



Westinghouse Public Relations

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Westinghouse Building, Gateway Center
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

MEDIA CONTACT

Donavan Mager
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division
(505) 234-8347

For Immediate Release

Westinghouse Announces Managerial Appointments at WIPP

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 6 – Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Waste Isolation Division announces several management changes at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Hubert C. Bowditch, formerly of Graham, N.C., is manager of computer services. In this position, Bowditch is responsible for providing computer hardware and software assistance for Westinghouse and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office. Bowditch holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Tuskegee University and a master's degree in Business Administration Management from Oklahoma City University.

Mark A. White is assistant manager of facility operations at the WIPP. White, a Carlsbad native, has held various positions with the Waste Isolation Division since 1988. As assistant manager of facility operations, White is responsible for technical and administrative support for plant operations and shift personnel. White holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering Management from Southwest University.

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Joe R. Franco serves as manager of emergency management. Franco, also a Carlsbad native, has been with the Waste Isolation Division for seven years, performing work in several areas including, most recently, facility operations. In his capacity as emergency management manager, Franco is responsible for the WIPP Emergency Operations Center, emergency services and response, emergency planning and occurrence reporting. Franco is pursuing a degree in engineering management from Southwest University.

Westinghouse is the management and operating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) at the WIPP. In this capacity, Westinghouse initiates personnel changes to better serve the DOE in its mission to open and operate the WIPP as the nation's first underground nuclear waste repository.

The WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation, 2,150 feet (almost half a mile) underground. Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, and other disposable items contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

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