starting a new job is always exciting and a challenge. Five new DOE Carlsbad Field Office employees know the feeling. CBFO has filled five positions with employees that possess a wide range of experience to bring to WIPP. Here is a little insight to help you get to know these new faces:

Three sites responsible for the highest number of miles traveled to WIPP are:

1. Idaho National Laboratory (INL)
2. Savannah River Site (SRS)
3. Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS)

INL's more than 4.9 million miles single-handedly accounts for more than half of the total. The site was the second in the nation to ship TRU waste to WIPP in April



**Lucky Briggs**

Lucky Briggs was hired in August as the CBFO Program Analyst. He previously supported WIPP as a budget analyst with Advanced Sciences, Inc. when he first came to Carlsbad in 1992.

Briggs says he is happy to be back at WIPP, to see old friends in Carlsbad and that he is excited about his new job. "I am pleased to be back on this dynamic project and support the WIPP mission."

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**Lina Pacheco**

Carolina (Lina) Pacheco was hired on in July as the CBFO Facility Representative and will primarily be working at the site. Her main responsibilities as Facility Representative include day-to-day oversight of operating contractor's safety performance and facility operations. She is also responsible for observing, evaluating and reporting on contractor effectiveness in areas important to safe, efficient operations.

1999. SRS began shipping in 2001. The 1,500-mile journey from South Carolina has added up to more than 1.5 million miles.

And finally, RFETS is third. The last shipment from RFETS arrived at WIPP in April 2005. At the time RFETS was the primary shipper to WIPP, logging nearly 1.5 million miles in 2,045 shipments.

While WIPP trucks have traveled over 9 million miles hauling TRU waste, it's important to note that they travel roundtrip from WIPP for a total of 18 million safe driving miles.

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## Congressman Harry Teague Visits WIPP



**Congressman Harry Teague visited WIPP to get a first-hand account of WIPP and the progress of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act projects.**

**Above: Congressman Teague talks with WIPP employees at the Skeen-Whitlock Building.**

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## New MSDS Program now in place

Material Safety Data Sheets contain product information that provide workers with proper procedures for handling or working with a particular substance. MSDSs include toxicity, health effects, first aid, storage and disposal information or what to do if the substance is spilled. . The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires all employees be aware of all the hazards they may be exposed to at work.

You can find MSDSs for products used at WIPP electronically on the WIPP Intranet page. Both have the necessary hazard communication of a product or chemical that you may be working with or around.

"I am intrigued by the uniqueness of the WIPP facility and the CBFO mission," she said. "I am excited about being part of the federal and contractor team that works diligently to identify and address areas that negatively impact facility operations."

The electronic program allows users to type in the chemical they need to use and they receive all the necessary information on that product. So what makes this new MSDS program better?

John Doherty says that this program is much easier to use with fewer steps to go through to get the information that you need.

The new program is Web-based, so there is no specific software to install on a host computer. It also provides the user the ability to sift through multiple MSDSs per material and it is integrated into the WIPP materials system which provides users with the ability to see who has materials – and how many containers are on-site.

WIPP's Pollution Prevention Program also benefits from the new MSDS program. "The program has the capability to flag materials as "green" or preferred products to use," Doherty said. "The program can also inventory "pre-surplus" so that others with a need may use the material, which can eliminate the amount of hazardous chemicals on-site."

The new MSDS page is available and can be found on WIPP Intranet page.



**Deb Gill**

Deborah (Deb) Gill, CBFO chief of staff and public affairs officer, began work on Aug. 24. As CBFO chief of staff, Gill coordinates with key directors and senior staff sitewide on behalf of the CBFO manager. As public affairs officer, she is the media contact for CBFO and handles various communication tasks.

"I do feel quite privileged to join the CBFO and WIPP team. Everybody I've met has extended a warm welcome and I am thrilled about the opportunity to learn from - and work together with - this team."

## Business Management moves to downtown



**Members of the Business Management department have moved from the Skeen-Whitlock Building to the new downtown office. The Procurement Property, Payroll and Finance and Accounting groups all moved to the new building last month. NCI set up computers and phones for the employees who made the transition to the new WTS building.**



**Dr. Hung-Cheng Chiou**

Dr. Hung-Cheng Chiou came to WIPP from Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque. Chiou, who was hired in August, serves as the CBFO Health Physicist and will provide technical and operational oversight to both CBFO and WIPP contractors. He will oversee the WIPP Radiation Protection Program to ensure the safety workers, the public and the environment.

"I understand the success and challenges of the WIPP project very well," he said. "I am excited to be back working for CBFO and the WIPP project. I look forward to contributing my expertise in pursuing improvements to achieve the mission of the WIPP project."

## First responder course benefits WIPP and community



Above: Simulated patient Dan Calderon, Attending students (l to r) Richard Graves, Adrian Munoz, Fabian Carrasco and Albert Estrad a practice lifesaving tactics in the third MED-301 class.

WIPP's MED-301 Medical First Responder course takes the idea of looking out for others' safety to a new level. Being a half mile underground presents some challenges for responding to a medical emergency, but at WIPP, employees are being proactive to keep themselves and their coworkers safe.

WTS Technical Training has offered the MED-301 course three times, resulting in 17 graduates with first responder credentials just one level below EMT-Basic. The idea behind the course is to provide training to volunteer employees who work underground so that they can render aid in the event of a medical emergency until more help arrives. But the benefit extends beyond the workplace, as these volunteer first responders now have the knowledge and skills to render emergency aid any time a medical emergency arises, whether at WIPP or out in the community.

"I'm really pleased with the response to the course," says Cheri Williams, who developed the MED-301 course. "The participants have a strong interest in helping people and increasing their skills beyond basic first aid and CPR."

The curriculum is based on National Safety Council/American Heart Association guidelines that follow the U.S. Department of Transportation First Responder National Standard curriculum. The 56-hour course consists of eight, six- to eight-hour sessions spread out over a four-week period. In addition to hands-on training sessions, students must pass a comprehensive written examination.

Additional opportunities for volunteers to take the course are anticipated in the future and a refresher course will be available for first responders to keep their qualifications current.



**Oba Vincent**

Oba Vincent was hired in August to serve as CBFO senior strategist. In this position, he will look at the overall scope of WIPP and develop project plans to ensure the mission effectively moves forward.

"I am looking forward to working with the CBFO and WIPP staff to help identify areas for improvement and enhance the overall planning process," he said. "I believe the knowledge, experience and abilities acquired by the staff here are unique in the nation and I am anxious to learn and help shape the future of the organization."

## Renowned Author visits WIPP



**Pulitzer prize-winning author Richard Rhodes visited WIPP last month. His work includes *Making of the Atomic Bomb*, *Dark Sun* and *Arsenals of Folly*. Rhodes toured WIPP and then held a book signing at the Skeen-Whitlock Building. Employees and members of the public attended the event.**

**Above: Gary Scott gets his book personally signed by Rhoades at the Skeen-Whitlock Building.**

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