

### WIPP Quick Facts (As of 9-26-12)

**10,849**  
Shipments received since opening  
(10,252 CH and 597 RH)

**83,693**  
Cubic meters of waste disposed  
(82,394 CH and 299 RH)

**162,472**  
Containers disposed in the  
underground  
(161,882 CH and 590 RH)

Photo above right: CBFO Deputy Manager Ed Ziemianski presents a WIPP team with the Green Zia Program Silver Level Award from the New Mexico Environment Department on Aug. 15, 2012 in recognition of environmental initiatives. Shown right of Ziemianski is Farok Sharif, WTS President and General Manager.



## WIPP receives Green Zia Award

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility known as the nation's only deep geologic repository for the permanent disposal of radioactive waste, was recently honored for its pollution prevention efforts for the second year in a row.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) recognized the DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO), which provides oversight for WIPP and the National Transuranic (TRU) Program, as a Silver Level Leader in its Green Zia Environmental Leadership Program. CBFO was selected for the Bronze Level award in 2011.

In place since 1996, the Green Zia program is a part of the NMED Pollution Prevention Program. In 2012, WIPP was one of the few other-than-commercial business organizations to be singled out and one of only seven total award recipients in New Mexico to be honored by NMED.

Recognition was for continual improvements to environmental stewardship and sustainability in the areas of energy use, hazardous waste reduction, recycling, and water use reduction. Some of the facility's specific achievements that were cited included a 13 percent reduction in energy use over eight years, a 19 percent reduction in petroleum use over six years, and a 15 percent reduction in site water use in 2011.

As a Silver Level Leader recipient, WIPP commits to partnering with NMED for a three-year period, during which annual progress reports to NMED will demonstrate continued improvement.

"CBFO is honored by NMED's recognition," said CBFO Manager Joe Franco. "The award demonstrates the Department of Energy's and WIPP's commitment to environmental stewardship in our surrounding communities, the State of New



### New WIPP Management and Operating Contractor to start October 1

Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP) will start work as the WIPP Management and Operating Contractor on Monday, October 1.

Above, CBFO Manager Joe Franco signs the Authorization Agreement for NWP to assume the M&O contract, as NWP President & Project Manager Farok Sharif looks on.

Mexico and the nation."

CBFO Environmental Protection Specialist Susan McCauslin is program lead for the team of employees of Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) LLC, the WIPP management and operating contractor, and URS Regulatory Environmental Services (RES), subcontractor to WTS, recognized for the initiatives resulting in the award. "Specifically, we look for opportunities to conserve energy, recycle and minimize waste products in our project planning activities," she said. "Sustainability practices are tied to daily operations at WIPP."

In addition to McCauslin, those honored included: Lynn Johnson, Joe Vasquez, Colleen Navarrette, Bruce Jeffress, Shari Cullum, Marty Gonzales, Judy McLemore, Stewart Jones, Robbin Spoon, Ritchie Jimenez, Gene Valett, Roy Byrd, Ellen Harkness, James Hedin, Jennifer Hendrickson, Bob Kirby, Rick Salness and John Vandekraats.

The Green Zia Environmental Leadership Program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program with emphasis on integrating environmental improvements into core business practices. According to NMED, more than 130 organizations and businesses have participated with over \$45 million in cost savings reported since the program's inception.

### WIPP employees inducted into New Mexico Mining Association Hall of Fame



Joe Baca



Buddy Webb

Current WTS employee Joe Baca and retired WTS employee Buddy Webb were recently inducted into the New Mexico Mining Association Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals and companies who have achieved lasting greatness in the mining and natural resources industry in the State of New Mexico.

Baca has served on WIPP's mine rescue team since 1991. He has been outstanding in regional and



### Washington TRU Solutions awarded Safe Operator of the Year

The New Mexico Mining Association recently held its 73rd Annual Convention & Trade Show in Las Cruces and WIPP's record of mine safety was recognized. WTS was awarded the Safe Operator of the Year Award for the 24th time in 26 years.

"I'm very proud of our team," said WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif, who was there to accept the award. "Mine safety is so critical to what we do at WIPP and those who keep the repository safe every day deserve all the credit for this honor."

In addition, 10 groups at WIPP were also recognized with a Zero Frequency Award for having no recordable injuries during the 12-month period from July 2011 through June 2012. Those honored include Mining and Ground Control Operations,

been outstanding in regional and national competitions and has also represented the United States by helping conduct national mine rescue events in Mexico.

Before his retirement, Webb spent two decades training and leading WIPP's mine rescue teams. In addition, he has served in numerous regional and national boards related to mine rescue.

Both men are previous inductees into the Mine Safety and Health Administration's Mine Rescue Hall of Fame. Webb was inducted in 2000 and Baca was inducted in 2010.

Hoisting Operations, Underground Services, Instrumentation and Control Maintenance, Facility Restoration, Surface Maintenance, CH Waste Handling Operations, RH Waste Handling Operations, Facility Operations and Radiation Control.

Shown above at the awards luncheon is Don Galbraith (CBFO), Bob Kirby, Bertha Cassingham, Sharif, State Mine Inspector Terence Foreback and outgoing New Mexico Mining Association President Don Purvis.

### **DOE Awards Contract for WIPP Mobile Loading Unit Services**

On August 27, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded a competitive small business contract to Celeritex, LLC, (a Joint Venture between Project Services Group, LLC and DeNuke Contracting Services Inc.) of Suwanee, Georgia.

The contract is to provide Mobile Loading Unit services in support of the National TRU Program and the DOE Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. The contract has a value of up to \$17.8 million, with a three-year performance period and two-one year extension options. This contract was limited to Small Businesses.

The Mobile Loading Unit contractor will load Contact Handled (CH) and Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) waste containers into Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved packaging at various DOE and defense-related waste generator sites around the country for transportation and disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

There will be a 15-day transition period with Celeritex, LLC assuming responsibility for mobile loading services on November 1, 2012.

## **New technologies improve WIPP fleet safety**



Recently, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) carriers, Visionary Solutions LLC and CAST Specialty Transportation Inc., equipped their trucks with new safety systems to further improve the WIPP transportation system.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) National TRU Program (NTP)'s remarkable record of safety for transporting transuranic (TRU) waste to WIPP is the result of a world-class transportation team.

The success of the NTP transportation program, which relies on the expertise of waste characterization experts, packaging engineers, emergency preparedness trainers, preventive maintenance teams and highly skilled drivers, is also enhanced by developments in technology.

One new feature installed by carriers is a lane departure system. Sensors mounted on the front of the trucks detect road stripes on either side of the driving lane. In the event drivers may leave a lane, they will be alerted by a jarring sound similar to driving over rumble strips—the corrugated strips on roadway shoulders. If a driver crosses the stripe on the right, the sound is emitted from the passenger's side of the tractor. If a driver goes too far to the left, the sound is heard on the driver's side. The system also assures that drivers use turn signals when changing lanes or,

## DOE Awards Grant to New Mexico Environment Department for Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Oversight, Monitoring

The Department of Energy (DOE) today awarded a grant for an estimated \$1.6 million to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The five-year grant funds an agreement for NMED to conduct non-regulatory environmental oversight and monitoring to evaluate activities conducted at DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

NMED evaluates DOE activities related to WIPP's environmental monitoring and cleanup. This award is made in accordance with the Department of Energy Organization Act, Public Law 95-91.

literally, they will hear about it.

Visionary Solutions LLC's new tractors feature anti-collision systems. The forward facing radar system detects distance between the truck and the vehicle ahead of it in addition to the speed of the vehicle ahead. If the distance falls below set safety parameters, the system will automatically begin to decelerate the truck. Drivers emphasize that the truck will continue to decelerate even if the accelerator is used.

CAST Specialty Transportation Inc. equipped its trucks with new electronic inspection systems that will save drivers time in completing post-trip paperwork. WIPP drivers, who are required to stop every three hours or 150 miles en route to inspect the tractor and trailer, must complete checklists and record the conditions they observe. Now with 10 radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags installed along the truck and trailer, the driver can use a hand-held scanner that reads each RFID. As the RFID is scanned, it prompts a specific checklist, and the date, time and duration of the inspection are recorded. Once the inspection is completed and the driver returns the hand-held scanner to its charging base, the information is automatically uploaded to corporate offices.

"We're very pleased that the WIPP trucks have these new features," said CBFO Manager Joe Franco. "Technology advancements on the trucks translate into improved safety and efficiency in the transportation program, further benefiting the nation."

Drivers have safely delivered more than 10,800 waste shipments to WIPP for disposal and logged over 12.9 million loaded miles to clean up the nation's defense legacy (Cold War) waste. TRU waste cleanup has been completed at 22 sites in 14 states.

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## Local DOE employees participate in Feds Feed Families effort



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) employees just wrapped up their participation in a national program that has direct impacts on the local community. From June 1 through August 27, the group took part in the Feds Feed Families program, which aims to collect food nationwide for local food banks.

The CBFO effort was co-chaired by Richard Farrell and George Hellstrom. It turned out to be highly successful! The group collected 3,848 pounds of food, which were donated to two local organizations: Jonah's House and the Carlsbad Community Kitchen. This amount far surpassed CBFO's 2012 goal by nearly 1,400 pounds.

Numerous CBFO staff members became members of the "Hall of Fame," meaning

they had donated more than 250 pounds of food. Those Hall of Famers include Hung-Cheng Chiou, Lea Chism, Richard farrell, George Hellstrom, Meg Milligan and Edward Ziemianski.

DOE's Office of Environmental Management, including CBFO, collected 49,073 pounds of food. DOE's participation as a whole resulted in the collection of 211,184 pounds of food.



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

To be added to the TRU TeamWorks update notification list or to submit comments or suggestions, please contact us at [TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).

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