

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 12/02/94**

*Desisto*  
*S. Zaffer*  
*WIPP HL*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance with all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Submit revisions of sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit to the New Mexico Environment Department, as scheduled.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the second iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) by March 30, 1995.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Prepare updates to WIPP safety documentation for inclusion in the Disposal Phase Safety Analysis Report.
- Complete the draft compliance/certificate application for submittal to EPA in March 1995.
- Complete the CAO Intergovernmental and External Affairs Outreach Strategic Plan.
- Initiate the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Actinide Source Term experiment and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Gas Generation Test.



## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- An agreement has been reached with the state of New Mexico on the funding of the final two years for the Stipulated Supplemental Agreement. The Carlsbad Area Office will fund the five state agencies covered under this agreement.
- The DOE Albuquerque Operations Office awarded and issued the new Carlsbad Area Office Technical and Management Services support contract. The contract, signed on November 23, 1994, was with the Roy F. Weston, Inc. Group and the CAO plans a smooth transition of contractors to continue our efforts in meeting our commitments for the Disposal Decision Plan.
- The Carlsbad Area Office met with 24 tribal government representatives from 13 New Mexico, Idaho and Arizona tribes on November 29 - 30, 1994. The meeting, which included a site tour of WIPP, was the second in a series of meetings with the tribes on the WIPP transportation corridor. These meetings focus on listening to tribal concerns and issues.
- It was announced by Westinghouse Electric Corporation Waste Isolation Division that a new transportation support subcontractor had been selected. TAD Trucking Company, of Hobbs, New Mexico, which replaces Dawn Trucking, was awarded the contract for a period of one year with four one-year options.
- The Carlsbad Area Office provided a security briefing to the Albuquerque Operations Office Managers regarding law enforcement resolution of stolen, missing or unaccounted for items at Field Office sites. The Carlsbad Area Office is a leader within the Albuquerque Operations Office in the area of property control.
- On November 29-30, 1994, in San Antonio, TX, the TRU Waste Steering Committee held its quarterly meeting. Topics included waste characterization, compliance, small quantity sites, RH waste, site activity logic diagram, and status reports from the generator sites.
- On December 1, 1994, in San Antonio, TX, the First Annual TRU Waste Update meeting chaired by the Carlsbad Area Office took place. Interested stakeholders attended the session. National TRU Program direction, accomplishments, and future plans were discussed.
- The CAO Audit of the Management and Operating (M&O) contractors Quality Assurance Implementation was conducted and a close out meeting was held on December 2, 1994, at the WIPP site. The audit team concluded that Westinghouse was adequately implementing their QA Plan. The EPA observers to the audit agreed with DOE's conclusion and were impressed with the overall QA Program. A full report of the audit findings will be made by January 3, 1995.

- George Basabilvazo has been selected as the Performance Assessment Scientist for the Experimental Program Branch. John Suermann arrived for duty on December 1, 1994, as the Waste Characterization Manager of the National TRU Program Office.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Source Term Test Program's revised Environmental Assessment, which incorporates the Environmental Evaluation Group's and the Indian Tribal review comment reconciliation, and the final draft Finding of No Significant Impact have been submitted to Headquarters. The Headquarters staff have estimated the week of December 5, 1994, for final approval.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- An audit of Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, by SNL QA is scheduled for December 6-7, 1994, in Richland, WA. The CAO QA will observe the audit. The experimental work being audited includes solubility studies and development of modeling parameters for the WIPP Actinide Source Term Test Program.
- A SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for December 8-9, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source terms.
- The SNL Monthly Program review is set for December 7-9, 1994, in Albuquerque, NM.
- The next EPA/DOE Technical Exchange meeting is scheduled for December 12-13, 1994, in Washington, D.C. Discussion topics include Volatile Organic Compound Source Term, Radionuclide Source Term, Gas Generation, Backfill Studies, Permanent Markers, and a briefing regarding the content of the March 1995, draft compliance package.
- A SPM Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for January 9, 1995, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss non-salado fluid flow.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/18/94**

**PRIORITIES**

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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

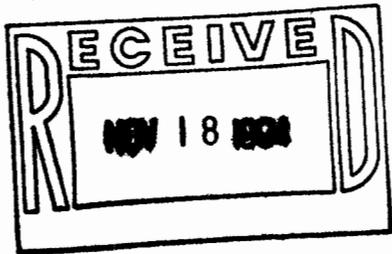
- The CAO's Implementation Plan for the FY 95 Annual Update of the WIPP Safety Analysis Report (SAR) for Disposal Operations was provided for external review. Outlined in the Implementation Plan are the schedule, milestones and work scope for the development of the FY 95 Update.
- The Carlsbad Area Office supported two foreign media tours of the WIPP surface and underground facilities on November 14, 1994. A ZDF German Television group was interested in security measures to be employed by the WIPP when waste receipt begins; and a British Broadcasting crew will produce an in-depth feature on marker systems designed to prevent human intrusion into the WIPP site once the project has been decommissioned.
- The position papers on radionuclide and hazardous constituents source terms and gas generation were developed and issued to the stakeholders for their review prior to the stakeholder meeting on December 8-9, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- The National Academy of Sciences' WIPP committee were given a tour of the WIPP and were given presentations on the status of the DDP, Systems Prioritization Method first iteration, comparison of salt repositories in Germany with WIPP, and the National Transuranic Waste Program. The discussions were very beneficial and will enhance the CAO's capability of demonstrating compliance. Specific areas of concern were noted and will be addressed.
- National TRU Program Office supported the successful TRUPACT-II loading and unloading demonstration at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California, November 8-10. The demonstration was requested as part of an Operational Readiness Review at the LLNL.
- On November 16, 1994, a listing was completed of DOE Senior Managers at each Operations Office who are responsible for that sites TRU waste program activities. This list was requested by Secretary Hazel O'Leary during her Executive Program Review at the CAO on October 3, 1994..

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Los Alamos Area Office is currently reviewing the Pueblo of San Ildefonso comments on the Source Term Experiment Environmental Assessment. This could potentially delay the start of the experiment for 30 days while the Los Alamos Area Office prepares a response to the comments.

## MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- An audit of the implementation of the Waste Isolation Division quality assurance program is scheduled for the week of November 28, 1994. An audit kickoff meeting will be held at 8:00 am Monday of that week in the DOE conference room at the WIPP site.
- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribe, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.
- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
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**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/11/94**

*Kathy*  
*Barbara*  
*WIPP file*

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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The 1994 Annual No-Migration Determination Report has been sent to EPA and NMED. This satisfies the commitment made in the Conditional No Migration Determination for the DOE WIPP (55 FR 47700 of November 14, 1990).
- The CAO facilitated a Westinghouse WIPP Procurement Workshop in Hobbs, New Mexico, on November 2, 1994. The workshop, which included a general WIPP overview presentation, was designed to assist Lea County businesses in preparing to bid on services at the WIPP.
- Alison Miner has been reassigned to the position of Special Policy Analyst, reporting directly to the Manager of CAO. She will have the key analysis, coordination, and advisor role for policy formulation and integration in all CAO programs.
- National TRU Program and site staff met to address the resolution of issues impacting the preparation of the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjPs) by Hanford and the Savannah River Site. The issue of whether there were sufficient waste characterization resources to support the TRU Waste Characterization Program was a primary concern.
- A CAO QA briefing was held to introduce program participants to the Independent Review Team process to be used in "old data" quantification for use in quality data for performance assessment. The results of two tests of the concept on data packages were presented.
- At the request of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), a meeting was organized to brief NMED on the CAO Quality Assurance Program Plan for Waste Characterization and to discuss specifics of the CAO waste characterization program. Representatives of the EPA and WIPP stakeholders also attended.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The CAO was informed by EM-5 personnel that funds for tribal travel and per diem to the joint Western Governors' Association, Southern States Energy Board and Tribal meeting in February, 1995, are not available. Discussions will be held with other HQ personnel to explore alternative funding for the event.
- Los Alamos Area Office is currently reviewing the Pueblo of San Ildefonso's comments on the Source Term Experiment Environmental Assessment. This could potentially delay the start of the experiment for 30 days while Los Alamos Area Office prepares a response to the comments.

- The Compliance Branch, working with the Experimental Programs Branch, is closely following preparation of materials by SNL and WID for inclusion in the Draft Compliance Certification application. Close coordination will be required to insure that all inputs are timely.
- Decision on the Management Council and scheduling strategy for Supplement Environment Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II).

#### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An audit of the implementation of the Waste Isolation Division quality assurance program is scheduled for the week of November 28, 1994. An audit kickoff meeting will be held at 8:00 am Monday of that week in the DOE conference room at the WIPP site.
- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, ✓  
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- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribe, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.
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**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/4/94**

*Handwritten signatures and notes:*  
Barbara  
Steve Z  
file  
Kathy

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Carlsbad Area Office representatives attended the DOE Tribal Points-of-Contact meeting October 26-27, 1994, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. All the Operations Offices, Power Administrations, and most of the HQ Programs were represented. From the discussions and comments of the participants, several things became apparent: 1) The Carlsbad Area Office is on the leading edge of tribal relations in DOE, 2) Funding versus the expectations will remain a continuing problem, and 3) Tribal relations' activities will increase dramatically in the coming months.
- Carlsbad Area Office representatives attended a planning and coordination meeting at the Carlsbad Department of Development November 2, 1994. Discussion topics included a progress report on the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center project and discussion of a proposed Economic Development Administration Title IX grant application.
- In a campaign highlighting October as "Quality Month," DOE Headquarters sent out requests for creative posters displaying the theme "Quality and Strategic Planning." Out of 60 entries from across the DOE complex, the Carlsbad Area Office entry, an original design by Anita Leivo, DOE/CAO, and Dirk Roberson, Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division, received honorable mention.
- The WID Performance Evaluation Report (PER) was discussed by the Award Fee Board last week. Revisions were incorporated and the final report will be presented to the Fee Determining Official on November 4th. The PER will be forwarded to DOE-HQ on November 7th. WID will be notified of the amount of the award fee they have earned by December 9, 1994.
- The CAO program review in Idaho on the Waste Characterization program and Gas Generation Experiments resulted in a revised project baseline schedule, DOE-Idaho providing closer programmatic overview, Argonne National Laboratory-West providing more resources and bi-weekly reports and monthly program reviews initiated.
- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) has formed a quality team consisting of the CAO, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and Carlsbad Stakeholders to explore opportunities for putting more SNL staff and activities in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The quality team's first meeting was held on November 4, 1994, to identify concerns and discuss the team's charter, evaluation scope and schedule.
- Westinghouse Procurement is in the process of evaluating the "best and final" offers for the TRU waste carrier contractor. A contract is expected to be awarded by November 30, 1994.

- NTPO held a meeting in Augusta, Georgia on October 28, 1994, to initiate indepth discussions on the issues related to transfer of transuranic (TRU) waste from four Small Quantity Sites (SQS) to the Savannah River Site (SRS). The purposes of the meeting were to: develop a greater understanding of the specific inventory at the SQS, as well as their capabilities to repackage, characterize and certify the waste; identify the specific requirements for the receipt of waste at the SRS; and identify the potential acceptable transportation requirements (packaging options).
- CAO transmitted a formal response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on October 26, 1994, regarding Revision 14 to the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP). The response addressed issues generated by the NRC regarding Revision 13 of the SARP.
- CAO comments on Appendix E and the Source Term Inventory of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) were submitted to the HQ PEIS manager.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Compliance Branch, working with the Experimental Programs Branch, is closely following preparation of materials by SNL and WID for inclusion in the Draft Compliance Certification application. Close coordination will be required to insure that all inputs are timely.
- EM-30 staff have indicated that OMB is questioning the resource levels for the Carlsbad Area Office programs in FY96. They are proposing reductions for uncosted balances and Productivity Enhancements throughout the program. Appeals and impacts will be developed after the draft OMB numbers (OMB passback) are released in late November.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An audit of the implementation of the Waste Isolation Division quality assurance program is scheduled for the week of November 28, 1994. An audit kickoff meeting will be held at 8:00 am Monday of that week in the DOE conference room at the WIPP site.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for November 28-30, 1994, to be held in Carlsbad, NM. The primary topics of discussion include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source terms.
- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.

- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribe, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.
- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- The next EPA/DOE Technical Exchange Meeting will be held in Carlsbad, NM on December 5-7, 1994. The primary topics of discussion will include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source terms.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 8-9, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source terms.
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**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/28/94**

*Barbara*  
*Cathy*  
*Steve*  
*file*  
*check*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
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- Complete the CAO Intergovernmental and External Affairs Outreach

## Strategic Plan.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Final Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) on October 27, 1994. This meets a milestone on the Disposal Decision Plan. Copies will be provided to Stakeholders upon request.
- CAO representatives met with the eight northern Pueblos on October 21, 1994, at the San Ildefonso Pueblo. Key issues were funding, route selection and tribal sovereignty. Individual meetings will be scheduled with all interested pueblos in CY 1995.
- CAO completed its audit of the state of Utah under the Western Governors' Association Cooperative Agreement. No major finds resulted from the audit, which was held October 18-19, 1994, in Salt Lake City. Three states (New Mexico, Colorado and Nevada) and the WGA office remain to be audited during CY 1995.
- The National Academy of Sciences has provided a tentative agenda for the November 17, 1994, meeting in Carlsbad. The subjects include System Prioritization Method - Iteration One (SPM-1), comparison of salt repositories in Germany with WIPP, and the National Transuranic Waste Programs.
- A SPM stakeholder meeting was held in Albuquerque, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) has made a determination on the Total Quality Management process to be utilized to explore opportunities for locating more Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) staff and activities in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The CAO will be working with the SNL to develop the team and will initiate the process by November 1, 1994.
- A technical exchange meeting with EPA was held in Albuquerque on October 24-26, 1994. Topics for discussion were repository seals and room closure. EPA complimented the presenters and organizers for an informative meeting.
- A public information meeting was held in Albuquerque on the evening of October 27, 1994, to describe the extent and content of revised RCRA Part B chapters submitted to date. The schedule for further submissions of revised chapters and associated public meetings was presented.
- The CAO QA team has coordinated and completed a pilot trial run of an "Independent Review Team" review of a SNL data package using the SNL Existing Data Qualification Procedure.

- Discussions on the Remote-Handled (RH) Systems Analysis and Strategy with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory have begun. Meetings will be held with these four contractors by November 8, 1994, and tentative discussions have been held with EEG concerning having them provide input after the sites' comments have been resolved.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The FY95 funding levels, although balanced and issued in Program Guidance letters, can not be equated to the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) nor programmatic initiatives until the Westinghouse Contract is completed. Additionally, the Work Authorization Directives can not be completed.
- The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Gas Generation Test schedule has slipped. All participants are working together to develop a "get well" schedule. CAO senior management will meet in Idaho on November 1, 1994, to discuss the "get well" schedule and clear roles and responsibilities.
- EEG provided comments on the Source Term Experiment Environmental Assessment on October 13, 1994. Los Alamos Area Office is currently reviewing the comments. This could potentially delay the start of the experiment for 30 days while Los Alamos Area Office prepares a response to the comments.
- Decision on the Management Council and scheduling strategy for Supplement Environmental Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II).

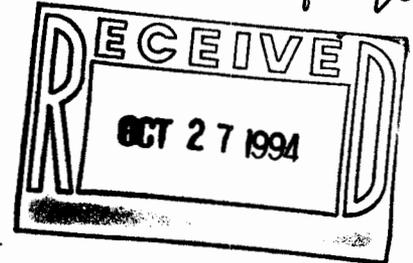
### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- GSA will be in Carlsbad on October 29-30, to continue the site selection process for the CAO office building.
- The CAO program review in Idaho on Waste Characterization and Gas Generation Experiments is set for November 1, 1994.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for November 28-30, 1994, to be held in Carlsbad, NM. The primary topics of discussion include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.
- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribes, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.

- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.
- The SNL Monthly Program review is set for December 7-9, 1994, in Albuquerque, NM.
- A SPM Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for January 9, 1995, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss non-salado fluid flow.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/21/94**

*Bevito*  
*State*  
*Bartman*  
*file*  
*WIPD*



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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The purpose of the System Prioritization Methods - Iteration One (SPM-1) was to ensure the decision analysis functions properly. The SPM-1 successfully demonstrated the process and areas for improvement for the second iteration which will be used to make programmatic decisions on the experimental program. The SPM-1 was finalized and sent to all stakeholders for review prior to stakeholder meetings on October 27-28, 1994, and November 17-18, 1994.
- The State of New Mexico and Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) Quarterly Meeting was on October 20, 1994, and the Systems Prioritization Method - Iteration One was presented. Twenty-one people from the State of New Mexico, EEG, and special interest groups attended. All participants were very supportive of the SPM process and appreciated the Department of Energy's and Sandia National Laboratories' openness.
- Two preferred options regarding determination of rate of human intrusion into geologic repositories was sent to Margo Oge, EPA. The CAO indicated its preferred option for inclusion into the draft 40 CFR 194. The two positions provided sound technical basis for estimation of human intrusion.
- Revised RCRA Part B Chapters B, E, G, J, K, F & H were sent to key stakeholders and WIPP reading rooms on October 19, 1994. Letter of transmittal announced a Public Information Meeting which will be held October 27, 1994 at the La Posada Motel following the first day of the Stakeholders Forum.
- A short presentation was provided on the National Transuranic (TRU) Program at the Environmental Management Assistant Manager's (AM) meeting on October 19, 1995. The Chairman of the group (Rich Guimond) offered to provide more time at the meeting for a more complete presentation. The AM's were informed that Secretary O'Leary has directed the Carlsbad Area Office to provide a listing of the DOE Senior officials at each generation site who are accountable for managing TRU waste activities at each site. A meeting will be scheduled in Carlsbad with these individuals to focus their efforts into an integrated program.
- New Water Quality Sampling Program wells 1, 2, 4, & 6 are completed and WQSP-5 has been drilled and cored. Status of the overall project is Phase I (roads and pads) - 100% complete; Phase II (well completion) - 80% complete.
- The Final 94-2 Award Fee Report was sent to the Albuquerque Operations Office in preparation for the Award Fee Board Meeting.
- The final assembly of Mobile Loading Units (MLU) 2 and 3 was completed. Final assembly of these MLU's enhances the support to users of the TRUPACT-II's that do not have loading facilities.

- The CAO QA conducted QA "Consequence" training on October 20 and 21, 1994. The training was given by Richard Spence, the Director of Quality Assurance for the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The training explored the QA problems and successes experienced at the Yucca Mountain High Level Waste Repository.
- A position paper on the delegation of authority to EM-30 for SEIS-II and the establishment of a Management Council was finalized for EM-1 signature.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The EPA's draft rule, 40 CFR 194, as presently written represents a significant obstacle achieving to the WIPP disposal decision.
- Negotiations were conducted with WID during the week of October 10 with the assistance of DOE Headquarters. There are two issues that still remain unresolved. The two remaining issues need to be resolved between DOE/HQ and Westinghouse Corporate. When resolved the contract can be signed.
- The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Gas Generation Test schedule has slipped. All participants are working together to develop a "get well" schedule. CAO senior management will meet in Idaho on November 1, 1994, to discuss the "get well" schedule and clear roles and responsibilities.
- EEG provided comments on the Source Term Experiment Environmental Assessment on October 13, 1994. Los Alamos Area Office is currently reviewing the comments. This could potentially delay the start of the experiment for 30 days.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- GSA will be in Carlsbad on October 29-30, to continue the site selection process for the CAO office building.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for November 28-30, 1994, to be held in Carlsbad, NM. The primary topics of discussion include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribes, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.
- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.
- A SPM Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for January 9, 1995, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss non-salado fluid flow.



**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/14/94**

*Kathy*  
*[Signature]*  
*Steve* ✓  
*Barbara* ✓  
*Will file*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Submit revisions of sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit to the New Mexico Environment Department, as scheduled.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the second iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM).
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Drilling continues on the six new monitoring wells. Two wells have been completed, cased and drilling is 50% complete on WQSP-6.

- Completed the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) for the third quarter of 1994. This report is due to the NMED on October 16, 1994, and is required quarterly as a condition of the WIPP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.
- CAO attended the National Congress of American Indians Nuclear Waste Policy Committee meeting held on October 4-6, 1994, in San Diego, California. The need for funding to conduct emergency response planning, equipment/training and tribal sovereignty were the main issues of the tribes. The importance of early and continuous contact with those tribes affected by DOE shipments was emphasized.
- CAO met with the Governor, Lt. Governor and twelve other representatives of the Tesuque Pueblo on October 11, 1994, at the Tesuque reservation. This meeting was very productive. The meeting showed that more grass roots level education about the WIPP will need to be done before shipments can proceed along this corridor.
- The Source Evaluation Panel for the TRU waste carrier contract has completed evaluations of the seven proposals that were submitted in response to the Request For Proposal. Evaluation of cost proposals are being analyzed. The contract is expected to be awarded on November 16, 1994.
- Initial work has begun with Vectra Technologies, Inc. for update and revision of the RH-TRU Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP) for the 72-B shipping cask. Modification to the SARP review and comment cycle are to be completed by the end of October 1994. Comment resolution and incorporation of comments is scheduled to be completed by the end of November 1994.
- The third mailing of the revised RCRA Part B application phased submittal was sent to NMED. Chapters F and H were submitted October 12, 1994.
- Received the draft report for the first iteration of the System Prioritization Method and participated in a briefing with the CAO, Sandia, and WID. The report will be revised and sent to the stakeholders prior to the NMED/EEG quarterly meeting October 20.
- The 14 day review period for the Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment expired on October 7, 1994. EM is currently determining if they received any comments. If no comments were submitted, EM will request EH to develop a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The EPA's draft rule, 40 CFR 194, as presently written represents a significant obstacle to the WIPP disposal decision.

- The schedule of the Gas Generation Test in Idaho has slipped. All participants are working together to develop a "get well" schedule. CAO senior management will meet in Idaho on November 1, 1994, to discuss the "get well" schedule and clear roles and responsibilities.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- National TRU Program Presentation to EM-1's Assistant Managers meeting, October 19, 1994.
- The State of New Mexico and Environmental Evaluation Group Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 1994.
- The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management will conduct training in Carlsbad on October 20 and 21, 1994. That will provide lessons learned on QA problems experienced at the Yucca Mountain High Level Waste Repository.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- GSA will be in Carlsbad on October 29-30, to continue the site selection process for the CAO office building.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for November 28-30, 1994, to be held in Carlsbad, NM. The primary topics of discussion include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.
- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
- Site tour by representatives of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Umatilla Tribes, and nine New Mexico pueblos, November 29-30, 1994.
- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/29/94**

*Barbara  
return to BT  
file  
WIPP*

*Kathy*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for WIPP Stakeholder Forum on September 26-27, 1994, and Executive CAO Program Review for Secretary O'Leary on October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Submit revisions of sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit to the New Mexico Environment Department, as scheduled.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Complete Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application and implementation processes.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CAO held a Stakeholder Forum in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on September 26-27, 1994. Of over 150 invites, approximately 70 representatives of regulatory, oversight, state, local, special interest, media and tribal organizations attended the two-day session. Major issues raised will be included in the presentation to Secretary O'Leary during her visit to the Carlsbad Area Office on October 3, 1994.
- Preparations are being made for an up-link via satellite allowing Secretary O'Leary to kick off the Energy Awareness Month activities while at the Carlsbad Area Office. This is being coordinated with the office of Assistant Secretary for Environmental, Safety and Health and other supporting federal agencies. Static displays will support Energy Awareness Month activities.
- The WIPP Conduct of Operations Applicability Matrix is complete. Work was completed ahead of schedule. Completion of the matrix marks the successful completion of a fully integrated, joint CAO/WID assessment effort.
- Drilling continues on the six new monitoring wells. Two wells have been completed, cased and drilling is 50% complete on WQSP-6.
- Alison Miner reported for duty as a Program Analyst in the Administrative Branch. Ms. Miner transferred to us from IRS in Washington, DC.
- The Compliance Branch participated in the second System Prioritization Method (SPM) stakeholder meeting on September 28 and 29, 1994 to discuss Scenario Screening and Salado Flow. We are working with the Performance Assessment Manager to allow stakeholders more review time for the position papers.
- As required by the order from the New Mexico Environment Department the Carlsbad Area Office hosted a public meeting to explain the amendments to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B Permit Application and the submittal schedule. The meeting was held on September 26, 1994 in Albuquerque, NM as a special adjunct session to the WIPP Stakeholders Forum. Attendance numbered approximately 30.
- The CAO QA has arranged for QA "Consequence" training by Richard Spence of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management to be held here in Carlsbad on October 20 and 21, 1994. The training will explore the QA problems experienced at the Yucca Mountain High Level Waste Repository.
- Savannah River is willing to meet with representatives of NTPO and selected Small Quantity Sites (SQS) to explore the feasibility of the Demonstration Project. A tentative meeting during the week of October 24 has been tentatively scheduled.

- The October transuranic waste carrier schedule includes on-site shipments for the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, support of the WIPPTREX 94-2, and the road show for the Non-destructive Assay and Examination Interface Working Group meeting.
- A proposal for the revision of the RH-72B transuranic waste shipping cask has been received and is being evaluated. It is expected that a contract will be awarded prior to the end of FY 94. The revised RH Safety Analysis Report for Packaging will be available by the end of January 1995.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Negotiations with the State of New Mexico on the scope of work and budget for the last two years of the present cooperative agreement are continuing. Issues of cost allowability and other costs were raised when New Mexico submitted detailed budget information.
- Issued distribution of the initial October 1995 Approved Funding Plan. 48.13% has been retained in AL and possibly another 20% will be reserved. \$83,908 has been distributed to all Carlsbad Area Office participants on a percentage basis. Initial allotment to AL is \$2,935 less than Carlsbad Area Office planned program guidance.
- Resolution of both FY-1995 and 1996 Budgets. Carlsbad Area Office, AL and EM-13 are still unable to resolve the bottom line budget numbers. This is affecting the FY-1996 ADS submittal as well as FY-1995 Program Guidance and Approved Financial Distribution for FY-1995.
- The EPA's draft rule, 40 CFR 194, as presently written represents a significant obstacle to the WIPP disposal decision.
- Decision on the Management Team and scheduling strategy for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II)

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- Secretary O'Leary visit, Carlsbad/Carlsbad Area Office, October 3, 1994.
- Non-Destructive Assay/Non-Destructive Examination Working Group meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, October 4-6, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.

- GSA will be in Carlsbad on October 29-30, to continue the site selection process for the CAO office building.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
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- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
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- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

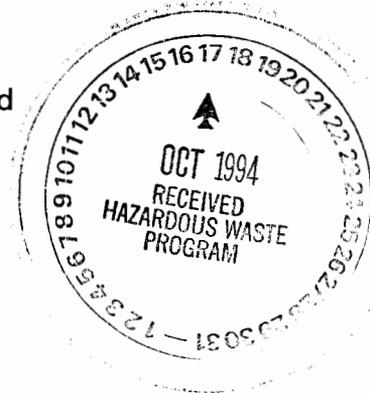
*Stratton*  
*12/2/94*

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/24/94**

*Send  
Hwy Waste  
Burton  
State  
file WIPP*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for WIPP Stakeholder Forum on September 26-27, 1994, and Executive CAO Program Review for Secretary O'Leary on October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Submit revisions of sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit to the New Mexico Environment Department, as scheduled.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Complete Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application and implementation processes.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The few, minor action items required for VPP Star Status certification have been completed and forwarded to headquarters.
- The Preliminary Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) for information as requested by EPA & NMED. The final BECR will be issued on October 30, 1994.
- AL FPMD conducted a maintenance management program review at WIPP September 20-21, 1994. The team was very pleased with the maturity of the program. There were no corrective action findings. Four laudatory, "Best Practices" (among AL sites) issues were identified. It was also noted that while adequate for existing activities, current resources provided for maintenance will not support actual waste disposal operations.
- The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Source Term Test Program (STTP) has been issued and HQ/EH has forwarded letters to the State of New Mexico and tribal governments to begin the required 14 day review period.
- Due to contractors' requests and a recently received change in labor rates from the Department of Labor, the due date of the proposals for the Transuranic (TRU) waste carrier contract was extended until September 30, 1994. The source evaluation panel will meet on October 4, 1994, to evaluate the proposals.
- The EPA/DOE Technical Exchange Meeting in Albuquerque held on September 22-23 to discuss Performance Assessment Scenario Development and Screening. Through discussion and comment among DOE and EPA several issues were resolved and additional information needs identified by EPA.
- The revised Conceptual Design Report for project 95-D-402, Install Permanent Electrical Service to the WIPP, has been published and forwarded to DOE/AL for review. The revision reflects the design approach presented by SPS, and includes a completely revised cost estimate.
- Drilling is underway on the six new monitoring wells. WQSP-2 has been drilled to the top of the Culebra Dolomite and coring is scheduled to begin this week. Additionally, well pad construction is 67% complete.
- Eighteen members of the Southern States Energy Board toured the site on September 14 and held their semi-annual meeting on September 15. Comments from this group indicate a very positive response to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant facilities and the Carlsbad Area Office/Waste Isolation Division presentations.

- A joint effort was completed on September 21, 1994 by Carlsbad Area Office personnel and Sandia on revision to the FY95 Program Scope to meet reductions resulting from a \$6 Million reduction by Congress. Reductions to cost estimates, phasing plans and lower priority scope accounted for the majority of the reductions. The current assessment of reduction impacts is that they will not affect the Disposal Decision Plan Milestones.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Resolution of both FY-1995 and 1996 Budgets. CAO, AL and EM-13 are still unable to resolve the bottom line budget numbers. This is affecting the FY-1996 ADS submittal as well as FY-1995 Program Guidance and Approved Financial Distribution for FY-1995.
- The EPA's draft rule, 40 CFR 194, as presently written represents a significant obstacle to the WIPP disposal decision.
- Decision on the Management Team and scheduling strategy for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II)
- Completion of HQ review and approval of the renegotiated WID contract prior to the Secretary's October 3rd visit.

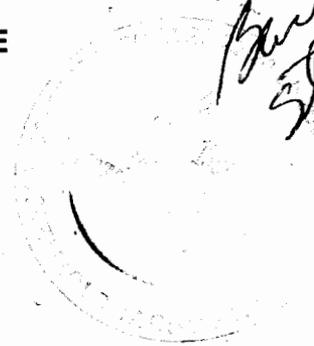
#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The CAO-QA is performing an assessment of Sandia's Auditor Qualifications September 23, 26, and 27, 1994 at Albuquerque.
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Stakeholder Forum meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 26-27, 1994.
- The CAO-QA is performing an overview of Sandia's Audit of the experimental activities at Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Sept. 26-30, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for September 28-29, 1994, in Carlsbad to discuss the technical review of the Salado fluid flow and repository scenario development.
- Secretary O'Leary visit, Carlsbad Area Office, October 3, 1994.
- Non-Destructive Assay/Non-Destructive Examination Working Group meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, October 4-6, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.

- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) WIPP Panel will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
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- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/16/94**

*Benito  
Buckner  
Stade to file  
with file*



**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for WIPP Stakeholder Forum on September 26-27, 1994, and Executive CAO Program Review for Secretary O'Leary on October 3, 1994. ✓
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Submit revisions of sections of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit to the New Mexico Environment Department, as scheduled. ✓
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix. ✓
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Complete Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application and implementation processes.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The action items required for VPP Star status are near closure. A draft response is complete and will be staffed with the VPP Team.
- The Carlsbad Area Office has completed indepth validation reviews of all FY1995 participant's funding requirements. A tentative allocation of funding based upon a total FY 1995 Program budget of \$178.6 Million dollars has been developed and will be used to develop program guidance letters. The tentative distribution will also be used to establish the October Financial Plans.
- Six additional Request for Proposals (RFPs) were sent to firms interested in the TRU waste carrier contract. Thirty seven RFPs have been mailed to interested parties to date. The evaluation criteria to be used by the source evaluation panel in the selection of a new carrier has been completed. Proposals are due by close of business on September 30, 1994, with evaluation of proposals beginning on October 4, 1994.
- Drilling is underway on the six new monitoring wells. WQSP-2 has been drilled to the top of the Culebra Dolomite and coring is scheduled to begin this week. Additionally, well pad construction is 67% complete.
- The Preliminary Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), State of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG). The final BECR will be issued on October 30, 1994.
- Discussed Performance Measures submitted in response to the Budget Call with HQ and BRMD/AL. We submitted the milestones on the DDP as the CAO performance measures. These were not forwarded on to HQ with the AL submission. HQ agrees with CAO that these should be the CAO measurements.
- The CAO received an Order from the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department requiring the CAO to amend the RCRA Part B Permit by May 15, 1995; to issue a schedule for phased submission of amended chapters by September 22, 1994, and to host a stakeholder meeting to explain the process by September 30, 1994. A letter responding to these requirements was prepared and sent to Secretary Espinosa on September 15, 1994.
- The Salado Fluid Flow and Repository Scenario Development position papers were forwarded to the stakeholders on September 14, 1994.

- The Southern States Energy Board TRU Waste Transportation Working Group toured the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site on September 14, 1994. The group is comprised of governor-appointed representatives from ten southern and three midwestern states. The Southern States Energy Board TRU Waste Transportation Working Group provides transportation technical support to the Southern States Energy Board.
- A meeting of the Small Quantity Site Working Group was held to review potential shipper/receiver sites. The number of potential receiver sites was reduced to Savannah River and Hanford. The number of potential shipper sites was reduced from approximately 70 to less than 20.
- The Performance Demonstration Program Plan for Non-destructive Assay/Non-destructive Examination will be in draft form in time for the Interface Working Group meeting, October 4-6, 1994.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The CAO has sent an issues briefing to Tom Grumbly which outlines funding issues for FY95 and FY96. Of continuing concern are prorata reductions for productivity in FY95 and FY96 and deferral of the electrical substation construction line item in FY96 to FY97.
- The EPA's draft rule, 40 CFR 194, as presently written, represents a significant obstacle to the WIPP Disposal Decision Plan.
- Options for the Management Team and scheduling strategy for the WIPP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II) that are consistent with guidance in the Secretary's NEPA guidance document need to be formulated and discussed among CAO and HQ staffs. A timely decision on this matter is needed.
- Final comments regarding the Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment (EA) from DOE/HQ Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) have been issued to LANL. The Los Alamos Area Office is revising the EA per EH comments. Once the EA is revised, it will be issued to the State of New Mexico and tribal governments for a 14 day review period. This delay has slipped the test initiation until after October 1, 1994, which could potentially delay actual testing for another three months.
- On September 10, 1994, WIPP security discovered a spill within the WIPP Withdrawal Area, along the WIPP highway approximately 2 miles south of the facility. The spill was tentatively identified as diesel fuel. Environmental Compliance and Support personnel have collected samples for analysis. Initial results indicate that the Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons exceed regulatory limits and will require at a minimum, land farming. Final results will be in next week which will determine further level of effort.

## MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting to review the Salado fluid flow and repository scenario development is scheduled for September 22-23, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM.
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Stakeholder Forum meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 26-27, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for September 28-29, 1994, in Carlsbad to discuss the technical review of the Salado fluid flow and repository scenario development.
- The TRU Projects Intersite Working Group meeting is being held in August, Georgia, on September 28-29, 1994. National TRU Program Office to present progress on Small Quantities Demonstration Plan.
- Secretary O'Leary visit, Carlsbad Area Office, October 3, 1994.
- Non-Destructive Assay/Non-Destructive Examination Working Group meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, October 4-6, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing. ✓ Steve Barb ✓ St B
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, NM on October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
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- TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, November 29-30, 1994.
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- TRU Waste Update meeting to be held in San Antonio, Texas, December 1, 1994.
- An SPM Stakeholder meeting is set for Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 08/26/94**

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1994 AUG 32 AM 10:31

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*Kathy  
Barlow  
Barlow  
with 1/6*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for WIPP Stakeholder Forum on September 26-27, 1994, and Executive CAO Program Review for Secretary O'Leary on October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Complete Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application and implementation processes.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The WID received the Award of Merit from the National Safety Council. This award was earned by reducing the Operation's 1993 Incidence Rates as compared to a combination of the 1990-92 incidence rates for the site, and the industry.
- The CAO has received a Right-of-Entry Grant from the New Mexico State Land Office which has been forwarded to DOE/AL for processing. Final issuance of this grant will follow the state's receipt of fees. This grant will provide for access to state lands for the conduct of WIPP land management surveillances on an as needed basis for a period of five years.
- The Westinghouse "WIPP Red Badge" has been approved for temporary use for Carlsbad Area Office no clearance hires. The Albuquerque Office of Safeguards and Security has approved hiring of Carlsbad Area Office individuals with non sensitive job determinations for direct hire after a suitability determination.
- The Carlsbad Area Office and Science Equipment Gift Program is underway. A news release has been prepared to announce the Department of Energy's gift donations offered to the participating school districts in the Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC) . District Superintendents decide the distribution of equipment within the 12 School districts as voting members of the Board of Directors on the SNMERC.
- A Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Transuranic (TRU) Waste Baseline Inventory Report (WTWBIR) review meeting was held August 24-25, 1994, in Denver, Colorado. Several key issues regarding the inventory data and reporting of TRU wastes were identified and will be resolved in Revision 1 of the WTWBIR.
- The Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjPs) at the Westinghouse Hanford Company, the Savannah River Site (SRS) and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) have now been initiated. Completion of these documents in late CY1994 will allow characterization and data qualifications projects to proceed in early CY1995.
- The transuranic waste carrier Request for Proposals (RFP) was mailed to 29 interested parties on August 19, 1994, and one interested party on August 22, 1994. There will be a pre-bid conference at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on September 1, 1994. The proposal responses are due on September 19, 1994.

- Comments regarding the Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment (EA) were received from DOE/HQ Office of Environment, Safety and Health (EH) and subsequent comment resolution has been initiated by LANL. EH has agreed to issue the EA to the State of New Mexico and tribes while LANL is preparing the comment resolution. The test initiation is anticipated before October 1, 1994.
- Meetings were held with the SNL staff to finalize the SNL Assessment and Qualification of Existing Data procedure. The final process is to be presented to interested parties in a meeting in Albuquerque on August 25, 1994.
- A meeting was held in Carlsbad with the EPA-Office of Solid Waste on August 24-25 to discuss No-Migration Variance Petition (NMVP)-related issues. The meeting focused on performance assessment for 40 CFR 268, waste characterization programs, and timing of submission of the petition. Staff from EPA-Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, and EPA Region IV also attended.
- The CAO has received notification that the Bureau of Land Management has denied the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) for the eight proposed Bass Enterprises wells. This denial is based on the uncertainty when the Environmental Protection Agency can determine whether development of these oil and gas leases could potentially impact the WIPP. Further concern regarding unknown impacts from injection wells and water flooding contributed to BLM's denial at this time.

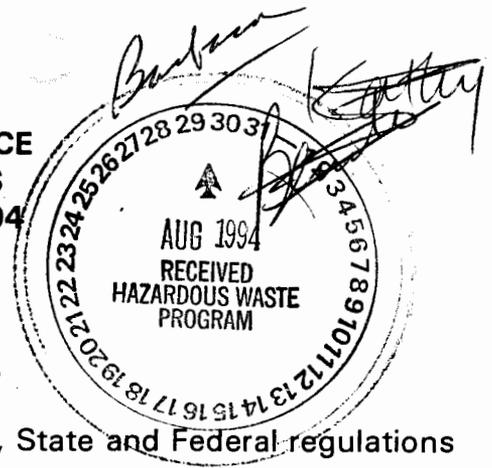
#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Discussions were held with HQ, EM, EH, GC and AL concerning SEIS-II delegation of authority and early finish issues on August 23. Initial from issues EH and GC are that the WIPP project may be too complex to attempt an accelerated SEIS-II schedule. A draft options paper will be prepared next week for discussion between CAO and EM-1.
- The CAO has received a copy of the draft WIPP certification standard (40 CFR 194) that was sent to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for review and approval. A number of issues have been identified that would significantly impact the WIPP project as presently written. The WIPP project position on these issues has been drafted and will be sent to HQ this week.
- CAO has a number of concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) version of the Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as currently written.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The VPP Committee will be on Site August 29 through September 2, 1994, for the official inspection.
- A TQM "Round Robin" will be held at the CAO on August 30, 1994. Speakers will include Bruce Twining and Ron Hanson from Albuquerque Operations Office.
- The Data Quality Objectives (DQO) Workshop is being held August 30-31, 1994, in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the workshop two case studies will be conducted regarding the DQO's for radiological characterization of transuranic (TRU) waste.
- A Performance Assessment class for stakeholders and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is set for September 13-15, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting to review the Salado fluid flow and repository scenario development is scheduled for September 19-21, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM.
- First SPM Stakeholder meeting on Performance Assessment Methodology- August 30-31 at the Carlsbad Municipal Library Annex.
- SPM stakeholder meetings are scheduled in Carlsbad, New Mexico on the following dates: September 28-29, 1994, to discuss the technical review of the Salado fluid flow and repository scenario development; October 27-28, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues including rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing; December 1-2, 1994, to discuss the technical review of issues regarding radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source; January 9, 1995, to discuss non-salado fluid flow.
- WIPP Stakeholder Forum, Carlsbad, NM, September 26-27, 1994.
- Executive Program CAO Review for Secretary O'Leary, October 3, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is set for October 24-26, 1994, in Carlsbad, NM to discuss rock mechanics, disposal room modeling, and repository sealing.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for November 28-30, 1994, to be held in Carlsbad, NM. The primary topics of discussion include radionuclide source, hazardous source, and gas source.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 08/19/94**



**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for WIPP Stakeholder Forum on September 26-27, 1994, and Executive Program Review for Secretary O'Leary on October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Determine the schedule for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.
- Complete Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application and implementation processes.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The WIPP Blue and Silver Underground Mine Rescue teams competed in the Mine Safety and Health Administration National Mine Rescue Competition in Las Vegas Nevada, Wednesday, August 17, and Thursday, August 18, 1994. The Blue Team won the National championships and WIPP's two competitors took first and second in the National Benchman's Contest.
- The STTP EA was signed by EM-1 on Friday, August 12, 1994, and was sent to EH for review, comment and approval. EM-342 received (and forwarded to CAO) review comments from EH, GC and an EH contractor on Monday, August 15, 1994. It is anticipated that the EA will be forwarded to the Indian tribes and NMED within a week.
- Invitations for the first SPM Meeting were mailed to stakeholders on August 16, 1994. The meeting is scheduled for August 30-31, 1994 in Carlsbad. The SPM Implementation Plan was sent to stakeholders on August 17, 1994.
- The Draft Project Technical Baseline document is undergoing CAO review. This version will serve as basis for the first iteration of the Performance Assessment run for SPM.
- A final report of the Management Review of the SNL QA program was issued August 19, 1994. A response from SNL is due on the week of September 5, 1994.
- The new carrier contract competition notice received thirty (30) expressions of interest as a result of the advertisement in the Commerce Business Daily. The RFP was mailed to interested parties on August 19, 1994, with responses due by September 16, 1994.
- EG&G, Idaho, Inc. has sampled 212 drums for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Operational Drum Characterization Program, and 61 transuranic-mixed waste drums for the WIPP Detailed Drum Characterization Program. They have also supercompacted a total of 58 drums during FY94 and vented and aspirated a total of 408 drums.
- Initial discussions were held with HQ concerning SEIS-II delegation of authority and early finish issues. A conference call has been scheduled for August 23, 1994 with EH and GC to continue these discussions.
- Completed revision of the Waste Management Program Plan, Chapter 9, TRU Waste Management. The revised chapter will be transmitted to Headquarters the week of August 22, 1994.
- The draft Alpha CAM performance report was completed in early August 1994. The report serves as a basis for examining differences with WIPP stakeholders regarding performance of WIPP CAMS.

- WIPP Site Branch Manager attended a meeting with B. Neill and M. Greenfield of EEG concerning the Waste Hoist Probability Analysis. Mr. Greenfield is generally supportive of the WIPP's new analysis.
- CAO Manager gave a general Waste Isolation Pilot Plant overview presentation to the League of Women Voters of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County on August 16, 1994, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- On August 19, 1994, Elizabeth Mori of the Office of Management and Budget toured the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant facility and was briefed by Carlsbad Area Office management on Programmatic Activities.
- The CAO Change Control Board met on August 15, 1994. Recommendations on eight Baseline Change Requests were made to the Manager. Decisions reallocated over \$10 Million for scope which will alleviate some of the FY95 funding shortfalls.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The CAO has received a copy of the draft WIPP certification standard (40 CFR 194) that was sent to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) for review and approval. A number of issues have been identified that would significantly impact the WIPP project as presently written. The CAO position on these issues is presently being developed and discussions will be scheduled with EPA technical staff.
- EPA has not agreed to combine the Technical Exchange meetings with the DOE proposed stakeholder meetings for input into the SPM process. This impacts resources and schedules for completing the SPM process as well as the Project Technical Baseline.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The DOE-VPP representative was on Site August 18-19, 1994, for an initial visit. On August 29 through September 2, 1994, the Committee will be on Site for the official inspection of the WIPP as part of its application for the DOE-VPP Star Status. WIPP is the first DOE facility considered for this award.
- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transuranic Waste Baseline Inventory Report (WTWBIR) Meeting is set for August 24-25, 1994, in Denver, Colorado.
- A meeting is scheduled at SNL with EPA-ORIA, SNL and CAO QA on August 25-26, 1994, to demonstrate the data qualification process for existing data.

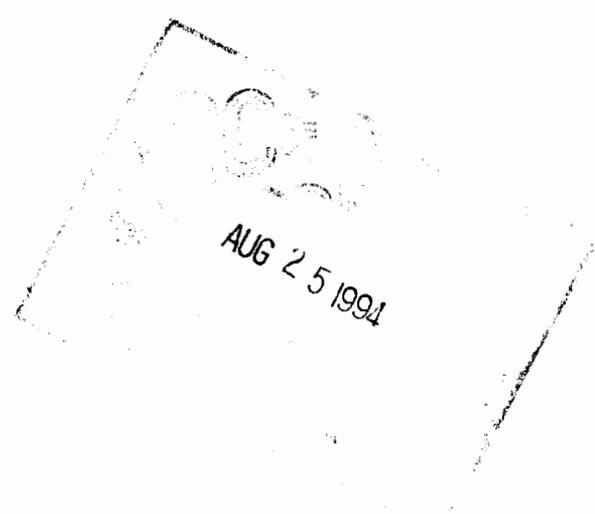
- Stakeholder/SPM meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 30-31, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico
- An EPA Technical Exchange Meeting is scheduled for September 19-21, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- WIPP Stakeholder Forum is set for September 26-27, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- Executive Program Review for Secretary Hazel O'Leary is scheduled for October 3, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will meet on November 17-18, 1994, in Carlsbad, New Mexico

CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 08/12/94

*Hay Waste*  
*Barbara*  
*Will - file*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete staffing of the Carlsbad Area Office.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for stakeholder meeting (September 26-27) programmatic reviews for Secretary O'Leary's visit, October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Carlsbad Area Office hosted the August 10, 1994, Program Review for Assistant Secretary Thomas Grumbly. The Program Review included Accelerated Compliance, National TRU Program, Stakeholder Outreach, Disposal Decision Plan and Contract Negotiation Activities. Mr. Grumbly stated that the program review and presentation materials were outstanding and was satisfied that CAO was making significant progress.
- The Carlsbad Area Office coordinated a site tour and information briefing on August 11, 1994, for Mary Nichols, Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Air and Radiation and other Environmental Protection Agency representatives. The information briefing included Accelerated Compliance, Quality Assurance, and System Prioritization method Activities. Mrs. Nichols expressed her appreciation for the information briefings and tour which provided her EPA with a better understanding of issues related to WIPP Compliance.
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been negotiated with the local District Attorney concerning jurisdictional issues, if related to law enforcement authority at the WIPP site, is scheduled for signature the week of August 15, 1994.
- Mr. Kent Hunter was selected as the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site Branch Chief. Mr. Hunter will officially assume his permanent duties, at the Site, on August 21, 1994.
- The WIPP completed the draft "WIPP Hazard Classification Report for Recommendation of WIPP Hazard Classification" for Compliance with DOE Order 5480.23. Based on the analyses performed, it is recommended that the WIPP be classified as a Hazard Category 3.
- The MSHA inspection was completed. The Close out was conducted on August 10, 1994, with "no findings" reported.
- An application for revision to the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report for Packaging is currently being reviewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The application (Revision 13) includes changes to the TRUPACT-II gas generation test plan, new TRUCON codes that were requested by the transuranic waste generator sites, and the addition of tritium absorbed on clay as authorized contents.

- WIPP Stakeholder forum in Carlsbad, NM, on September 26-27.
- Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Executive Program Review, Carlsbad, NM, on October 3, 1994.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Carlsbad, NM, on November 17-18, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/29/94**

*Barbara  
see  
by [unclear]  
on [unclear]  
Kathy*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Preparations for senior official meetings/programmatic reviews: Assistant Secretary Grumbly, August 10, 1994; EPA Assistant Administrator Mary Nichols, August 11-12, 1994; Secretary O'Leary, October 3, 1994.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- WID submitted its proposal for the contract extension on Thursday, July 28, 1994. Senior WID managers presented an overview briefing on the major elements of their proposal and adherence to contract reform precepts. Contract negotiations will begin on August 16, 1994.

- Seven members of Human Resources Division AL visited the Carlsbad Area Office to discuss staffing and recruitment. The meeting was very productive for both offices and will result in better management of personnel actions being requested and processed.
- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Silver Mine Rescue Team attended the Northwestern Regional Mine Rescue Competition at Wenatchee, Washington on July 27, 1994. The Silver Team placed First among all teams, while Team members placed second in the Benchman contest and the First Aid competition.
- The Interim WID Award Fee Report was completed on July 27, 1994, and was discussed with the WID General Manager.
- Detailed activities and milestones have been developed for the SEIS-II efforts through the end of the calendar year. These efforts are consistent for either SEIS-II schedules and will be further developed as more decisions are made.
- Discussions were held with the Western Governors Association (WGA) concerning SEIS-II prescoping meetings. Tentative arrangements were made to include a SEIS-II briefing at the WGA September quarterly meeting.
- An approved Purchase Requisition and a Statement of Work for the transuranic waste carrier contract was transmitted to Westinghouse Procurement. The Request for Proposal is scheduled to be available to interested parties by August 15, 1994.
- A request from the State of New Mexico for Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site hospital based training was approved and scheduled. This is an important training offered to the hospitals along the WIPP corridor routes. The training will be conducted in six different cities beginning on August 16, 1994, and ending September 1, 1994.
- Development of the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjP) for TRU Waste Characterization have been initiated at Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC), Savannah River Site (SRS) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Site visits to initiate the QAPjP document development began at WHC on July 26-28, 1994, and will continue at SRS on August 10-12, 1994, and ORNL on August 16-18, 1994. Final drafts of these documents are due for review by September 30, 1994.
- A draft position paper for stakeholder input to the SPM will be sent to stakeholders by August 8, 1994, for a Stakeholder/SPM meeting August 26, 1994.

- Members of the Headquarters and Region VI EPA staff were trained in running Performance Assessment (PA) for five days ending on July 22, 1994. This is the second course on PA given to EPA staff members.
- Performance Assessment Codes are being brought directly from QA Level X to QA Level A during the remainder of calendar year 1994. Reviews will shortly be conducted simultaneously by additional facilitators to maintain the schedule.
- On July 15, 1994, the INEL Manager approved the categorical exclusion (CX) for the Gas Generation Experiments to be conducted at Argonne National Laboratory-West. Development of the test management plan, test requirements, and test plan are being worked. Funding for equipment and project planning has been approved.
- Clarification letters were sent to the editors of the Albuquerque Journal and the Hobbs Daily News-Sun in response to articles relating to rebid of the transportation contract currently held by Dawn Trucking. The letters reinforced the fact that the contract would be open to all qualified bidders.
- The Facility Representative Program Plan has been approved and signed by the Carlsbad Area Office Manager.
- CAO/WID met with Environmental Evaluation Group regarding FSAR issues. The issues addressed were Confinement, CAM Performance and Risk Assessment. These discussions will continue in order to resolve FSAR issues.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Based on the Headquarters (HQ) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) meeting last week in Washington, DC, several issues were identified that need resolution to ensure a consistent position on the disposal of TRU Waste. A memo was sent to Jay Rhoderick on July 25, 1994, summarizing past information on the TRU Waste disposal mission at WIPP.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) version of the Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently in review before being sent for stakeholder comments. CAO has a number of concerns about the MOU as written; modifications will be suggested.
- Discussions have continued with State of New Mexico's Officials about the CAO request to modify/amend the RCRA part B permit to reflect



2 programmatic changes. Our goal is to establish firm dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

- The Source Term Test Plan (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) has progressed out of EM to EH for review and approval cycle. Implications are a delay in the projected mid-August 1994 STTP start-up schedule. If the start-up is delayed beyond September, LANL has informed CAO an additional three month slip would occur. EM-30 assistance is required to move the EA through the EH review process.

#### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- CAO Program Review, Assistant Secretary Thomas Grumbly, Carlsbad, NM, August 10, 1994.
- Briefings/tour, for EPA Assistant Administrator , Mary Nichols, August 11-12, 1994.
- Secretarial Program Review, Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Carlsbad, NM, October 3, 1994.
- Award Fee Board on August 1-3, 1994 in Albuquerque, N.M.
- The Carlsbad Area Office managers and staff initiated the FY 95 workscope and Budget Validation process this week by reviewing the Westinghouse Request. Other program participants will be reviewed and validated in the next few weeks. Mr. Ed Wade is participating in the reviews, representing DOE Headquarters.
- TRU Steering Committee Meeting in Idaho Falls, Idaho, August 2-4, 1994.
- Stakeholder/SPM meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico is tentatively scheduled for August 25-26, 1994.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.
- A SNL QA Program Review by CAO is scheduled for August 1-3, 1994, in Albuquerque.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/15/94**

*Kathy  
Bennett  
file w/PP*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- EM-1, EM-30, and CAO participated in an OIG Exit Briefing for the Joint EM/OIG WIPP Audit on July 15, 1994, in Washington D.C. The report is expected by the end of July.
- CAO attended a planning and coordination meeting with Headquarters personnel in Washington, D.C., on July 13-14, 1994, regarding the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), Federal Facility Compliance Agreement (FFCA) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II (SEIS-II). The objective of the meeting was to ensure consistency in the WIPP SEIS-II and the PEIS.
- A program update meeting was held at the Richland Operations Office (RL) on July 12-15, 1994. Plans and direction of the National TRU Program Office were discussed and contrasted RL site plans. Items of discussion also included the TRU waste characterization program at CAO and the RL pilot retrieval program.
- A meeting was held with Personnel Security Division, Human Resources Division, and Management Support Division in Albuquerque concerning hiring uncleared individuals into the Carlsbad Area Office. There are a few minor details that have not been finalized, but there are no major obstacles identified with the division level staff.
- The CAO Safety and Health Manager attended the final training/workshop for on-site Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Evaluations. The training was conducted at Lake Jackson, Texas, adjacent to the DOW Chemical Plant which has been an OSHA "STAR" site for about nine years. EH 31 will be at the WIPP Site for the evaluation of the Voluntary Protection Program on August 22, 1994.
- Three applicants accepted positions at CAO, Compliance Engineer, Experimental Program Manager, and Program Analyst, respectively.
- The WIPP "Silver" Mine Rescue Team participated in the Fourth Northwestern Regional Mine Rescue Contest Competition held in Wenatchee, Washington, on July 8 and 9. The WIPP Silver Team won First Place in the field competition, Second Place in the Benchperson's competition, and Second Place in the First Aid Competition.

- The WIPP provided dosimeters for irradiation on June 22, 1994, to initiate the first round of the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP). The WIPP dosimetry laboratory will analyze these control dosimeters, and the results will be evaluated by DOELAP officials.
- Sandia National Laboratories conducted classes on July 13-15, 1994, for CAO personnel. This instruction enables CAO staff to run a Performance Assessment (PA). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) personnel will have this training opportunity also.
- The Bureau of Mines Underground Remote Real Time Geotechnical Information System (GIS) is scheduled to be operational in mid to late July, 1994. The system is currently undergoing testing.
- 20 ● The Quality Assurance Program Plan for the Transuranic Waste Characterization Program was issued July 8, 1994, for review by the Environmental Protection Agency (Headquarters, Region 6, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air), State of New Mexico and the Environmental Evaluation Group. Comments will be incorporated and a final document issued by the end of August 1994.
- Development of the Performance Demonstration Program for non-destructive assay has been contracted to EG&G Idaho. This program is being developed to comply with requirements which will be promulgated in 40 CFR 194, in 1995. The first cycle will occur at sites in FY95.
- Seventeen Native American students from the Navajo Community College, New Mexico Military Institute, and Isleta Pueblo toured the WIPP site on July 8, 1994. The tour was coordinated through New Mexico State University's BRIDGES Program and allowed the group to interface with DOE and the WIPP tribal coordinator.
- A delegation of Russian environmental and health specialists toured the WIPP on July 15, 1994. The visit was in conjunction with an Environmental Risk Assessment Training session being conducted by the Waste-Management Education & Research Consortium and was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Establish firm due dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- The Source Term Test Plan (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) has not progressed out of the EM-2 review and approval cycle. Implications are a delay in the projected mid-August 1994 STTP start-up schedule.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- ✓ ● The TRU Program meeting with New Mexico Environment Department/Idaho Operations Office on Waste Characterization will be held in Idaho Falls, Idaho, July 20-21, 1994.
- The CAO/EEG/NMED Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 1994, in Santa Fe.
- The SNL, WID, WTAC, and CAO brine in-flow focus meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1994, at 10:00 a.m. in the WOIC Large Conference Room.
- The QA section will conduct an overview of the SNL audit of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories on July 26-27, 1994.
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) changed the dates of the next meeting. The group will now meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.

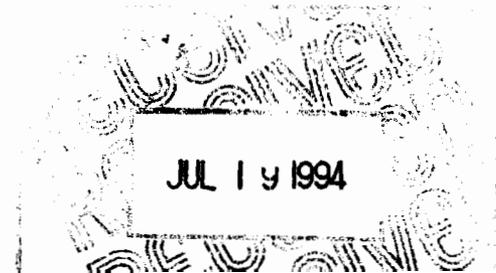
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/08/94

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*Barbara  
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**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received approval of our request to DOE-HQ to commence negotiations with WID for an extension to their contract that will embrace and encompass contract reform principles and objectives. Will develop a contract schedule and request a proposal from WID in the near future. Negotiations will be initiated by the end of July.
- Letters were sent to approximately ten generator sites requesting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents concerning transuranic (TRU) or TRU mixed waste that will be used for the SEIS-II internal scoping process.
- A detailed cost estimate was developed regarding the proposed WIPPTREX exercise requested by the State of California for April 1995. This exercise will be in support of projected transuranic (TRU) shipments from California (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) to the Nevada Test Site.
- The Facility Representative Program Plan has been finalized and will be presented for CAO Manager approval on July 11, 1994.
- The Bureau of Mines Underground Remote Real Time Geotechnical Information System (GIS) is scheduled to be operational in mid to late July 1994. The system is currently undergoing testing.
- A meeting was held with representatives from the DOE/CAO, New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED), New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Division, Department of Game and Fish, State Land Office and Environmental Evaluation (EEG) for interactive comment resolution on the WIPP Land Management Implementation Plan (LMIP). Participants concurred on the resolution of the State's comments as submitted at that time.
- The "No Trespassing" text has been sent to Headquarters for publication in the Federal Register. There are no known barriers to prevent the publication in a timely manner. Signs for posting are being obtained.
- A predisciplinary draft of the Guideline for Storage Facilities for Solid, Contact-Handled Transuranic (TRU) Waste was sent out on June 22, 1994, for review and comment. Adopting a system-wide guideline for standardization can expedite the process of obtaining approval of new TRU waste storage facilities in the future.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Meetings are being scheduled with the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement (FFCA) staffs to ensure that the preparation of SEIS-II is consistent with the documentation being produced through these efforts.
- Resolution of the additional staff postings (6) for the CAO as a result of the EM bid process has not been completed. Awaiting feedback from EM-10 and EM-30.
- The GSA is working through the NEPA process on all sites offered as potential construction sites for the CAO building. Further action will await completion of the NEPA activities in October.
- An issue paper was prepared concerning early completion of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS-II). The recommendation is to issue notice of intent January of 1995 with an early completion date of April 1996. The Record of Decision would not be issued until December 1997 to address any final issues before a disposal decision is readied. Awaiting response to our memo and position paper submitted to EM-1 on May 20, 1994.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) notified the WIPP that the facility dosimetry section has been scheduled in the eighteenth performance test session of the accreditation program. The WIPP testing rounds are scheduled for July 1, August 9, and September 9. The final portion of the accreditation process, a DOELAP on-site assessment, will be conducted after the successful completion of performance testing.
- The Change Control Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 1994, at 10:00 a.m. in the WOIC Large Conference Room.
- Transportation External Coordination Working Group meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 12-14, 1994.
- A Hanford NTP Review meeting will be held in Richland, Washington, July 13-15, 1994.

- The General Accounting Office will present their findings on how the DOE managed the transition and why, to "Key" House members no earlier than July 14, 1994.
- A delegation of Russian environmental and health specialists is scheduled to tour the WIPP on July 15, 1994. The visit is in conjunction with an Environmental Risk Assessment Training session being conducted by the Waste-Management Education & Research Consortium and is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development.
- The TRU Program meeting with New Mexico Environment Department/Idaho Operations Office on Waste Characterization will be held in Idaho Falls, Idaho, July 20-21, 1994.
- The CAO/EEG/NMED Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 1994, in Santa Fe.
- The SNL, WID, WTAC, and CAO brine in-flow focus meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1994, at 10:00 a.m. in the WOIC Large Conference Room.
- The FY95 Validation process schedule is as follows:
 

WID	July 25-29
Carlsbad Area Office Institutional/ NTPO	August 4-5
SNL/ANL-W/INEL/LANL	August 9-12
WTAC	August 17-19
(These reviews will be supported by EM-342 and AL-BRMD.)	
- The QA section will conduct an overview of the SNL audit of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories on July 26-27, 1994.
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/22/94**

*Carlsbad*  
~~Kathy~~  
~~Grants~~

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Developed and coordinated DOE Input with EM-30 and EM-34 for the joint DOE/OIG audit final report. Report scheduled for release by end of July.
- Developed issue paper on ways to improve CAO hiring of personnel including reduction of clearances. Coordinated with ALO and AL-Security and received excellent support.
- The Carlsbad Area Office provided briefings on CAO program activities and initiatives at the 47th WIPP Quarterly Review meeting held July 21, 1994, in Santa Fe. The group consisted of representatives of the CAO, Environmental Evaluation Group, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Attorney General's Office, and New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and resulted in a good exchange of information.
- Rocky Flats Plant is continuing detailed waste characterization of debris drums, and to date has sampled 52 drums. In addition 200 drums for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Operational Drum Characterization Program have been sampled this fiscal year.
- Twenty-four Russian scientists toured the site July 15. The group was participating in environmental risk assessment training given by the New Mexico State University Waste Management Education Research Consortium.
- Fifty-seven visitors from the Defense Orientation Conference Association toured the site on July 19. This multi-state group is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan, nonprofit association sponsored by the Department of Defense.
- The Western Governors' Association has agreed to schedule assessment activities with the states of Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, California, and Oregon to determine their emergency response needs (training, equipment, etc.) in the event of a hazardous materials transportation incident.
- The TRU Program meeting with New Mexico Environment Department/Idaho Operations Office on Waste Characterization was held in Idaho Falls, Idaho, July 20-21, 1994.
- Construction started July 20, 1994, for expansion of site parking lot.

- Construction started July 20, 1994, for expansion of site parking lot.
- The Facility Representative Program Plan has been finalized, and expected to be approved by the end of July.
- A draft position paper for stakeholder input to the System Prioritization Method (SPM) was generated. It is anticipated to be sent to stakeholders by August 1, 1994, for a Stakeholder/SPM meeting August 25-26, 1994.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The GSA is working through the NEPA process on all sites offered as potential construction sites for the CAO Building. Further action will await completion of the NEPA activities in October.
- Establish firm due dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- The Source Term Test Plan (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) has not progressed out of the EM-20 review and approval cycle. Implications are a delay in the projected mid-August 1994 STTP start-up schedule.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The QA section will conduct an overview of the SNL audit of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories on July 16-27, 1994, and of the WID audit of WID Engineering and Work Control the week of July 25, 1994.
- Efficiencies Working Group meeting in Boulder, Colorado on July 27-28, 1994.
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.
- Stakeholder/SPM meeting in Carlsbad, NM is tentatively scheduled for August 25-26, 1994.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) changed the dates of the next meeting. The group will now meet in Carlsbad on November 17-18, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/01/94**

*Kathy  
D. [unclear]  
Barbara  
Will file*

**PRIORITIES**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first iteration of the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) Decision Matrix.
- Prepare Quality Assurance (QA) Training Program. Develop curriculum for Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Senior and Line Management.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Emergency Response Team from the Site responded to a request for assistance fighting wildland fires. Lightning had about 13 fires started northeast of the site along highway route 62/180. Due to rapid response, the fires were extinguished in 5 or 6 hours.
- On June 9, 1994, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) renewed the TRUPACT-II Certificate of Compliance for a five-year period which expires June 30, 1999. Receipt of the Certificate of Compliance meets a milestone for the Disposal Decision Plan, several months ahead of schedule.
- A purchase request and statement of work was initiated to procure a TRU waste carrier to support the Carlsbad Area Office programmatic needs. The procurement will be advertised with the request for proposal being available the week of August 15, 1994. The contract will be placed for a one year base period with four one year options.
- Two on-site shipments of transuranic (TRU) waste will be supported by Dawn Enterprises on July 6-7, 1994, and two additional shipments on July 17-18, 1994, at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Two shipments will be made from the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) to Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) and two shipments from ANL-W to the RWMC. EM-30 at DOE Headquarters has been notified of this activity.
- The Source Term Test Plan (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) was signed by J. Lytle on June 24, 1994, and will be ushered through EM-5 and EM-20 by EM-30 staff.
- A commitment was made by the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) NEPA officer to have the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) Gas Generation Experiment (GGE) exclusionary exemption signed off by INEL no later than July 15, 1994.
- The dedication ceremony for the new Training Building at the WIPP Site was held June 30, 1994. Local southeast New Mexico dignitaries attended.
- An issue paper was prepared concerning early completion of Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS-II). The recommendation is to issue notice of intent in January 1995 with an early completion date of April 1996. The Record of Decision would not be issued until December 1997 to address any final issues before a disposal decision is readied.

- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Quality Assurance Program Description received EM-30 concurrence and was transmitted to Document Services for publication.
- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) TRU Waste Baseline Inventory Report (WTWBIR) was completed on June 30, 1994, thereby achieving an important Disposal Decision Plan milestone. The WTWBIR presents the individual waste streams from Transuranic (TRU) waste generator/storage sites across the DOE system in site specific waste stream profiles. The WTWBIR is a dynamic document which will be updated as appropriate.
- CAO, WID and SNL representatives held a two day meeting to assess the status of the System Prioritization Method (SPM) in attaining Compliance Branch requirements and to identify areas needing attention. A second function of the meeting was to develop a basis for integrating EPA and stakeholder involvement in the SPM. A definitive plan to integrate EPA and stakeholder interests in the SPM was developed, including a draft schedule with topics for future interactive meetings.
- The Conduct of Operations Compliance Matrix is well developed and nearing completion. A presentation was given to the CAO Manager and the WID Manager explaining the process, the usefulness as a tool, and the current status. This presentation completed a milestone for the WIPP in the Conduct of Operations program.
- A full status on the backfill effects engineering report was given at the monthly WIPP Site Branch (WSB) Geotechnical Interface meeting on June 30, 1994. The technical analysis concludes that there is no significant difference in physical effects between a repository backfilled condition and a no backfill condition.
- The Bureau of Mines Underground Remote Real Time Geotechnical Information System (GIS) is scheduled to be operational in mid to late July, 1994. The system is currently undergoing testing.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- We are awaiting action on the WIPP FY95 budget, which will be addressed in Conference Committee after the July recess. The Senate supported the full WIPP FY95 budget of \$184.6.

- The WIPP Site Branch (WSB) expects that issues raised by EH-20 concerning the VPP program will be resolved at the June 28-30, 1994, DOE VPP Review Committee meeting. Bruce Lilly is a Committee member and was in attendance.

**MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The General Accounting Office will present their findings on how the DOE managed the transition and why, to "Key" House members no earlier than July 14, 1994.
- The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) notified the WIPP that the facility dosimetry section has been scheduled in the eighteenth performance test session of the accreditation program. The WIPP testing rounds are scheduled for July 1, August 9, and September 9. The final portion of the accreditation process, a DOELAP on-site assessment, will be conducted after the successful completion of performance testing.
- CAO All-Hands Meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 8, 1994.
- The July CAO Change Control Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 1994.
- Transportation External Coordination Working Group meeting in Denver, Colorado, July 12-14, 1994.
- A delegation of Russian environmental and health specialists is scheduled to tour the WIPP on July 15, 1994. The visit is in conjunction with an Environmental Risk Assessment Training session being conducted by the Waste-Management Education & Research Consortium and is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development.
- The FY95 Validation process schedule is as follows:
 

WID	July 25-29
Carlsbad Area Office Institutional/ NTPO	August 4-5
SNL/ANL-W/INEL/LANL	August 9-12
WTAC	August 17-19
(These reviews will be supported by EM-342 and AL-BRMD.)	
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 06/24/94**

*Kathy*  
*Barbara*  
*will find*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Complete the first Systems Prioritization Method and Decision Matrix.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CAO Manager made a presentation to the New Mexico Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee on June 23, 1994, in Santa Fe. The presentation covered the reorganization of the DOE office, the National TRU Program office role and responsibilities, the Disposal Decision Plan, the Compliance Status Report and the Systems Prioritization Method. A progress status of CAO programs was given, followed by a short question and answer period. Comments by several members of the Committee were in support of the changes made at the CAO.
- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) meetings were held to discuss the Systems Prioritization Method (SPM) in Washington, D.C. during the week of June 13-17, 1994. Both groups were very positive about the SPM.
- The Exit Conference on the Joint Office of Inspector General/EM Audit was held on June 20, 1994, with CAO Manager, CAO Senior Staff, and Fred Doggett and Judy Jew of the Office of Inspector General.
- The 18-month extension of the Western Governors Association (WGA) cooperative agreement was approved and forwarded to WGA on June 23, 1994.
- A compliance inspection was conducted on site by the New Mexico Environment Department, Solid Waste Bureau, of the WIPP infectious (biohazard) waste program. This inspection involved the waste storage and accumulation areas, Exposure Control and Transportation Plans and their implementing procedures, and interviews with WID personnel. No violations were cited and additional comments by the inspector include, "Storage area very secure, surpasses State requirements."
- The Carlsbad Area Office CAO Quality Assurance Program Description has been transmitted to EM-30 and is awaiting concurrence.
- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Silver Mine Rescue Team won first overall at the Red Lodge, Montana, Stillwater Mine Rescue competition. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant also won first at the Draeger Benchman's contest. A previous national champion and a national's runner up were also competing at this contest.
- The 1994 Annual Mitigation Report (NEPA ID 94:0001) was transmitted to DOE/AL for transmittal to DOE/HQ. This report, required by DOE Order 5440.1E, provides the status of the implementation of commitments made in the Records of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The report is due on July 10 of each year.

- The final copy for the Federal Register "No Trespassing" area around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site is currently en route to Headquarters for publishing.
- A training program was given to the New Mexico State Police Tactical Team by the Albuquerque Transportation Safeguards Division and Carlsbad Area Office. The police were given training in radiological aspects as well as the safety features of the tractor, trailer, TRUPACT-II, and the training the drivers have received. The training was conducted at the DOE Central Training Facility at Kirtland AFB.
- A meeting was held with the State of California training representatives for training and exercise issues affecting the National TRU Program Office. The State of California has requested a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Exercise (WIPPTREX) in April 1995.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

*Barbara*

- Establish firm due dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- The fully completed, staffed and reviewed (with excellent notices by experts in this program) VPP submittal has been diverted to the newly established EH-20 organization which as yet may not have the expertise to effectively support this submittal even though it is an EH-1 expectation that this will be a DOE "mark of excellence" first in August of this year. The CAO expects this issue to be resolved at the June 28-30, 1994, DOE VPP Review Committee meeting.
- The Source Term Test Program (STTP) Environmental Assessment is at DOE/HQ being expedited by EM-342. EM-342 has forwarded correspondence from EM-1 to EH-1 and EM-1 to Indian Tribes and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for concurrence. A "draft" Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be developed by the LAEO Environmental Officer. The "draft" FONSI will accompany letters to EH-1, the Indian Tribes, and NMED. Mid-August is the potential start-up time for the STTP.
- Continuing to move forward on proposal for SEIS-II, CAO held a meeting with ALO-NEPA staff to define approach and schedule for SEIS-II. Staffing and funding requirements were defined. Awaiting response on SEIS-II proposal provided to HQ.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The General Accounting Office continues to review WIPP schedules and planning cycle cross-cuts for "target and planning levels." Their presentation to the House "Key" members may occur the week of June 27-30, 1994.
- The Rocky Flats Program Review meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado, June 28-29, 1994.
- The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) notified the WIPP that the facility dosimetry section has been scheduled in the eighteenth performance test session of the accreditation program. The WIPP testing rounds are scheduled for July 1, August 9, and September 9. The final portion of the accreditation process, a DOELAP on-site assessment, will be conducted after the successful completion of performance testing.
- The July CAO Change Control Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 1994.
- A delegation of Russian environmental and health specialists is scheduled to tour the WIPP on July 15, 1994. The visit is in conjunction with an Environmental Risk Assessment Training session being conducted by the Waste-Management Education & Research Consortium and is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development.
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 06/17/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include Systems Prioritization and coordination/integration of the Performance Assessment and Experimental Program Plan and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct the Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date is July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to the National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environment Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine the need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete the Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Initiate and actively manage the Systems Prioritization Method.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD) was completed and signed on June 13, 1994. The QAPD has been transmitted to EM-30 for concurrence.
- A Technical Exchange Meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency was held in Washington, D.C. on June 14-15, 1994. Key topics included Engineered Alternatives, Engineered Barriers, Waste Characterization, and System Prioritization processes. The CAO and Sandia National Laboratories participants also met with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, D.C. on June 16-17, 1994. Discussion areas included Performance Assessment, Models and Data Needs, System Prioritization Methods, and the Enhanced Laboratory Test Program.
- A CAO press release and video were distributed to statewide media outlets following the predicted roof fall in Site and Preliminary Design Validation (SPVD) Room 2. The purpose of the release was to inform stakeholders about the importance of ongoing geological studies in the WIPP underground test rooms.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between all five active potash mines in the Carlsbad Potash Basin and WIPP was signed on June 6, 1994. The MOU allows for mutual support in the area of mine rescue teams.
- The CAO issued the Call Memorandum for the upcoming Fiscal Year 1995 Validation Process. The Validation Reviews are scheduled as follows: Westinghouse, July 25-29; National TRU Program Office, August 4-5; SNL, ANL-W, INEL, and LANL, August 9-12; and WTAC, August 17-19, 1994.
- The Albuquerque-Management Review Division notified the Carlsbad Area Office, in a June 10, 1994, memorandum, that the Departmental position on the findings and recommendations from the Inspector General's Audit on "Labor Utilization at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant," will not be necessary. The Department of Energy and the Office of the Inspector General have mutually agreed that no further action on the Departmental position is required.
- Nineteen Baseline Change Requests were evaluated by the Carlsbad Area Office Change Control Board on June 10, 1994. \$3.4 million of scope was released and will be included in the next financial plan updates. Programs released included funding for the Gas Generation Experiment, Performance Based Waste Acceptance Criteria analysis, Remote Handled studies to meet the TRU Land Withdrawal Act requirements, and National TRU efforts to establish action plans for Small Quantity Sites.

- All of the TRUPACT-II fleet trailers received required maintenance and were found in serviceable condition during the annual inspection.
- Received an update from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the status of the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP), Revision 13 and timely renewal of the Certificate of Compliance (C of C). The C of C renewal will be provided within the next 30 days. This will be well ahead of the C of C expiration date which is in August 1994.
- The June 12, 1994, underground roof fall in SPDV Room 2 was captured on video and provides an excellent record of the event. WIPP engineers, using rock movement instrumentation to monitor closure rate, predicted the time frame for the roof fall and successfully recorded the event.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Actinide Source Term Test Management Plan required that we coordinate an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) with the Los Alamos Area Office and Sandia National Laboratories. The CAO-QA Section has taken an item to initiate this activity and augment it with a protocol validation review for data quality.
- Establish firm due dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- The Source Term Test Program (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) is at DOE/HQ being expedited by EM-342. Transmittal correspondence, including the EA, and a "Draft" Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is under review by CAO. Mid-August is the potential start-up time for the STTP.

### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- A regular WIPP Medical Working Group meeting is scheduled for June 21, 1994, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to discuss topics related to radioactive contamination medical response capabilities in the State of New Mexico.
- A planning meeting for WIPPTREX 94-2 in Nunn, Colorado, is set for June 22-24, 1994.
- The CAO Manager's presentation to the New Mexico Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Interim Committee is scheduled for June 23 in Santa Fe.

- The CAO has scheduled a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)-II planning meeting with Connie Soden, AL-EPD, on June 24, 1994, in Albuquerque.
- The General Accounting Office continues to review WIPP schedules and planning cycle cross-cuts for "target and planning levels." Their presentation to the House "Key" members may occur the week of June 27-30, 1994.
- The July CAO Change Control Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 1994.
- A TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting is set for Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 2-4, 1994.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 06/10/94**

*Boyd  
Kathy  
Barbara  
WIP*

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Quality Assurance Program Document.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Initiate and actively manage the Systems Prioritization Method.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The Surface and Underground Rescue teams competed in Rock Springs, Wyoming, this past week. The Blue Mine Rescue team took second place. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Benchman took the first place DRAEGERMAN trophy.
- Fifteen Baseline Change Requests were submitted by the Carlsbad Area Office participants. The Change Control Board will meet on June 10, 1994, and discussion should be included in the July Financial Plan.
- Finalized the agenda for the Department of Energy (DOE)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Technical Exchange meeting in Washington, D.C., in consultation with the EPA. Primary topics include System Prioritization, Waste Characterization and Engineered Barriers.
- A Stakeholder meeting was held at the CAO to explain the System Prioritization Method Stakeholder process and to receive their input.
- Construction of the Training Building at the WIPP site has been completed. An "Open House" was conducted on June 8, 1994.
- Completed a compilation of potash boreholes that were drilled and plugged by potash mining companies within one mile of the WIPP site boundary. This data will be used to evaluate and corroborate assumptions regarding sub-surface drilling rates for the human intrusion scenario and issues related to institutional controls.
- Received an update from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the status of the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP), Revision 13 and timely renewal of the Certificate of Compliance (C of C). The C of C renewal will be provided within the next 30 days. This will be well ahead of the C of C expiration date which is in August 1994. The SARP revision review will not begin until July 1994, and is expected to be completed in August 1994.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next month. Latest instrumentation data indicates that the roof closure rate has increased in some areas to 73.6 inches per year. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur.
- The Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment is at DOE/HQ EM-331. EM-342 is expediting this action.

- Actinide Source Term Test Management Plan required that we coordinate an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) with Los Alamos Area Office and Sandia National Laboratories. The CAO-QA section has taken an action item to initiate this activity and augment it with a protocol validation review for data quality.
- Establish firm due dates for submittal of disposal phase modifications to the RCRA Part B Permit Application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The Energy Council will be touring the WIPP facility on June 11, 1994. These state legislators represent nine energy-producing states and the province of Alberta, Canada. The council is interested in DOE's progress at the WIPP and nuclear waste disposal in general.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures Meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe June 12-15. A WIPP tour is scheduled June 11.
- Representatives of the United States Bureau of Mines will be joined by Canadian Minerals and Technology members on June 14, 1994, to observe the WIPP shipping packages and Ground Control Monitoring System.
- Carlsbad Area Office Management Retreat is scheduled for June 14, 1994, at Washington Ranch.
- The Environmental Protection Agency Technical Exchange meeting is scheduled June 14-15, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- An AL periodic Maintenance Management Review will be conducted June 14-17, 1994.
- The State of New Mexico Emergency Management Division and the New Mexico State Police are meeting at Kirtland Air Force Base on June 15-16, 1994 to train/discuss/develop scenarios for responding to transportation events.
- The National Academy of Science quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 16-17, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- A regular WIPP Medical Working Group meeting is scheduled for June 21, 1994, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to discuss topics related to radioactive contamination medical response capabilities in the State of New Mexico.
- CAO Manager presentation to the New Mexico Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Interim Committee is scheduled for June 23 in Santa Fe.

I N F O R M A L M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: June 3, 1994  
TO: Distribution  
FROM: George E. Dials, Manager, CAO  
SUBJECT: Carlsbad Area Office Weekly Report

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*Kathy*  
*to*  
*George E. Dials*  
*file W111*

Please find attached the Carlsbad Area Office Weekly Report.  
Please note that the date at the top of the report is the end  
date of the reporting period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at  
234-7300.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 06/03/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Quality Assurance Program Document.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.
- Finalize responses to EPA comments on the 1992 Performance Assessment report.
- Initiate and actively manage the Sandia Systems Prioritization Method.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The draft of the upcoming Fiscal Year 1995 Validation process, schedule, and call memorandum is complete and currently being refined. Working level meetings were held during this week with Waste Isolation Division and Sandia National Laboratories to ensure that they can achieve the schedule and provide the required format. Lessons learned were also discussed and quick fixes are being integrated into the formats.
- Discussions were held with the Albuquerque (AL) Environmental Protection Division (EPD) concerning the CAO Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)-II position paper for reducing the cost and schedule. They have a similar effort underway for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The ad-hoc Treatment Working Group established at the May Steering Committee meeting in Carlsbad discussed the content of a treatment issue paper being prepared for National TRU Program Office (NTPO). A draft of the paper was reviewed by several members of the working group and NTPO. The paper is being revised in preparation for a review by the entire working group and to support DOE Federal Facility Compliance Act treatment discussions to be held with stakeholders in mid-July.
- Further details on the planning of WIPPTREX 94-2 with the Colorado Department of Health were coordinated. The location of the first meeting will be in Nunn, Colorado, tentatively during the week of June 20, 1994. A specific date and time should be available next week.
- The CAO manager presented an update on the CAO and the WIPP to community leaders in Hobbs, New Mexico, on June 2, 1994. This update meeting provided an opportunity for Hobbs citizens to discuss WIPP-related issues with the CAO manager and the WID manager. Regular updates provide community input to the CAO and an opportunity for resolving stakeholder concerns.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The joint DOE/IG audit continues with the audit team and CAO staff evaluating data input and needs of the audit process. A pre-decisional draft report will be prepared by June 15, 1994. Discussions continue between the CAO Manager and the joint audit team on issues as they arise.
- The publication notice for the Federal Register of the "No Trespassing" area around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site is currently in both the Office of Chief Counsel and the Security and Nuclear Safeguards Division in the

Albuquerque Operations Office for review and comment. The 2.2 square mile buffer needs to be posed and effective before the September hunting seasons begin.

- Actinide Source Term Test Management Plan required that we coordinate an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) with Los Alamos Area Office and SNL. The CAO-QA section has taken an action item to initiate this activity and augment it with a protocol validation review for data quality.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next month. Latest instrumentation data indicates that the roof closure rate has somewhat stabilized to 22 inches per year. Video cameras are setup to record this event when it does occur.

### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- TRU Projects Intersite Working Group (TRU Partnership) meeting in Carlsbad June 7-8, 1994.
- June Change Control Board is scheduled for June 10, 1994.
- A stakeholder meeting on the Systems Prioritization Method process is scheduled for June 10 in Carlsbad.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures Meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe June 12-15. A WIPP tour is scheduled June 11.
- The Environmental Protection Agency Technical Exchange meeting is scheduled June 14-15, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- Carlsbad Area Office Management Retreat is scheduled for June 14, 1994, at Washington Ranch.
- The National Academy of Science quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 16-17, 1994, in Washington, D.C. A dry run is scheduled for June 8 at the SNL/BDM building in Albuquerque.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/27/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Quality Assurance Requirements Document.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A "draft" agenda for June 14 & 15 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technical exchange meeting in Washington D.C. has been developed and presentations are in preparation. The tentative technical exchange topics will be Systems Prioritization Methods (SPM), Engineered Alternatives, and Waste Characterization.
- A kickoff meeting for the Contact Handled (CH) Transuranic (TRU) waste Gas Generation experiments of the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) was held at the INEL on May 23-24, 1994. Discussions included funding, schedule, technical requirements, and roles and responsibilities. Data will be available in time for the compliance application.
- SNL has been given the lead to prepare for a topical meeting on brine in flow in late June. Participants in the preparation will be SNL/LAO/WID/EEG/EPA.
- On May 23, 1994, the Carlsbad Area Office Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Request briefing was presented to Mr. Thomas Grumbly, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, by George Dials. The briefing afforded the Carlsbad Area Office the opportunity to identify funding shortfalls in Fiscal Year 1995 and Fiscal Year 1996. Mr. Grumbly strongly supported the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the National TRU Program Office mission and made decisions which will allow the Carlsbad Area Office to continue its focus on achieving an accelerated decision on regulatory compliance by Fiscal Year 1998 and start receiving waste during Fiscal Year 1998.
- Completed incorporation of comments from headquarters and principal participants into the QAPD. Conducted comment resolution meetings with SNL, Waste Isolation Division (WID) and Headquarters.
- Discussions were held with the AL NEPA Compliance Officer concerning the CAO SEIS-II position paper for reducing the cost and schedule. They have a similar effort underway for the LANL EIS. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the details in the near future.
- The ad-hoc Treatment Working Group established at the May NTP Steering Committee meeting in Carlsbad discussed the content of a treatment issue paper being prepared for National TRU Program Office (NTPO). The paper is being revised in preparation for a review by the entire working group and to support DOE Federal Facility Compliance Act treatment discussions to be held with stakeholders in mid-July.

- A draft of Revision 0 of the TRU Baseline Inventory Report was distributed for review. While the document is being reviewed, the database is being quality-checked.
- Discussions were concluded with the Colorado Department of Health on the location for WIPPTREX-2. It was agreed that Weld County, Colorado will host the next exercise. The first planning meeting is scheduled for June 20, 1994, in Greeley, Colorado.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment is at DOE/HQ. The LANL test is ready to be initiated once the EA is approved.
- Budget and Resources Management Division and Headquarters questioned as to status of release of the Office of Management and Budget reserve. They have no news at this time.
- The announcement of the "No Trespassing" area around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Site to be published in the Federal Register is currently in the Office of Chief Counsel and the Security and Nuclear Safeguards Division in the Albuquerque Operations Office for review and comment. The 2.2 square mile buffer needs to be posted and effective before the September hunting season begins.
- A draft proposal was prepared for comment in order to address the proposed Sandia National Laboratory (SNL)/CA tritiated clay request to ship seven drums to the Nevada Test Site (NTS). A meeting is scheduled in early June with the National TRU Program Office, SNL/CA and NTS to identify issues to be resolved prior to the scheduling of the shipment from SNL/CA to NTS.
- The 72-B Remote Handled TRU Shipping Cask Safety Analysis Report for Packaging is to be submitted to Jill Lytle, DOE-HQ for certification before being submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for final certification. The initial review process by HQ is being requested to be accomplished within six months.
- Briefing on the operational procedures and status of the CH and RH handling functions were presented to the CAO manager on May 26. A number of procedural issues were raised in both functional areas. A great deal of analysis and modification work will be required to bring the RH handling function into readiness to meet the DDP schedule.

- On May 24-25, a computer security audit was completed at the WIPP. The outbrief indicated several weaknesses and one finding concerning "mission essentiality determinations" which will be in the final report. The final report will be provided in approximately two weeks.

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- TRU Projects Intersite Working Group (TRU Partnership) meeting in Carlsbad June 7-8, 1994.
- June Change Control Board is scheduled for June 10, 1994.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures Meeting will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe June 12-15. A WIPP tour is scheduled June 11.
- Third International Conference on Transportation for the Nuclear Industry in Windermere, Cumbrias, UK, June 5-12, 1994.
- TRU Partnership meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, June 9-10, 1994.
- The Environmental Protection Agency Technical Exchange meeting is scheduled June 14-15, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- Carlsbad Area Office Management Retreat is scheduled for June 14, 1994, at Washington Ranch.
- The National Academy of Science quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 16-17, 1994, in Washington, D.C. A dry run is scheduled for June 8 at the SNL/BDM building in Albuquerque.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/20/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Program Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Quality Assurance Requirements Document.
- Complete Carlsbad Area Office Technical Baseline Document.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Completed the annual Command Post Exercise for activation of the Emergency Operations Center and demonstrating

coordination and cooperation with outside agencies. This Command Post Exercise was a portion of a mass casualty drill held by the City of Carlsbad, Guadalupe Medical Center and the Carlsbad Area Office/Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. City Police, Fire and Ambulance Services, County Sheriff and Emergency Management were participants.

- The June Change Control Board meeting call memorandum was forwarded to participants on May 17, 1994. Submissions are due by June 1, 1994, and the Board will meet on June 10, 1994.
- Copies of the draft Land Management Implementation Plan have been mailed for Stakeholder review. Comments are due on or before June 15, 1994.
- A topical discussion presenting planning activities for Panel 1 was conducted on May 19, 1994. Attendees included the Inspector Generals Office (IG), Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG), Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Bureau of Mines (BOM), Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA), Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID), and the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO). The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the CAO's current strategy for use of Panel 1 as the first waste disposal Panel in support of the Disposal Decision Plan (DDP), and also to explain the flexibility available should conditions or schedules change.
- The Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment (EA) is at DOE/HQ. (Focused efforts are needed to work the EA through the system.) The Los Alamos National Laboratory test is ready to be initiated once the EA is approved.
- A Task Force has been initiated consisting of members from the Experimental Programs Branch, Compliance Branch, External Relations, Sandia National Laboratory, and Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division to ensure that the System Prioritization proceeds at the proper pace and answers all concerns. Experimental Programs Branch chairs the Task Force.
- Consistent with the Secretary's draft National Environmental Policy Act policy statement to reduce the cost/schedule for the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements, a position paper has been prepared based on Carlsbad Area Office delegation of authority, reduced level of detail and reduced scoping meetings. This could reduce the schedule by approximately 18 months.
- Conducted Waste Characterization Program Review Meeting on the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and Rocky Flats

Waste Characterization programs, to identify issues related to the March 1995 "draft" compliance submittal.

- Current National TRU Program State Systems Description document is being updated. Volumes I and II are expected to be issued end of May 1994 with Volume III (Site Summaries) to be issued the end of July, 1994.
- On May 17-19, 1994, a DOE/Environmental Management sponsored meeting was held for the seven DOE waste types - low level, mixed low level, TRU, high level, hazardous, sanitary and spent fuel. Working with and through the TRU Waste Steering Committee the National TRU Program Office will prepare the TRU waste sections of a Waste Management Program Plan.
- A position paper is being prepared for the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) National TRU Program Office (NTPO) defining the options for the follow-on TRU waste carrier support. The present contract expires June 30, 1994, and has two options of two months each that can extend the contract until October 31, 1994. Efforts are underway to expedite this issue to insure carrier support for the CAO NTPO in the continuing efforts to service the generator sites.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Carlsbad Department of Development's unsolicited proposal has been returned to the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division coordinator for corrections and for a detailed cost estimate. It will be forwarded to Headquarters unsolicited proposal coordinator when corrections are completed.
- Electrical outages at the site on Monday, May 16, 1994, were documented on the Occurrence Report. These incidents provide further support for the rationale calling for another independent power supply at the Carlsbad Area Office as proposed in our General Plant Project. Events such as these will be eliminated when the Electrical Upgrade Line Item is completed.
- Progress continues in revising the National TRU Program Strategic Issues report. The Executive Summary is being rewritten and lengthened to include more of the issues, and the text is being reorganized. By June 15, the document is expected to be reviewed, edited, and ready for distribution following approval.

## MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Carlsbad Area Office Manager met with Inspector General (IG) representative Fred Dogget and Larry Ackerly to discuss very preliminary audit results. The joint DOE/IG Audit Team are preparing their draft reports which will feed into the final report.
- Carlsbad Area Office Manager's Budget Presentation, FY1996-FY2000, to EM-1 scheduled for May 23, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Gas Generation test kick-off meeting is scheduled for May 23 & 24, 1994, in Idaho Falls, Idaho.
- A computer security survey is scheduled for May 24-25, 1994. Sue Flores, Security and Nuclear Safeguards Division Divisional Computer Security Program Manager is providing survey services from the Albuquerque Operations Office.
- Third International Conference on Transportation for the Nuclear Industry in Windermere, Cumbrias, UK, June 5-12, 1994.
- TRU Partnership meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, June 9-10, 1994.
- The Environmental Protection Agency Technical Exchange meeting is scheduled the week of June 13, 1994, in Washington, D.C.
- The National Academy of Science quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 16-17, 1994, in Washington, D.C.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/06/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General (OIG)/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July, 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete CAO Quality Assurance Requirements Document.
- Complete CAO Technical Baseline Document.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Completed another successful Technical Exchange meeting with the EPA and stakeholders on Salado and Rustler fluid flow and transport. EPA, State of New Mexico, EEG and other participants commented favorably on the content and conduct of the meeting presentations and discussions.
- The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory has been selected as the facility where the enhanced laboratory tests will be performed with actual CH-TRU wastes to provide data on gas generation. A Site Evaluation Report rated the proposals on technical feasibility, regulatory compliance, cost, and schedule and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory's proposal was rated highest. A technical kick-off meeting is expected to occur within a few weeks.
- The CAO Change Control Board reviewed 26 Baseline Change Requests on April 29 and May 2, 1994. Their recommendations were presented to the CAO on May 2, 1994. Final decisions were relayed to participants by a letter. The Financial Plan adjustments will be made as soon as possible.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) completed the second quarter comprehensive safety inspection of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This inspection was conducted by Federal Inspectors on April 26-29, 1994. There were no violations of the mandatory standards found. The inspection included all surface and underground work areas.
- Draft E of the Quality Assurance Requirements and Description was distributed for comment to HQ and principal program participants.
- Consistent with the Secretary's draft NEPA policy statement to reduce the cost/schedule for the preparation of EISs, steps are being proposed that would result in an earlier completion for SEIS-II, currently scheduled for October 1997.
- GAO representatives continued their field work this week. Their work is focused on auditing the "Summary of Alternative Costs" and establishing what savings have and will occur from the October 1993 test strategy change. They plan to report their findings to the key staffers of the House by June. The key members will decide if a full audit and findings will be issued. They have been provided the Baseline Change Requests, and a copy of the decision.
- Los Alamos Area Office has submitted the Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment to DOE/AL for transmission to DOE/HQ.

- The Ribbon cutting ceremony for the startup of the Waste Characterization Area (WCA) at Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) took place May 5, 1994. Attendees included Representatives for the State of Idaho, Senator Craig's office, Idaho Operations Office, EG&G-Idaho, ANL-East, Los Alamos National Laboratory and ANL-W. The event marked the opening of the WCA, which is a vital part of the TRU Waste Characterization Program.
- DOE/AL Facilities and Property Management Division (FPMD) completed their review of the space request for the leased CAO office building. The package was forwarded to the GSA Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas on April 29, 1994.
- Draft answers to EM-342 questions on the FY96 ADS were forwarded on April 29, 1994. This information will be used during the EM-30 Budget "Murder Board" currently scheduled for May 6, 1994.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has finally approved the CAO/WIPP Mine Rescue Teams to compete for the National Championships. We have competed in the past as a "demonstration" team because we were not an active mine.
- Revision 13 of the TRUPACT-II SARP was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for approval. The revision clarified the Quality Assurance responsibilities and requirements, added Tritium at Sandia National Laboratory - California and filter contents at Savannah River Plant to shipping content codes, and provided the TRUPACT-II Certificate of Compliance which would expire in August 1994.
- A letter in response to an article critical of the WIPP stakeholder communications was sent to Public Relations Society of America's Journal. The article, "Communications Fallout Derails Waste Project," was written by a former WID employee.
- DOE/AL Facilities and Property Management Division (FPMD) completed their review of the space request for the leased CAO office building. The package was forwarded to the GSA Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas on April 29, 1994.
- Participated in the Western Governors Association Technical Advisory Group meeting on WIPP Transport in Jackson, Wyoming, May 3-6, 1994. WGA indicated DOE is working toward effectively addressing their issues.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- A draft issue paper is being staffed to address the significant funding shortfalls in FY95 and FY96. EM-1 will have its formal IRB on May 23, 1994. CAO has been requested to present the WIPP and NTPO requirements at the May 23, 1994, meeting.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next three months. Latest instrumentation data indicates that the roof has temporarily stabilized. Video cameras are setup to record this event when it does occur.
- A WID employee suffered a fractured leg while underground on May 4, 1994. This is a reportable incident categorized as "off-normal." An ORPS report was submitted on May 5, 1994.

 The New Mexico Environmental Department has not yet made a decision on our request to modify the RCRA Part B Permit Application for the WIPP. Discussions continue with the Secretary NMED and her staff.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The CAO/WIPP "Blue" Mine Rescue Team is on travel to compete in the New Iberia, Louisiana, mine rescue competition on May 6 & 7.
- The WIPPTREX '94 Full Scale Exercise will take place in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on May 9-10, 1994. Emergency response training and logistical support for the event were provided by the WID GA staff.
- First TRU Steering Committee meeting in Carlsbad, NM May 10-11, 1994.
- The Mid-Year Review will be held in Carlsbad, NM May 12, 1994.
- DOE Packaging Workshop in Knoxville, Tennessee, May 16-20, 1994.
- A topical discussion presenting planning activities for Panel 1 is scheduled for May 19, 1994. Attendees will include the IG, the EEG, SNL, WID, the CAO and other interested parties.
- Budget presentation, FY1996-FY2000, to EM-1 scheduled for May 23, 1994, in Washington, D.C.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 04/15/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General (OIG)/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July, 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Implement the approved Westinghouse Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.
- Determine need for and direction of the Engineered Alternatives Program.
- Complete CAO Quality Assurance Requirements Document.

- Complete CAO Technical Baseline Document.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- SNL has revised their Audit Schedule to accommodate CAO concerns on the quantity and activities being audited.
- The Compliance Status Report (CSR) was issued to EPA, EEG, and various stakeholders on April 11, 1994.
- Preparing report on proposal evaluation for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation and have prepared draft Environmental Checklist.
- LANL will submit the Source Term Test Plan (STTP) Environmental Assessment (EA) to LAAO for transmittal to HQ this week.
- The Joint Powers Agreement for the Alternate Emergency Operations Center has been signed by all parties and is now up to date.
- As of April 13, the Carlsbad Radiological Assistance Team has been assigned the role of "Primary Responder" for Radiological Assistance Program Region 4. The AL Emergency Management section is participating in an international incident drill in England and the CAO/WIPP has been requested to provide coverage for the 5 state area of Region 4.
- CAO signed the Revised FY94 Work Authorization Directives (WADs) for WID on April 8, 1994. Distribution was made this week including a copy to AL-CFO per their request. These WADs become the new baseline for change control requests.
- Two National TRU Program Office (NTPO) teams will conduct site surveys at the waste generator/storage sites. Utilizing two teams, all major storage sites will be visited by April 30, 1994. Purpose is to establish a current state system baseline, discuss site specific issues, current and future waste inventory and NTPO alignment and organization.
- Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) Project/Operations Management committed to an April 15, 1994 startup of the Waste Characterization Chamber, located at the Hot Fuel Examination Facility at ANL-W.
- Activities have been initiated to prepare TRUPACT-II Mobile Loading Unit 2 (MLU-2) to support shipment of tritiated clay from Sandia National Laboratory-Livermore, California to the Nevada Test Site. The MLU-2 is

scheduled to provide the specialized tools and equipment needed to load and unload TRUPACT-IIs.

- Westinghouse personnel and the TRUPACT-II Gas Generation Test Integration Working Group finalized the gas generation test plan. This plan will be reviewed by all parties and submitted to the NRC for approval as part of Revision 13 of the TRUPACT-II SARP.
- Representatives from the state of Colorado met with a Westinghouse representative to discuss the feasibility of conducting a WIPPTREX during October, 1994. Colorado agencies expressed a desire to have the exercise scenario evaluate radiological team interactions rather than the initial response as is usually done.
- A successful kick-off meeting with EEG was held on April 12, 1994, to initiate working with the EEG in the development phase of the Disposal FSAR. We will have a series of technical working meetings to resolve their FSAR issues which will lead to a better Disposal FSAR.
- Public Information Programs Staff hosted the Quality New Mexico tour on April 7, 1994. A total of 94 leaders from across the country and New Mexico, who are involved in business, education, and government, were in attendance. In conjunction with the conference, the visitors were given the opportunity to see quality practices in action by touring the WIPP Project.
- WID supported the Corporate VPP Evaluation Team. The Corporate team evaluated the VPP Application, conducted interviews, reviewed documentation, and completed a walk-through inspection of the site. The team stated that they would issue Star status to the WIPP based on their evaluation.
- Approximately 200 people viewed the WIPP overview exhibit featured at the Quality Conference and Awards Ceremony on April 8, 1994, at the Carlsbad Civic Center.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The SNL plan for verification of compliance data has been delayed and will not start until April 22, 1994.
- The LAAO submitted the source term test program (STTP) environmental assessment (EA) to HQ for approval and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). The EA is still the critical path for this experiment and it can not begin until the EA is approved and the FONSI is issued.

- The 2.2 square mile exclusive use (Off-Limits) notification in the Federal register is in process. A Federal Register draft has been submitted to OCC, AL for review prior to submitting to HQ for publishing.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next two months. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur.
- Significant funding shortfalls in FY95 and FY96 will require additional staff work to develop scope alternatives and revised phasing options for CAO presentation to EM-30/EM-1.
- DOE and WID personnel visited the area near the SPDV salt pile where several cultural artifacts were discovered by Pat McCasland (NMED). The findings were significant enough to warrant further investigation. WID contacted BLM's archeologist and they will survey the area on April 26, 1994.

#### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Week of April 18, 1994, EPA QA has requested a meeting with CAO, SNL, and WID on QA Hierarchy and Assessments.
- Jeff Wheelwright of the Smithsonian Magazine will visit the WIPP on April 21, 1994.
- Mike Satchell of U. S. News and World Report will visit the WIPP on April 25, 1994.
- The Award Fee Board Meeting will be April 27-28, 1994, in Albuquerque.
- The CAO Change Control Board is scheduled for April 29, 1994, with Baseline Change Requests due by April 22, 1994.
- The Management Council Meeting will be held in Albuquerque on April 29.
- Status briefing to the Hobbs, NM Community Leaders will be May 3.
- First TRU Steering Committee meeting in Carlsbad, New Mexico, May 10-11, 1994.
- The Mid-Year Review will be held in Carlsbad, May 12.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 04/01/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems prioritization and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Facilitate and help conduct Office of the Inspector General (OIG)/DOE Joint Audit. Estimated completion date, July, 1994.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved Westinghouse Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- ✱ ● Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report for external distribution by March 31, 1994.
- Finalize a Facility Representative Program Plan.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CAO Manager and Deputy Manager met with Fred Doggett and Judy Jew of the OIG audit team. The scope of the joint DOE/OIG audit and make-up of the audit team were discussed; it appears that the audit is going well; technical team member advisors have been selected and the joint audit process seems to be working smoothly.



Judy Espinosa, Secretary of NMED, held a stakeholder meeting in Santa Fe on March 31, for continued discussions of the status of the WIPP RCRA Part B permit application. Presentations/status reports were presented by CAO and WID staff. Discussions of the status of the litigation regarding WIPP's "interim status" was lively. Secretary Espinosa continues to consider several options including continuing the permitting process. No specific date for her decision was given.

- The CAO Manager met with the New Mexico Attorney General's (AG) Office concerning their proposed grant to obtain support to review 40 CFR 194, Performance Assessment Reports, etc. CAO will seriously consider the AG's needs and the additional needs of the NMED. CAO intends to develop an approach to provide reasonable funding.
- On March 31, 1994, two DNFSB staff members visited the WIPP. Items discussed were the CAO Organization, Site Test Program, maintenance, predicted roof fall, training and Operation Readiness Review.
- Quality Assurance Requirements Document (QARD) comments were incorporated into Draft D of the QARD. The document is now at the technical editor and will be distributed for final internal review and comment the week of April 11, 1994.
- The Compliance Status Report (CSR) is being finalized and will be available for distribution to EPA and stakeholders early April.
- Began the evaluation of proposals (4) and the site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- The National TRU Program Office Assessment team completed its assessment activities at INEL and ANL-W and identified (9) nine concerns. Their report was issued April 1, 1994.
- Revision 13 of the TRUPACT-II SARP will include new/revised content codes as requested by several generator sites, a revised test plan for TRUPACT-II

gas generation testing, and a description of the proposed SNL tritium shipments from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to the Nevada Test Site. Also, at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's recommendation, the revision will include a request for timely renewal of the TRUPACT-II Certificate of Compliance.

- The Senior Level Disposal Decision Plan final draft was reviewed by CAO Manager and forwarded to EM for review and concurrence on March 29, 1994. CAO included the predecisional draft in a letter to the Stakeholders issued on March 22, 1994. Stakeholders were briefed on the Senior level DDP and the planning process during a meeting held on March 30, 1994.
- Sarah Renfo, Cynthia Rasmussen, and Victor Sgobba, of the GAO, continued their field work on March 30 and 31, 1994. They focused on Program and budget process, WID transition, the establishment of the National TRU Program Office and the establishment of the Carlsbad Area Office.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Discussions between the DOE attorneys (Justice Department) and the plaintiffs' attorneys in the RCRA/NEPA/FLPMA litigation were held in Santa Fe on April 1. Caroline Zander, Dan Pinkston and George Dials represented the DOE/CAO. Kevin Ward (Environmental Defense Fund) and Lindsey Lovejoy (NM Attorney General's office) represented the plaintiffs. Discussions were quite positive and a settlement agreement may be achievable under mutually beneficial terms.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next two months. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur.
- The LAAO has transmitted the draft EA to EM-22, EM-342, EPD/AL, and the CAO requesting concurrent review of the STTP EA. The EA remains the critical path for the start of this test program at LANL. The comment resolution process is continuing.
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory has not received their capital equipment funding and will slip readiness of the laboratory until the August/September time frame. After several inquiries, it was determined that the funds had not been correctly transferred by DOE/Headquarters (HQ). After discussions with HQ, we were assured that a transfer will be made in the April financial plan from HQ. National TRU Program Office is continuing to monitor the situation.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The Bureau of Mines (BOM) were on site March 31 to discuss the installation of the Computer-assisted Ground Control Management System (GCMS).
- WIPPTREX 94-1 Meeting in Rock Springs, Wyoming, April 6-8, 1994.
- National Academy of Science WIPP Panel Quarterly Meeting will be held in Santa Fe, NM on April 6-7. April 6th will be devoted to a tour and briefing on the activities source term activities at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) hospital training will take place in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in support of WIPPTREX '94 on April 6-7, 1994.
- A meeting is scheduled with the New Mexico Pueblo tribal representatives to discuss funding issues and to participate in a public participation workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 6-7, 1994.
- The WIPP overview exhibit will be featured at the Quality Conference and Awards Ceremony on April 8, 1994, at the Carlsbad Civic Center. Leaders from across the country and New Mexico who are implementing quality in business, education, and government will be attending.
- The DOE/NMED/EEG 46th Quarterly Meeting will be held in Carlsbad, NM on April 13, 1994.
- New Mexico Radioactive Waste Task Force Meeting, April 19, 1994, in Santa Fe, NM. CAO to present status briefings.
- First Week of May the U.S. Bureau of Mines Annual Evaluation on safety of the WIPP site as required by the Land Withdrawal Act.

I N F O R M A L M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 11, 1994  
TO: Distribution  
FROM: George E. Dials, Manager, CAO  
SUBJECT: Carlsbad Area Office Weekly Report

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Please find attached the Carlsbad Area Office Weekly Report.  
Please note that the date at the top of the report is the end  
date of the reporting period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at  
234-7300.

*Barbara*  
*John P. [initials]*  
→ will file

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 03/11/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the Carlsbad Area Office, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved Westinghouse Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to National TRU Program Office.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for Carlsbad Area Office.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report for external distribution by March 31, 1994.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The start of a modified Systems Review PA interview process is delayed to evaluate and possibly modify the process.
- Carlsbad Area Office extended the due date for the submission of Enhanced Laboratory Program Technical Proposals until March 18, 1994 at the request of several potential bidders to enable them to offer a better product.
- The Compliance Integration Committee met on March 4, 1994, and developed a strategy to review the Compliance Status Report.
- As noted last week, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Carlsbad Area Office and EM-30 office defining the roles and responsibilities of each, in regard to the National TRU Program (NTP), was signed by George Dials and Jill Lytle on February 28th. A copy will be provided to the generator sites and all other NTP participants for their information. This will enable the NTP Office to move aggressively forward.
- A copy of the Final Evaluation Report was received for the Department of Transportation (DOT) 7A Docket Number 90-16-7A for the Ten Drum Overpack (TDOP). The report was sent to the DOE's Transportation and Safety Division for approval. Approval is expected to take approximately two months.
- States Training and Education Program (STEP) classes were held in Rock Springs, Wyoming, March 2-3, 1994, with a total of 53 students in attendance. Wyoming STEP training will continue March 7-13, 1994.
- Papers were presented at the Waste Management '94 conference addressing changes to National TRU Program Office and future plans. One of the results reported by the TRU Waste Partnership Inter-Site Working Group (IWG) was a cost savings in excess of \$5M directly attributable to the integrated planning approach of the IWG.
- Approximately 36 government, business, and industry officials attended the breakfast meeting at the Waste Management Symposium '94 on February 28, 1994, in Tucson, Arizona. Administrative and support services, as well as activities required to maintain compliance with safety, health, environmental, and legal regulations were discussed.

- The Carlsbad Area Office and Westinghouse Public Information Programs successfully coordinated Secretary O'Leary's visit to the WIPP site March 5, 1994. The visit included an employee address and a tour of the underground with a demonstration by the WIPP Mine Rescue Team. Several members of Congress, the Senate, and Representatives from the State of New Mexico were present for the tour. Secretary O'Leary seemed very pleased and expressed strong support for program activities and schedules.
- The Albuquerque Operations Office managed Contractor Procurement System Review (CPSR) of Westinghouse Purchasing was completed recently and may result in an unconditional approval for WIPP activities. This represents a great improvement over the last review and several areas such as Advanced Planning, Sole/Single Source Purchases and Self Assessment were noted as strengths.
- The Carlsbad Area Office staff is conducting a WIPP/National TRU Program System Planning/Control review with most participants in attendance. This process will allow for discreet and accurate work planning and establish a ranked baseline for all work leading to the accelerated compliance. The data gathered will feed into the FY 1996 - 2000 Activity Data Sheets submission in April, 1994.
- The joint IG, Headquarters Audit of the WIPP operations was initiated with an in-conference and tour of the WIPP Site on March 7, 1994.
- Provided site briefings to EPA Region VI. Meetings were conducted with Chuck Byrum, and the presentations have been well received. EPA Region 6 has taken a position that they are not, at this time, authorized to act on behalf of any other agency.
- A review of the Applications for Permit to Drill for the Mitchell Energy Corporation eight well locations has been conducted. Six wells are outside 330 feet and do not encroach on the WIPP withdrawal boundary. However, because the locations for two wells fall at 405' we requested copies of daily drilling logs to maximize our institutional control.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Los Alamos Area Office has transmitted the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to EM-22, EM-342, AL\EPD, and the Carlsbad Area Office requesting concurrent review of the STTP EA; working to resolve comments. The EA remains the critical path for the start of this test at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 03/04/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Prepare for Secretary O'Leary's March 5th visit.
- Complete transition to the CAO, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved WID Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to NTPO.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for CAO.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report (CSR) for external distribution by March 31, 1994.

- Prepare Specifications/Procurement Plan for CAO leased facility.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- CAO Manager attended the first day of Waste Management '94 Symposium in Tucson on February 28, and presented a CAO/WIPP status report to senior DOE and industry officials at a CAO and WID sponsored breakfast.
- Substantial progress was made in discussions among CAO and EM staff concerning their respective roles and responsibilities. A consensus document will be prepared and approved by the end of next week.
- Draft Preliminary Real Estate Plan (PREP) for the Carlsbad Area Office Building has been issued to CAO, WID, SNL, and FPMD/AL for review and comments. Target for completion of the PREP is March 11, 1994.
- CAO and WID environmental staff attended a meeting in Santa Fe with NMED staff on the need for a DOE/NM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Management of the WIPP Withdrawal Area. The State submitted a draft Joint Powers Agreement (as they prefer to call it), instead of an MOU for CAO's consideration. Discussions will continue.
- Concluded a very successful technical exchange meeting with the EPA on Performance Assessment. The format and level of technical detail provided to the EPA will serve as a model for future meetings. Resolved question regarding EPA and stakeholder access to computer codes and data.
- Concluded a successful clarification meeting with EPA HQ concerning the certification criteria (40 CFR 194). Additional comments will be provided to EPA.
- CAO extended the due date for the submission of ELP Technical Proposals until March 18, 1994 at the request of several potential bidders to enable them to offer a better product.
- Several CAO coauthored papers were presented at the WM '94 Symposium during the TRU Waste session. Copies of these papers are available upon request.
- The Memorandum of Agreement between the CAO and EM-30 defining the roles and responsibilities of each in regards to the National TRU Program (NTP) was signed by Jill Lytle and George Dials on February 28th.

- NTPO and DOE/Oak Ridge agreed to conduct a joint operational readiness review and certification audit of the sludge laboratory in the June/July time frame or upon completion of the lab.
- Distribution for external review was made of Volumes I and II of the TWP Current State Systems Description; comments are due March 16.
- The TRU waste carrier returned one modified trailer from Alloy Trailers, Inc. in Spokane, WA, to the WIPP site. Three additional trailers have been modified and are ready to be returned to the WIPP site as scheduling permits.
- Requirements for Management Control System (MCS) for use by NTPO contractors were developed. NTPO internal review was completed February 25. Will be given to Administrative Branch of CAO the week of March 7.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPVD Room 2 within the next three months. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur.
- Southwestern Public Service has violated NEPA requirements in construction of the access road for a new powerline South of the WIPP Facility. The access road has been graded, including a portion upon DOE controlled land, in violation of the BLM Environmental Assessment. The issue is presently being discussed with DOE, SPS, EPA and BLM.
- Resolution of differences between DOE and EPA on contents of 40 CFR 194, Draft criteria for Regulatory Compliance.
- In response to recent DOE-AL initiatives concerning suspect parts, the WID Independent Assessment group has initiated steps to improve the procurement and control of fasteners.
- Oak Ridge has not yet received their capital equipment funds. Completion of the laboratory will likely slip by one month. Further delays in capital equipment funding will result in a day-for-day schedule slippage.

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- Southern States Energy Board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia beginning March 7, 1994.

- EPA Region VI site visit to WIPP is scheduled for March 8-10.
- NTPO Program meeting with SNL in Albuquerque, New Mexico beginning March 9, 1994.
- George Dials to Santa Fe, NM, March 10, for meetings with State Officials.
- Meeting of Compliance Integration Committee on March 14-15, 1994, to resolve comments on the CSR document.
- George Dials in Washington, D.C. March 22-23 to participate in meeting with Operations Office and Assistant Secretary Grumbly on roles and responsibilities.
- George Dials in Washington, D.C. March 24 for mandatory training course, "Customer Focus Advocate - Executive Overview.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/25/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Prepare for Secretary O'Leary's March 5th visit.
- Complete transition to the CAO, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved WID Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to NTPO.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for CAO.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report (CSR) for internal review by March 1, 1994.
- Prepare Specifications/Procurement Plan for CAO leased facility.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Arrangements and coordination activities continue in preparation for Secretary O'Leary's scheduled visit to the CAO/WIPP on March 5th. A draft agenda, issue papers and talking points have been developed and provided to HQ.
- An issue paper focused on economic development alternatives/options for the Carlsbad area was completed and submitted to Assistant Secretary Grumbly on February 24. It recommended support for two projects of special interest to the community - the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center and the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center. CAO and HQ staff have provided assistance to the Carlsbad Department of Development in the conceptualization and planning of these projects.
- Completed the review and revision of CAO and contractor comments regarding 40 CFR 194 on February 17, 1994, and sent them to EM-30 for transmittal to EPA (ORIA).
- NTPO and DOE/Oak Ridge agreed to conduct a joint operational readiness review and certification audit of the sludge laboratory in the June/July time frame or upon completion of the lab.
- Final working draft review of DOE Order 5820.2B was completed with the members of the Technical Working Group. Paul Dickman chairs the group and will be presenting the final draft at the full committee meeting the week of March 7.
- The Waste Characterization Conference was held in Pocatello, Idaho on February 14-16, 1994. Over seventy persons attended this meeting which included representation from the DOE-HQ, CAO, generator/storage site waste management, waste operations, research/development, and commercial vendors. This meeting was regarded as a major success in regard to addressing those issues impacting the accurate characterization of TRU waste.
- NTPO staff met with SNL/LATA to fine tune the amount of additional funding needed to support the NTPO Planning and Integration functions for the remainder of the fiscal year. The NTPO Manager was in HQ for a presentation and additional funding proposal to EM the week of February 22, 1994.
- The TRU waste carrier delivered the last fleet trailer for crossmember modification to Alloy Trailers, Inc. in Spokane, Washington. In addition, one modified trailer was returned to the WIPP site.

*Benito -  
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copy of  
these*

- Discussions continued with the Savannah River Site (SRS) on the use of the TRUPACT-II for moving TRU contaminated wastes intrasite. The SRS is working on radiation work permits for the initial packaging of the waste.
- The Enhanced Lab Program RFP Technical Exchange Meeting was held on February 24, 1994. The meeting was to discuss the ELP technical requirements with organizations who are considering preparation and submission of a technical proposal.
- Redlined WADs, with FY93 Carry Over, Production Enhancement Reductions and scope encumbered by OMB 5% Hold awaiting the FY95 Five Year Plan, were forwarded to AL-CPD on February 17, 1994.
- The Management Directive for Change Control Board Procedures was forwarded to WID Printing and Publication document control. All participants have received the draft and have been instructed to develop future BCRs using the procedures format.
- CAO Branch Chief and HQ staff comments on the Senior Level Disposal Decision Plan have been received and are being integrated into a final product which should be available by March 4, 1994.
- CAO and WID environmental staff attended a meeting in Santa Fe on the need for a DOE/NM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Management of the WIPP Area. The State submitted a draft Joint Powers Agreement (as they prefer to call it), instead of an MOU for CAO's consideration.
- At the conclusion of the DOE-EPA Technical Exchange meetings held February 22-25, 1994, at Sandia National Laboratories the EPA noted the meeting was the best technical exchange meeting to date. The EPA noted their overall objectives for the meeting were met and lauded the levels of effort, detail and flexibility displayed.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Discussions continue with EM-30 on the development of roles and responsibilities for CAO and HQ activities related to WIPP and the National TRU Program. These should be finalized no later than mid-March.
- Discussions were held with LANL, INEL, and SRS to determine if a savings through sharing agreement could be affected in regard to the disposition of the WIPP's mobile NDA/NDE system. The five trailers which compose this system have been sitting idle at the INEL for the last two years while awaiting a decision on whether the estimated cost (\$4,000,000) to bring the system up to code (OSHA, DOT) is justified by their utility.

- The recent contract modification which downsizes the carrier to one tractor and two drivers, remains unsigned. WID has reiterated positions discussed during negotiations that the proposed costs related to severance pay were not allowed. DAWN Enterprises, Inc. was again requested to acknowledge Change Notice No. 1 which was transmitted to them on January 20, 1994.
- The start of the PA System review interview process is still scheduled to begin March 10. The PA question set, the facilitator guide, and peer reviewers interview guide have been sent out and the peer reviewer indoctrination is set for the week of February 28, 1994.
- There is a short time frame to accomplish integration and completion of Activity Data Sheets by April 1, 1994.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next three months. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur.

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- SNL will brief NTPO on the "TRU Conceptual Strategic Plan" in early March.
- Contractor Procurement Systems Review (CPSR) follow-up being conducted 2/22 - 3/4 to verify corrective actions are closed from previous CPSR (1/91). A CPSR outbriefing will be conducted on 3/4/94 at 9:00 a.m. to summarize findings/results.
- EPA Region VI site visit to WIPP is scheduled for March 8-10, 1994.
- Southern States Energy Board meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, March 7-11.

#### **TRAVEL**

- George Dials to WM '94 Conference in Tucson, AZ, February 27 through March 2, 1994.
- Mike McFadden to WM '94 Conference, Tucson, AZ, March 1 through March 2
- George Dials in Washington, D.C. March 14 for mandatory training course, "Customer Focus Advocate - Executive Overview.
- George Dials to Washington, D.C. March 15 to participate in meeting with Operations Office and Assistant Secretary Grumbly on roles and responsibilities.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/18/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Prepare for Secretary O'Leary's visit March 4 & 5.
- Complete transition to the CAO, including staffing personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved WID Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to NTPO.
- Prepare Specifications/Procurement Plan for CAO leased facility.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and stakeholders on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for CAO.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report (CSR) for internal review by March 1, 1994.

*Part B?*

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Met with WTAC staff to discuss status of LWA required "RH Waste Study Plan". Developing a strategy to achieve product completion by October 1995.
- Completed EM stand down preliminary report.
- Final working draft review of DOE Order 5820.2B was completed with the members of the Technical Working Group. Final draft will be presented at the full committee meeting in mid-March.
- CAO has implemented Change Control Board Procedures for all participants.
- Final HQ and CAO Branch Chief comments on the Senior Level Disposal Decision Plan have been requested by February 22, 1994.
- The System Review PA question set, the facilitator guide, and the peer reviewers interview guide have been finalized and sent to SNL and the PA peer review panel. The procurement package for the Peer Review experts has been completed, reviewed and approved by and CAO and delivered to AL/Contracts & Procurement Division (CPD).
- The CAO QA Requirements and Description document was presented to the senior staff on February 11. Comments are due by February 25, 1994.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) completed it's second quarter safety inspection of the WIPP site. One Courtesy Assistance Visit (CAV) Notice for a Non-S&S (Significant and Substantial) finding was issued; but after consultation with the MSHA Supervisor it was determined that a hazard had not been identified, so the CAV Notice was vacated. The MSHA Inspectors voiced their pleasure with the condition of the site.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The recent bridge contract modification which downsizes the carrier to one tractor and two drivers, still remains to be signed by the carrier. DAWN Enterprises, Inc. has requested clarification of insurance provisions, change of the point of contact for the contract and severance pay provisions.
- EEG/NMIT contract requires re-negotiation by September 30, 1994.
- The State of New Mexico wants to combine the Supplemental Stipulated Agreement (SSA) and Western Governors Association into one instrument to eliminate duplication of overhead cost.

- The 2.2 square mile exclusive use notification in the Federal register is pending legal support. AL/GC has committed to provide a preparation package.
- The STTP EA is now being finalized through DOE/LAAO and should be delivered to AL/Environmental Protection Division (EPD) next week. Review will need to be expedited by EPD, so that the DOE headquarters review and approval can be initiated. This EA remains the critical path item for the start of this test at LANL.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next three months. Video cameras are set up to record this event when it does occur. Center convergence gages indicate convergence of 10 in/yr and the rate is accelerating.

#### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Questions from the House of Representatives letter of February 11, 1994 to Secretary O'Leary have been staffed to personnel at HQ, CAO, SNL, and WID. Responses are due to questions by February 16, 1994 and to document request by March 1, 1994. The responses will require an extensive amount of manpower.
- LANL Technical Meeting (EEG, NMED, etc.) (Los Alamos, NM): February 17, 1994. Meeting responding to action item from the last NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Meeting, to discuss, and tour, the Source Term Test.
- SNL/EEG Meeting (EEG Offices, Albuquerque, NM): February 18, 1994  
SNL meeting to discuss the role of the new SNL Department 6307 and the issue of PA computer code access.
- Systems Review Peer Reviewers Indoctrination Session (ASI Building, Albuquerque, NM) will be February 23-24, 1994. Meeting to provide all peer review members an orientation on WIPP, on the Experimental and PA Programs, to provide interview training, and to discuss the standardized question set.
- System Review Interviews (PA Analysis) (BDM Building, Albuquerque, NM) will be March 7-11, 1994. Phase 1 PA interviews for the Experimental & PA Programs Systems Review.
- National Academy of Sciences Meeting (Los Alamos & Santa Fe, NM) will be April 6-7, 1994. Next quarterly meeting with NAS.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/10/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the CAO, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTPO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved WID Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to NTPO.
- Prepare Specifications/Procurement Plan for CAO leased facility.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and stakeholders on the Resource and Conservation Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for CAO.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report (CSR) for internal review by March 1, 1994.

- A response was provided to and accepted by the Westinghouse Hanford Company (WHC) DOE 7A packaging evaluators, regarding the minimum number of filters to be used in the ten drum overpack (TDOP). The evaluators are preparing a report on TDOP, and expecting completion of the report in mid February 1994.
- Personnel from the Savannah River Plant (SRP) were at the WIPP site on February 9-11 to discuss criticality issues with WID personnel and to view the TRUPACT-II and SWB in preparation for the utilization of the TRUPACT-II for intrasite transfers at the SRP.
- Approximately 2100 students, faculty, and members of the general public viewed the WIPP exhibit at the Carlsbad Science Showcase on February 3-4, 1994. Featured were the Computer Aided Design (CAD) system; a computer aided drafting package and the "Bug System," which is a voice activated program that allows non-manual interaction with the CAD system.
- KOAT-TV ran a two-part series on the WIPP's current status and economic impact on southeastern New Mexico on February 2-3, 1994.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The MOU with Eddy County for law enforcement support has taken a giant step forward. The Sheriff is supporting the agreement and the District Attorney has requested the legal cases that give the county concurrent jurisdiction.
- The recent Dawn Trucking bridge contract modification to downsize the carrier from three tractors and six drivers to one tractor and two drivers has not been signed by both parties. Accrued vacation pay and fringe benefit calculations are the primary issues.
- The Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment (STTP/EA) is now in the sixth month of review by DOE/LAAO. DOE/LAAO's primary issue with the EA is the treatment of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the STTP at a site other than LANL. A third major modification has been submitted. This effort needs higher priority to prevent significant delays and is being addressed.
- The Systems Review of the Experimental Program has been delayed due to other urgent priorities (i.e., EPA interaction, Compliance Status Report). Accordingly, the PA interviews have been rescheduled to start the week of March 7, 1994.
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has raised an issue of clarifying the relationship between NMED's environmental monitoring

program and the requirements of DOE Order 5400.1, General Environmental Protection Program for "independent verification" of WIPP's environmental monitoring data. Background documents are continuing to be reviewed by the WIPP Site Branch Environment, Safety, and Health Section.

- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next 3 months. An advance press release has been issued and cameras have been installed to record the event.

#### **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- EM-342 forwarded copies of audit notes with background data concerning the 1993 Data Quality Audit of SNL. Final EM-342 SNL audit is scheduled for the week of February 22 and 28. CAO will attend the audit as an observer.
- A meeting with EPA is scheduled for February 22-25, 1994 at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque to discuss experimental programs and performance assessment.
- A site visit has been scheduled for EPA Region VI on March 8, 9, and 10, 1994, to review and discuss various environmental monitoring activities.
- Bill White, DP-273, Diane Urban, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Mark Klan, Science Applications International Corporation and Russell DeCastongrene, SAIC toured the WIPP site on February 8, 1994. Mr. White presented a briefing on a computer model which projects the cost to dismantle and dispose of nuclear materials from defense programs.
- Engineer Week Activity - NMSU Auditorium - CAO/WID/SNL - Tentative February 23, 1994.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- SNL Performance Assessment (PA) efforts have been directed to address EPA comments on the 1992 PA report. This involves a substantive change in focus, which should be a beneficial impact on compliance documentation to be submitted to EPA in March 1995.
- CAO Representative functioning as National Chairman, Transuranic Waste Management Section, SPECTRUM - "94" Symposium, solicited abstracts from EPA, Waste Standards & Risk Assessment Branch, EM-34, WID and TRU generator sites.
- The Planning/Programming cycle for all CAO programs was established with a call letter issued on February 7, 1994 to all Participants. The process will allow for management decisions as to priorities and funding levels which will be fed into the Budget development process and into the Senior level Disposal Decision Plan Schedule.
- Internal CAO comments have been received and are being integrated into the Draft Management Directive for Change Control Board Procedures. The directive should be ready for issue by the end of next week. The directive and procedures were provided to the Participants Planning Working Group for review and discussion on February 9, 1994.
- Internal CAO comments have been received and are being integrated into the Senior Level Disposal Decision Plan Schedule. The final draft DDP will be provided to the EM-30 for review by COB February 11, 1994.
- The actions generated from the EM standdown teams and recommended by AL for consideration by HQ were reviewed with no further comments being provided to AL. Completed EM standdown preliminary report.
- Mike McFadden has been assigned as CAO's representative for the Site Future Use Project Team as established by EM-5.
- Transmitted the final 1993 SARA, Title III, Section 312 report as required by 40 CFR Part 370. The report is required to be submitted to the State Emergency Response Commission, Local Emergency Planning Committee, the fire department with jurisdiction over the facility as well as three additional fire departments with which WIPP has memoranda of understanding for emergency response support.
- The draft CAO QA Requirements and Description document was presented to CAO senior staff for review and comments.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 2/4/94**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete transition to the CAO, including staffing, personnel actions, office space, etc.
- Maintain Facility compliance to all DOE Orders, State and Federal Regulations and Laws.
- Revise compliance strategy and schedule to include systems review and coordination/integration of the performance assessment and experimental program plans and activities.
- Improve stakeholder communications and outreach, including local, federal and state contacts.
- Clarify management and budget authorities of the National TRU Programs Office (NTPO). Develop NTO Program Plan.
- Revise and publish the Disposal Decision Plan.
- Implement the approved WID Transition Plan.
- Identify, plan and implement upgrades to facilities, program systems and equipment to improve operational efficiency, safety and excellence.
- Develop and conduct a site selection process for the Enhanced Laboratory Program (ELP) for Gas Generation.
- Transfer six Headquarters personnel FTEs to NTPO.
- Prepare Specifications/Procurement Plan for CAO leased facility.
- Continue discussions with the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) and stakeholders on the Resource and Conservation Act Part B permit.
- Issue Change Control Management Directive for CAO.
- Complete the Compliance Status Report (CSR) for internal review by March 1, 1994

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Attended meeting with NMED, DOE and stakeholders to discuss RCRA Part B permit and application status.
- Drafted and revised agenda for Secretary O'Leary's visit to Carlsbad. Date uncertain at this time.
- Presented update of CAO activities to Western Governor's Association's Technical Group on WIPP Transportation.
- Finalized plans for WM'94 presentations and stakeholder breakfast.
- An application was submitted to DOE-Idaho for reaccreditation of the WIPP DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) for the personnel dosimetry program. A request was also included for WIPP's participation in the next round of performance testing, presently scheduled for July 1994.
- NM Environment Department (NMED) Program Managers for the Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (John Parker) and for the Air Quality Bureau (Erik Aaboe) visited the WIPP site February 1 and 2. They attended the weekly AIP interface meeting between on-site NMED staff, DOE, and WID.
- John Schinkle, Director of DOE-AL Safety Programs Division visited the WIPP site this week. He was favorably impressed with the WIPP Landlord Program and took copies of the policy and implementation documents for possible use by other DOE-AL offices.
- A meeting was held with EPA on February 1-2, 1994, in Washington, D.C., a first of a series of technical exchanges with EPA. Agenda topics included EPA's review of the 1992 PA and the Experimental Program Plan. Topics of discussion included the CAO organizational structure and roles and responsibilities. The discussions were very positive.
- The Joint Powers Agreement with Eddy County, the City of Carlsbad, the CAO, and the State of New Mexico for the alternate EOC has been requested to be revised by the State. The revision is complete and ready for discussion and review.
- The Interim Award Fee Report was finalized and provided to the Manager for review and approval. It was transmitted to WID on February 4, 1994.
- A tractor-trailer was dispatched to Tacoma, WA in order to return two Ten Drum Overpacks and three Standard Waste Boxes (SWBs) to the WIPP site. The Western Governors Association will conduct a Transportation Tracking and Communications system (TRANSCOM) exercise in conjunction with this trip.

- Downsizing of the TRU waste carrier contract continued by closing the Carlsbad, NM maintenance facility, transporting all government furnished equipment and other equipment stored at the maintenance facility to the WIPP site and returning two tractors to the Farmington, NM office. Dawn Enterprises, Inc. has made arrangements for the maintenance of trailers and the one tractor to be performed by a sub-contractor.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS

- Need to complete transfer of funds from EM-26 (formerly EM-56) for support of cesium shipments.
- The Source Term Test Program Environmental Assessment (STTP/EA) is now in the sixth month of review by DOE/LAAO. DOE/LAAO's primary issue with the EA is the treatment of the environmental impacts associated with conducting the STTP at a site other than LANL. A third major modification has been submitted. This effort needs higher priority with DOE/LAAO to prevent significant delays.
- 2.2 square miles around the WIPP Site are scheduled to be declared exclusive usage. This provides a security buffer around the site and allows control of deer, quail and dove hunters within the immediate area.
- A GAO audit team is starting an audit of the "WIPP Program Operating Costs". Field work started at the CAO with a tour of the site on February 1, 1994 by Jim Wells (GAO-HQ), Tom Brew (GAO-Denver), Julia Dubois (GAO-Denver) and Dorothy Wood (AL-MRD). The entrance conference was held by Vernon Daub, Deputy CAO.
- EPA has indicated they will not be able to support the previously agree to monthly technical exchange meetings on a routine basis. No definitive reason was provided for this action.
- A roof fall has been predicted to occur in SPDV Room 2 within the next 3 months. Cameras have been installed to record the event.

### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Received comments from Branch Chiefs on Attorney General's letter, response being prepared.
- Reviewed Stakeholder Outreach Plan for new national focus and it is being revised.
- DOE/EPA Technical Exchange Meeting: SNL/NM, February 22-25, 1994
- February 9, 10, 1994, OPSEC meeting at Pinellas.

- **An internal QA assessment for SNL concerning pre 1984 data tentatively scheduled for February 21, 1994 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.**
- **A site visit has been scheduled for EPA Region 6 on March 8, 9, and 10, 1994, to review and discuss various environmental monitoring activities.**
- **A meeting with EPA/HQ has been scheduled for February 22- 24, 1994 in Albuquerque to discuss SNL PA activities.**
- **New Mexico WIPP Medical Working Group meeting in Albuquerque, NM on February 8, 1994.**
- **Personnel from the Savannah Rivers Plant (SRP) will be at the WIPP site on February 9-11, 1994, to view the TRUPACT-II and SWB in preparation for the utilization of the TRUPACT-II for intrasite transfers at the SRP.**