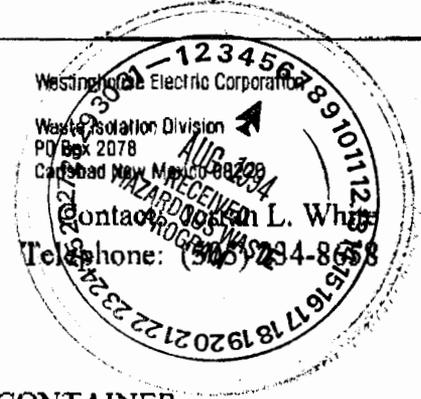


*Barbora
WIPP file*

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Westinghouse Public Relations



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC RECERTIFIES WIPP TRANSPORTATION CONTAINER

CARLSBAD, N.M., August 2, 1994 -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has approved a five-year recertification of the transportation container that will be used to ship barrels of defense generated radioactive waste from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites nationwide to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

"Receipt of the NRC's Certificate of Compliance is an important milestone," said Mark L. Matthews, manager of the National Transuranic Program, which is operated under the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office. "This action means that the DOE has the authority to use the package for shipment of radioactive material through June 30, 1999."

The Transuranic Package Transporter Model II (TRUPACT-II) is designed to safely transport barrels of transuranic radioactive waste to the WIPP after a disposal decision is made by the DOE in 1998.

Before its original certification by the NRC in August 1989, the TRUPACT-II underwent extensive drop, puncture and burn tests by engineers at Sandia National Laboratories. The container is described by the National Academy of Sciences as "safer than that employed for any other hazardous material in the United States today."

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NRC Recertifies WIPP
Transportation Container

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While being used for public awareness programs, states emergency training and simulated responder training, the TRUPACT-II system has been transported more than 750,000 highway miles over the past five years -- all without accident or incident.

The TRUPACT-II has been used to make approximately 25 intra-site shipments of transuranic radioactive waste between the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory-West's waste characterization facility. Although the distance is only 26 miles between the two Idaho sites, requirements for using the TRUPACT-II are the same as if the waste was being shipped across the country.

To meet NRC requirements for the Certificate of Compliance, application for renewal must be submitted every five years. The NRC, in accordance with provisions of the U.S. Department of Transportation, may approve or disapprove recertification of a container based on knowledge of its use under the original certificate. In January 1993, the NRC audited TRUPACT-II transportation records of Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Waste Isolation Division, the DOE's main contractor at the WIPP, with no findings, observations or concerns.

The WIPP is a research and development facility operated by the U.S. DOE's Carlsbad Area Office. Located 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, it is designed to demonstrate the safe, permanent disposal of transuranic radioactive waste left from production of nuclear weapons.

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