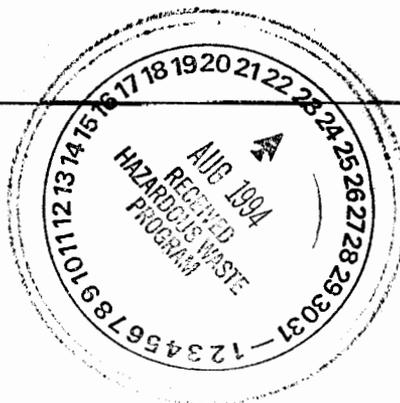


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WIPP MINE RESCUE TEAM WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

CARLSBAD, N.M., August 19, 1994 -- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) Blue Mine Rescue Team outpointed 38 other teams to take top honors in the two-day 1994 National Mine Rescue Competition, held Wednesday and Thursday in Las Vegas, Nev.

"This high level of performance exemplifies the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) and Westinghouse's emphasis on safety at the WIPP," said George Dials, manager of the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office, which operates the research and development facility. "We are very pleased with the level at which our mine rescue teams compete. It is consistent with our commitment to excellence in all environmental, safety and health areas at the WIPP."

Since their inception in 1985, WIPP's mine rescue teams have claimed 89 team trophies, including the best scores in 37 competitions. They have also won the last three national contests (1990, 1992, 1994) for non-producing mines. Because of Mine, Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) rules, this is the first year the WIPP's Blue and Silver mine rescue teams have been eligible to win the overall national championship.

In addition to their national championship, the Blue Team received several special recognition awards including the National Mine Rescue Traveling Trophy, Congressional Trophy, Dragger Self Rescuer Trophy and the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor Traveling Trophy.

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**WIPP Mine Rescue Team
Wins National Contest**

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Individual honors went to Fred Miller of the WIPP's 9th-place Silver Team who won the benchman's competition, while Joe Baca of the WIPP Blue team was second. The benchman competition tests the skills required to maintain and repair self-contained breathing apparatus used by team members to access areas where air is not breathable.

In order to keep skills current and at top efficiency, mine rescue teams compete in mock disasters arranged for and judged by MSHA officials. Each team member is proficient in mine gases detection, ventilation, first aid, mine recovery and fire fighting. In a real emergency, their lives and the lives of co-workers depend on the proficiency of the team's skills.

Team members voluntarily participate in mine rescue competitions and conduct most of their mine rescue training on their own time. All members hold full-time jobs within the Westinghouse Electric Corporation Waste Isolation Division, the DOE's primary contractor at the WIPP.

"Because Westinghouse and the DOE place the highest priority on worker safety, we want to recognize these teams of mine rescue personnel," said Fred Ashford, Westinghouse manager of industrial safety and emergency management, who oversees the WIPP mine rescue teams.

Members of the winning WIPP Blue Team include Clem Quintana, Jerry Graham, Mitch Carter, Fred Sing, Chuck James, Gary Kessler, Joel Howard and Baca. Richard West serves as trainer for the Blue Team, while Buddy Webb is the training coordinator for both teams.

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WIPP Mine Rescue Team

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Wins National Contest

The WIPP is a research and development facility operated by the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office. Located 26 miles east of Carlsbad, it is designed to demonstrate the safe, permanent disposal of transuranic radioactive waste left from the production of nuclear weapons. Project facilities include excavated rooms 2,150 feet below the earth's surface in ancient bedded salt rock.

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