WIPP Issues

State Representative John Heaton
Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest

August 2003
Remote-Handled (RH) Waste

- RH waste has always been part of WIPP’s scope as mandated in the Land Withdrawal Act (Public Law 102-579)

- "... the RH waste characterization program proposed is ... not based on a reasoned departure from the ... CH process, the current legal standard."
  
  - New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) March 5, 2003

- We need to expedite the RH permitting process taking into account the NAS recommendations and not simply following the overly conservative approach used for CH waste

- We ask for your assistance in scheduling an approval process for RH waste
Legislative Definition

"Many requirements having to do with waste characterization and packaging lack a safety or legal basis." - The committee recommends that DOE's efforts to review waste characterization and packaging requirements continue, and changes be implemented.

- Legislative language has been proposed to define RCRA compliance for TRU waste characterization.

- The legislative definition will incorporate changes to the waste characterization processes recommended and supported by the NAS and EEG.

- We ask that you don't oppose this initiative and assist in scheduling an approval process for the changes.
Limited Surface Storage

- The amount of TRU waste that WIPP can temporarily store on the surface is greatly restricted by its hazardous waste facility permit.
- This leads to logistics problems and operational inefficiencies that slow down TRU waste cleanup and disposal.
- WCS, a facility in Texas, is now being considered for TRU waste temporary storage and processing.
- We ask for your assistance in keeping WIPP TRU operations in Carlsbad.
## Jobs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiatives</th>
<th>Direct jobs</th>
<th>Annual spending</th>
<th>Total annual impact (direct and indirect)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central confirmation facility at WIPP</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>$50M</td>
<td>$171M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low level waste (LLW) and mixed low level waste (MLLW) disposal facilities</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$20M</td>
<td>$68M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed waste treatment facility at WIPP</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$20M</td>
<td>$68M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote handled (RH) waste disposal at WIPP</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>$12M</td>
<td>$41M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded temporary surface storage at WIPP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$4M</td>
<td>$14M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical isotope facility</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>$16M</td>
<td>$55M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern pit facility</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>$300M</td>
<td>$1023M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced reactor test facility</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>$120M</td>
<td>$409M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2210</strong></td>
<td><strong>$542M</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1.8Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- **Key WIPP issues:**
  - Timely approval and commencement of RH waste operations
  - Changing TRU waste characterization requirements to eliminate unnecessary waste analysis
  - Keeping WIPP-related operations and jobs in Carlsbad, rather than having them shifted to other places like Texas

- **We ask your assistance in:**
  - Scheduling approval processes for RH waste and changes to waste characterization requirements
  - Keeping Carlsbad-designated jobs in Carlsbad and pursuing new jobs in the field of environmental management