



Washington Division

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Agreement Reached Between WTS and Union Employees**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., October 14, 2009** –Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) officials said today that company and United Steel Workers Union representatives have agreement on a new two-year contract.

“Frankly, we’re elated with the outcome. We have an important mission to accomplish and we do it best when we work as a team,” said Farok Sharif, WTS president and general manager.

WTS employs about 259 union-represented employees. They perform key operational duties, such as waste handling, facility operations and maintenance, radiological protection and mining at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

A four-year contract between WTS and union-represented workers expired September 30, and was extended through today to allow for further negotiations. Following a final round of talks that concluded this morning, Union members agreed to continue working toward an acceptable new contract.

“I am proud of the work that was done on both sides of the negotiation table,” Sharif said of the contract agreement. He said the new contract ratified by union members tonight benefits both parties. The contract will run through September 2011.

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WTS manages and operates the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, N.M. WIPP, the nation's first permanent geologic repository for defense nuclear waste, began disposal operations in 1999. WTS is a URS Washington Division company.