

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
For the Period 12/23/96 - 1/3/97**

ENTERED

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete the revision of the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 2/97.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL prior to certification of these respective generator sites.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Issue a SEIS Record of Decision by 7/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- On December 27, 1996, Jim Brooke, Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief for the *New York Times* toured the WIPP. In addition to visiting the WIPP underground and Waste Handling Building, Mr. Brooke interviewed CAO Manager George Dials. He was impressed with the facility and the WIPP program, as presented by Mr. Dials. Publication of his story is expected the week of January 6, 1997.
- In conjunction with the SEIS-II hearings, the CAO distributed a news release December 31, 1996 to statewide news media outlets to remind the media and the public about the hearings in Albuquerque January 6-7, 1997, and in Santa Fe January 8-10, 1997. Media outreach visits were conducted January 3, 1997, to begin advance work for the hearings in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Denver.
- Distributed a news release January 3, 1997 to statewide media announcing the delivery of the HALFPACK working prototype to the CAO. A media event also was held January 3 in Carlsbad to inaugurate the prototype.
- CAO Manager George Dials presented a community update briefing on January 3, 1997, to Carlsbad community leaders. The status included information on the FY97 budget and the schedule of WIPP licensing activities.

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- Completed Purchase Requisitions for the Western Governors' Association and Southern States Energy Board. This is for additional funding and work scope for FY 1997.
- The new procedures for all aspects of in-house records management were signed by the Manager and became effective 12/28/96.
- The RH-72B cask Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP) was sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review. The CAO is working with the NRC to expedite their review. In order to use the cask for RH-TRU waste destined for WIPP, an NRC Certificate of Compliance (C of C) is required.
- Completed a review of WIPP data contained in the New Mexico Environment Department DOE Oversight Bureau Report, *Surface Water Quality Monitoring at Department of Energy Facilities in New Mexico, 1992-1993*.

#### ISSUES/CONCERNS

- None to Report.

#### MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- SEIS II hearings will be held in January at the following locations:  
 January 6 and 7 - Albuquerque, NM  
 January 8, 9, and 10 - Santa Fe, NM  
 January 15 - Boise, ID  
 January 21 - Oak Ridge, TN  
 January 23 - Augusta, GA
- A detailed schedule of the FY98/99 Validation Review is available. Experimental Programs will be reviewed January 6-8; followed by the National TRU Program on January 9-10. The next week will cover WIPP WID on January 13-14, WIPP CTAC on January 15, and WIPP CAO institutional on January 16. Recommendations will be presented to the CAO manager on January 31, 1997.
- EPA/ORIA will conduct a QA audit of SNL in Albuquerque and Carlsbad on January 13-24, 1997, and a QA audit of WID on February 10-14, 1997.
- The NAS review of the Performance Assessment is scheduled on January 14-15, 1997 at SNL in Albuquerque.
- EPA will meet with NM Stakeholders to obtain their concerns on the CCA on January 21-23, 1996.

- The International Performance Assessment Review under a joint-Secretariat of the IAEA and OECD/NEA is scheduled for the week of January 27, 1997, in Carlsbad, NM.
- The next WIPP QA Managers meeting will be in Los Alamos, NM on January 30-31, 1997.
- EPA Public Hearings on the CCA are tentatively scheduled for February 19-21, 1997, in Carlsbad, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 12/6/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete the revision of the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 2/97.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 12/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL prior to certification of these respective generator sites.
- Complete design reviews and obtain Critical Decision #3 for the permanent electrical service line item project by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Issue a SEIS Record of Decision by 7/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The SEIS was approved on November 13, 1996 and distributed the week of November 18, 1996. The Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on November 29, 1996. The 60 day comment period ends on January 28, 1997.
- SEIS hearings have been scheduled for January 1997. Hearings will be held in Albuquerque, NM on January 6 and 7; Santa Fe, NM on January 8, 9, and 10; Carlsbad, NM and Denver, CO on January 13; Boise, ID and Richland, WA on January 15; Oak Ridge, TN on January 21; and North Augusta, SC on January 23.
- EPA Office of Solid Waste announced on November 29, 1996 that they have terminated all activities associated with the No Migration Variance Petition.

- A joint meeting between the New Mexico and Hazardous Materials Committee and the New Mexico Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force was held in Carlsbad, NM on December 2-3, 1996. The two groups heard status reports by the Carlsbad Area Office and the Environmental Evaluation Group. The members toured the Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center, and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. No actions involving the CAO were produced.
- EPA is visiting the SNL/BDM Building for the purpose of reviewing and compiling a checklist for Parameters and Features Events and Processes (FEPS).
- A training session was held for staff members of EPA regarding gas generation related to microbial processes. The EPA indicated they were pleased with the training session.
- The Citizens' Guide to the CCA has been incorporated into a CD-ROM, which will be available in December 1996.
- Price Anderson Indemnification clauses in WID and CAST contracts were transmitted to the State of New Mexico to satisfy a deliverable in the Supplemental Stipulated Agreement.
- The CAO has received documentation from the Bureau of Land Management that confirms the statement of compliance in the 1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report for those regulations under BLM jurisdiction. This documentation was transmitted to EPA/Region VI.
- Received and signed 88 Technology Transfer requests for various businesses and learning institutions. This brings the total to 295 requests for FY 1997.
- The *Citizens' Guide to the Compliance Certification Application* was completed and mailed to approximately 3,500 stakeholders. The *Citizens' Guide* provides an overview of the CCA and its role in moving toward final disposal of transuranic waste. In conjunction, distributed a DOE news release December 6, 1996 announcing availability of the booklet.
- The 56th WIPP Quarterly Review was held November 26, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Thirty-two people attended the meeting, which focused on the Compliance Certification Application. Interchange among participants was very informative and positive.
- CAO representatives staffed the WIPP exhibit at the New Mexico Governors' Conference on Tourism, December 2-4, 1996 in Carlsbad. The conference was very successful, with over 350 attendees. An additional WIPP tour was scheduled to accommodate widespread interest in the facility expressed by conference participants.

- Mark Etkind, reporter for the Discovery Channel, toured the WIPP November 26, 1996. Mr. Etkind is producing a segment on the WIPP permanent marker system for broadcast on the channel's "Discovery Magazine" series.

## **ISSUES/CONCERNS**

- The OMB FY98 passback pro rata reductions of \$18.4 million to the CAO program significantly impact CAO's ability to meet the schedules included in the TRU Waste Management Plan. CAO is awaiting EM's position on whether they are supporting the impact and appeal positions provided last week.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- EPA-ORIA will perform an audit of the CAO QA program on December 9-13, 1996.
- The TRU Waste Update Meeting that was tentatively planned for December 1996 has been canceled. This meeting will be rescheduled at an appropriate time after the ten-year plans are approved next year.
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 11, 1996. In coordination with that meeting, there will be a meeting on December 12, also in Carlsbad, to discuss characterization and certification requirements with potential bidders on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory privatization efforts. Meetings both days will last from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Certification Records Working Group (CRWG) will hold its next meeting on December 18, 1996.
- Peer Reviews will be held in SNL/BDM in Albuquerque, NM as follows:
  - Engineered Barriers on 12/9/96
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 11, 1996. In coordination with that meeting, there will be a meeting on December 12, also in Carlsbad, to discuss characterization and certification requirements with potential bidders on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory privatization efforts. Meetings both days will last from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- A Peer Review on Engineered Barriers will be held on December 9, 1996 at SNL/BDM in Albuquerque, NM.

- The EPA/ORIA will be conducting an audit of the CAO QA Program on December 9-13, 1996. The EPA team will be evaluating CAO for compliance to the requirements in the QAPD.
- EPA/ORIA personnel began a three week records review of QA activities at SNL in Albuquerque on December 2, 1996. They plan to review QA activities for FEPs, parameter value development, and software. CAO is assisting with coordination of these activities.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/22/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 11/96.
- Complete the revision of the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 11/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL prior to certification of these respective generator sites.
- Complete design reviews and obtain Critical Decision #3 for the permanent electrical service line item project by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Issue a SEIS Record of Decision by 7/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The draft SEIS was issued to members of Congress and mailed to stakeholders on Wednesday, November 20. Notification of hearing dates and locations was also provided at that time. In a news conference about the draft SEIS issuance, Assistant Secretary Al Alm and CAO Manager George Dials responded to numerous press queries regarding the SEIS, its purpose, contents, and process.
- A meeting on WIPP waste certification and characterization was held on November 20, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the waste certification and characterization process and then address specific concerns that have been raised. Agreement was reached on a process to be used for certifying that all TRU wastes shipped to WIPP are defense wastes.

- The CAO has approved for distribution an Interim Change to the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP), Rev. 0. This Interim Change includes: changes required by the WIPP Waste Analysis Plan; deletes the requirement for inner bag sampling in drums; and revises the quality assurance objectives for nondestructive assay.
- The Certification Records Working Group (CRWG) held a meeting November 13, 1996. The group finalized its Charter and discussed issues including RCRA Permit Application Table C-13 categories, comparisons between the Waste Analysis Plan (WAP) and the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP), and general records management issues (records disposition, scheduling & QA designations, records medium and records storage).
- The Project EM evaluation of the cost and schedule estimating process resulted in a positive report that the processes used to prepare estimates are good and credible. Observance of the next budget validation process by a subteam was recommended to determine further areas of benchmarking.
- A team from Albuquerque Operations Office Occupational Safety and Health Division (OSHA) arrived on site Monday, November 18, 1996, to evaluate the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The team was requested by the Carlsbad Area Office to determine where the VPP stands prior to the EH-1 evaluation in October of 1997. The team is made up of individuals from DOE-AL, Pantex, Amarillo, Kansas City, Digital Systems, and Enterprise Advisory Services.
- At the National Academy of Sciences meeting in Albuquerque, NM on November 21, 1996, the CAO presented its response to the very favorable National Resource Council Report prepared by the NAS WIPP Committee. Included was a description of the actions that have been taken that were suggested in the report and included in the Performance Assessment contained in the Compliance Certification Application. All NAS WIPP Committee suggestions and recommendations have been addressed.
- The CAO manager participated with DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Al Alm in a telephone conference briefing for media November 20, 1996 to jointly announce availability of the draft WIPP SEIS-II and submittal of the WIPP Compliance Certification Application to the Environmental Protection Agency. Extensive background information on both documents, including video file footage, was prepared and provided by the CAO to Headquarters for distribution to media and congressional members and staff. The CAO also distributed an associated media advisory and news release regarding the event and review documents.
- CAO representatives conducted SEIS-II informational meetings November 19, 1996 in Idaho Falls, Idaho, in preparation for the SEIS hearings scheduled in January 1997 in New Mexico, Colorado, Idaho, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

- A CAO representative presented community updates November 22, 1996 to city leaders of Artesia and Roswell, NM. In conjunction, a news release announcing the community update meetings was distributed to southeastern New Mexico news media.

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

- The 56th NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will focus on the Performance Assessment incorporated into the CCA submittal.
- EPA-ORIA will perform an audit of the CAO QA program on December 9-13, 1996.
- The TRU Waste Update Meeting that was tentatively planned for December 1996 has been canceled. This meeting will be rescheduled at an appropriate time after the ten-year plans are approved next year.
- The design review meeting for WIPP's new electrical substation is scheduled for December 3, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Representatives from Southwestern Public Service will present the design to the review team, comprised of participants from CAO, DOE-AL and WID.
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 11, 1996. In coordination with that meeting, there will be a meeting on December 12, also in Carlsbad, to discuss characterization and certification requirements with potential bidders on the Oak Ridge National Laboratory privatization efforts. Meetings both days will last from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- The Certification Records Working Group (CRWG) will hold its next meeting on December 18, 1996.
- Peer Reviews will be held in SNL/BDM in Albuquerque, NM as follows:
  - Engineered Barriers on 12/9/96
  - Waste Characterization on 12/2/96

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/15/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 11/96.
- Complete the revision of the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 11/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL prior to certification of these respective generator sites.
- Complete design reviews and obtain Critical Decision #3 for the permanent electrical service line item project by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Issue a SEIS Record of Decision by 7/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The SEIS was approved on November 13, 1996. Distribution is scheduled to take place by Friday, November 22. The Notice of Availability should be published in the Federal Register on November 27, 1996, which would mean the 60 day comment period would end on January 28, 1997.
- CAO representatives presented the WIPP general overview on November 13, 1996, to the Del Sur Rotary Club in Santa Fe, New Mexico and to an environmental geology class at the University of Texas in El Paso, TX. The overview was also presented on November 15, 1996, to the Mount Franklin Kiwanis Club in El Paso, TX and to the Advisory Council for the New Mexico State Commission to the Blind in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

- Prepared specific video footage for the Discovery Channel. Their production team is scheduled to visit WIPP at the end of November.
- The Assurance Team has reviewed the SNL Implementation Matrix for the CAO QAPD. All applicable QAPD requirements have been incorporated into SNL implementing procedures.
- A list of questions regarding logistics, travel arrangements, requests for meeting scientists, reception, etc. for the International review team's trip to the WIPP site in late January 1997 was provided to Claudio Pescatore/Jean-Pierre Oliver of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). The questions will be discussed at a logistical meeting for the International review team members in Vienna Austria on November 13-15, 1996.
- The CAO assisted a team from Project EM that is in Phase I of a three-phase process to assess the DOE-EM program. This is one of five teams chartered by Al Alm to assess each Operation and Field Office's budgetary and planning process. This team is led by the Corps of Engineers with representatives from DOE-HQ, DOE-OR, and support contractors from Project, Time, and Cost. They are reviewing DOE programs relative to an Activity Base Cost methodology for program and budget development.
- CAST Transportation, Inc. supported intra-site transfers at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL). Shipments were made between the Radioactive Waste Management Complex and Argonne National Laboratory West. The shipments are supporting the waste characterization effort at the INEL.

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

- None to Report.

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

- The November EM Corporate Forum will be held on November 20-21, 1996, in Reston, VA. The main topics will be: FY97 funding allocation; FY98 Funding Issues, Transportation Issues; PIT results for Business Systems; Ten Year Plan Process; re-deployment; and other topics.
- The CAO NEPA Compliance Officer will attend public meetings in Idaho Falls on November 19th and in Pendleton, OR on November 22nd to make a short presentation on the SEIS at meetings sponsored by the INEL Site Advisory Board, the American Nuclear Society, and the Oregon Department of Energy.
- Community update meetings will be held on November 22, 1996, in Artesia and Roswell.

- A Performance Assessment briefing to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is scheduled for November 22-23, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The 56th NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will focus on the Performance Assessment incorporated into the CCA submittal.
- EPA-ORIA will perform an audit of the CAO QA program on December 9-13, 1996.
- The TRU Waste Update Meeting that was tentatively planned for December 1996 has been canceled. This meeting will be rescheduled at an appropriate time after ten-year plans are approved next year.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/08/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 11/96.
- Complete the revision of the CAO Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 11/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL prior to certification of these respective generator sites.
- Complete design reviews and obtain Critical Decision #3 for the permanent electrical service line item project by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- CAO representatives met with Los Alamos National Laboratory delegates November 6, 1996 to discuss effective coordination of upcoming NTP transportation system training, education and outreach efforts for the northern New Mexico pueblos. A joint working group will be established to coordinate on transportation issues and training/outreach requirements.
- A CAO representative presented the WIPP general overview November 6, 1996 at the New Mexico State Highway and Transportation Department's winter maintenance meeting in Roswell, New Mexico. The main focus of the 45 participants from around the state was shipping dates of waste to the WIPP. Questions centered around highway funding and shipping routes.
- On November 7, Troy Benavidez, Legislative Director, and Jane Altweis, Staff Assistant, of Rep. Steve Schiff's office toured the WIPP facility and received briefings on the program.

- Twenty seven Technology Transfer requests for various businesses and learning institutions were signed. This brings the total to 207 requests for FY97.
- Copies of several CCA supporting appendices were shipped to the international review committee on November 7, 1996. Copies have also been sent to the Southwest Research and Information Center and to the Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety to further facilitate public involvement in the CCA review process.
- A tracking system for CCA Response Council activities was developed. This system will also be used to track material sent to the EPA during their technical review period.
- Delivery of the test materials for Cycle 2 of the Non-Destructive Assay (NDA) Performance Demonstration Program was completed on schedule testing period prior to Thanksgiving.
- The Carlsbad Area Office presented an overview of the Mobile Systems Capability plan and its privatization aspects to commercial vendors at a meeting in Washington on October 31, 1996. Assistant Secretary Alm also addressed the vendors and answered their questions. The vendors provided excellent feedback and were pleased that there is a market for mobile services.
- The WIPP Waste Information System (WWIS) hardware and software arrived at WIPP on November 6, 1996. The system will be installed and startup testing will begin.
- Letters of interest were sent out to potential manufacturing vendors for the HALFPACK. This action completes the first task of the plan to select and pre-qualify vendors for the fabrication of the HALFPACK and TRUPACT-II.
- The SEIS is being printed. Printing should be completed by Friday, November 8. After that date the SEIS team will begin distributing the SEIS once it is approved, and distribution letters are signed at Headquarters.

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

- The CAO NEPA Compliance Officer will attend public meetings in Idaho Falls on November 19 and Pendleton, OR on November 22 to make a short presentation on the SEIS at meetings sponsored by the INEL Site Advisory Board, the American Nuclear Society, and the Oregon Department of Energy.
- The Project EM review team will be at CAO during the week of November 12, 1996 to perform their initial baseline review of Project costs.

- Community update meetings November 14, 1996 in Hobbs and November 22, 1996 in Artesia and Roswell.
- A Performance Assessment briefing to the NAS is scheduled for November 22-23, 1996 in Albuquerque, N.M.
- Bruce Lilly, CAO Safety and Occupational Health Manager will participate in a Workshop, Managing Safety Through Change, November 13-14, 1996, in Idaho Falls, ID. The workshop is sponsored by Tara J. O'Toole, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health and Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., DOL Deputy Assistant Secretary Worker Health and Safety. The focus of the workshop is the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).
- The 56th NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will focus on the Performance Assessment incorporated into the CCA submittal.
- George Dials and Dave Holmes will attend the November Corporate Forum, November 20-21, 1996. The main topics will be: FY97 funding allocation; FY98 Funding Issues, Transportation Issues; PIT results for Business Systems; Ten Year Plan Process; re-deployment; and other topics.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 11/01/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 10/96.
- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by 10/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Complete the revision of the CAO Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 11/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96.
- Perform QA audits of Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Rocky Flats (RF), and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) prior to certification of these respective generator sites by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.
- Complete design reviews and obtain Critical Decision #3 for the permanent electrical service line item project by 12/96.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The 1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report was sent to both the EPA and ~~NMED~~ *the State (Chris Wente)* as required by the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act. *Beth Bennington 234-7482*
- A tour of the WIPP was conducted October 29, 1996 for Conroy Chino, investigative reporter, and Dan Wade, producer, with KOB-TV (Albuquerque NBC affiliate). The crew is producing an investigative report centering on the number of WIPP employees and budget expenditures. The report is scheduled to air the latter part of November.

- Provided Mark Etking of the *Discovery Channel* with general WIPP information and details about the Marker Panel. Mr. Etking plans to tour the WIPP surface and underground facilities the week of November 26, 1996. *Discovery* is producing a four-segment feature entitled "Immortality." The WIPP segment will deal with marking a radioactive waste repository for 10,000 years.
- The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Compliance Certification Application was delivered to the Environmental Protection Agency on October 29, 1996. The application details the compliance of the WIPP to the requirements of 40 CFR 191 and the criteria promulgated in 40 CFR 194. The application represents a first of its kind endeavor and is a major milestone on the road to solving a portion of the nation's nuclear waste problem. This application, totally approximately 20,000 pages of textual material, and about 80,000 pages of references was distributed to the EPA offices in Washington, D.C., to the State of New Mexico, to WIPP dockets in 4 geographic locations, to WIPP reading rooms in New Mexico, and to several EPA contractors.
- A training session on the actinide source term computer code (FMT) was conducted on October 30-31, 1996 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition to the EPA, the Environmental Evaluation Group and a representative for the New Mexico Attorney Generals Office attended. We received positive feedback on the training course.
- The EPA-ORIA conducted a Parameter Package Familiarization meeting at SNL in Albuquerque, NM on October 29-31, 1996 with CAO and EEG attending. EPA stated that they were generally pleased with condition of the 16 packages they reviewed. They made a few comments as to how the system could be improved. Also, EPA stated that they would likely return at the end of November to perform a formal records package review for parameters and software.
- Governor Gary Johnson, Senator Pete Dominici, Senator Jeff Bingham and Representative Joe Skeen, and New Mexico Transportation Secretary Pete Rohn held a news conference in Carlsbad to announce the projects designated for construction using the \$20 million in WIPP funds required by the 1996 Land Withdrawal Amendment Act. They announced that the funds would be used to complete the WIPP relief routes and to complete the four-laning of NM Hwy 285 from Clines Corner south to Carlsbad.
- CAO personnel attended a meeting of the Spent Nuclear Fuel group in Idaho to clarify the definitions used for *Defense* and *TRU waste*. NTP staff coordinated with the group on the definitions used for TRU waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel. The group was interested in how WIPP was characterizing waste, the waste certification process, and regulator interface.

Don Watkins 234-7478

- The WIPP Waste Information System Design Description was issued as a CAO document. In addition, the system software was accepted and Idaho released to ship the software and hardware. The system was shipped October 31, 1996, to minimize down time. Personnel from Idaho will be at WIPP in November to assist installing the system.

*Mike Brown 234-7476*

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

- Comments on the RH-72B cask Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP) were resolved with EM-76 and all necessary changes incorporated. Distribution copies of the SARP for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are complete. The original plan was to transmit the SARP and the DOE EM-76 Safety Evaluation Report (SER) on the cask together to the NRC. If the EM-76 report is delayed, CAO will transmit the SARP to the NRC without the EM-76 report.
- The SEIS approval is anticipated late next week. If the SEIS is approved by November 8, 1996, the first hearings will be scheduled for the week of December 9, 1996. The 60 day comment period would end on January 21, 1997.
- EM-1 has changed the submission date for the 10 year Plan to March 1, 1997, to better accommodate Stakeholder involvement in the process.

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

- The CAO NEPA Compliance Officer will attend public meetings in Idaho Falls on November 19 and Pendleton, OR on November 22 to make a short presentation on the SEIS at meetings sponsored by the INEL Site Advisory Board, the American Nuclear Society, and the Oregon Department of Energy.
- The Project EM review team will be at CAO during the week of November 12, 1996 to perform their initial baseline review of Project costs.
- Community update meetings November 14, 1996 in Hobbs and November 22, 1996 in Artesia and Roswell.
- A Performance Assessment briefing to the NAS is scheduled for November 22-23, 1996 in Albuquerque, N.M.
- A Performance Assessment briefing at the State/EEG Quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 26, 1996 in Albuquerque, NM.

- Community update meetings are scheduled for November 14, 1996, in Hobbs and November 22, 1996, in Artesia and Roswell.
- Bruce Lilly, CAO Safety and Occupational Health Manager will participate in a Workshop, "Managing Safety Through Change," November 13-14, 1996, in Idaho Falls, ID. The workshop is sponsored by Tara J. O'Toole, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health and Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., DOL Deputy Assistant Secretary Worker Health and Safety. The focus of the workshop is the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).
- The 56th NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will focus on the Performance Assessment incorporated into the CCA submittal.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/25/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 10/96.
- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by 10/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Complete the revision of the CAO Ten Year Plan and incorporate the TRU Waste Management Plan performance measures into the Plan by 11/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96
- Perform QA audits of Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Rocky Flats (RF), and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) prior to certification of these respective generator sites by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report by 3/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations by 11/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Revision #3 to the Disposal Decision Plan has been completed incorporating the changes prompted by the Land Withdrawal Amendment Act. It will be released to the stakeholders by the first week in November.
- Followed-up the National Research Council's October 23, 1996, press conference announcing its report entitled "*The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant: A Potential Solution for the Disposal of Transuranic Waste*" with numerous press/media interactions. Local newspaper and broadcast media attended the event. Approximately 40 members of the public also attended the announcement. The report was very positive in support of WIPP as a scientifically and technically justified repository site.
- The TRUPACT II Road Show supported the State of New Mexico outreach program in Vaughn, NM, this week. We are also supporting the State of New Mexico Emergency Management group in two outreach events in Albuquerque and one in Pojoaque this week.

- The ORC observed and participated in the final quality check of the CCA. All copies of the CCA that are being sent to the EPA and its dockets were completely checked. The printing process for priority deliveries is complete. Shipping will begin on October 26, 1996.
- A tour of the WIPP site was conducted October 25, 1996, for officials from the state of Colorado and Denver area news media. A crew from KCNC-TV and reporters from the *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver) and *Daily Coloradan* (Ft. Collins) accompanied the officials on the tour to learn more about the WIPP and its importance to Colorado and the nation. The reporters also interviewed the CAO manager and Waste Isolation Division general manager, as well as city leaders.
- The CAO held a program review of the TRU waste transportation system. The review addressed CAO and WID roles and responsibilities as well as program scope, resources, and budget. As a result, managers were asked to re-examine each program element and identify ways to better integrate the transportation system, consistent with existing agreements and protocols with the States.

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

- HQ has held 5% of the FY97 Operating budget (\$8.3 million) and may not return these funds. Indications are that the funds will be used to cover uncosted balance offset (\$150 million) and other DOE priorities. Also, EM has not completed the analysis and distribution of the additional \$42 million included in the FY97 Appropriations. CAO contends that \$27 million should be provided for WIPP and the State of New Mexico.
- Delays in SEIS approval at headquarters will require rebidding the printing contract and an associated additional delay. Assuming approval sometime the week of November 11-15, hearings would likely start in January 1997. This will also result in a significant cost increase.

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

- The next change control board meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 1996. Baseline Change Requests will be due by October 28, 1996.
- A computer code training session on the FMT code for the Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled for October 30-31, 1996, at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The Mobile Characterization Plan meeting for interested vendors will be held at DOE-HQ on October 31, 1996.
- Community update meetings are scheduled for November 14, 1996, in Hobbs and November 22, 1996, in Artesia and Roswell.

- Bruce Lilly, CAO Safety and Occupational Health Manager will participate in a Workshop, "Managing Safety Through Change," November 13-14, 1996, in Idaho Falls, ID. The workshop is sponsored by Tara J. O'Toole, DOE Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health and Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., DOL Deputy Assistant Secretary Worker Health and Safety. The focus of the workshop is the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).
- A Performance Assessment briefing to the NAS is scheduled for November 22, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The 56th NMED/EEG/DOE Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will focus on the Performance Assessment incorporated into the CCA submittal.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/18/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 10/96.
- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by 10/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96
- Perform QA audits of Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Rocky Flats (RF), and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- A partial review was conducted of the WIPP Chemistry and Shaft Seal Systems Parameters and Data packages at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 16-17, 1996.
- Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) has provided the last open items related to the design of the WIPP electrical substation. A technical review of this final group of preliminary drawings is ongoing.
- Comments on the RH-72B cask Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP) from the DOE Headquarters review team from EM-76 were fully resolved.
- The Federal Register Notice for the October 31, 1996, scheduled meeting with EM-1, the Carlsbad Area Office, and vendors of mobile systems was published on October 11, 1996.
- A CAO representative met with the director of the National Atomic Museum October 15, 1996, in Albuquerque, NM to discuss the establishment of a WIPP exhibit at the museum.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The SEIS is still being reviewed by the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs prior to concurrence before being sent to the Secretary for approval. Further delays in SEIS approval at headquarters may require rebidding the printing contract (and an associated delay of at least 2 to 3 days.)

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The joint Site Evaluation and Design of Experiments (SEDE) and Performance Assessment Advisory Group (PAAG) meeting is scheduled for Paris, France from October 22-25, 1996. The meeting is hosted by the Nuclear Energy Agency/Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (NEA/OECD).
- The National Academy of Science will present the committee's report, "The WIPP is a Potential Solution for the Disposal of TRU Waste" on October 23, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- A computer code training session on the FMT code for the Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled for October 30-31, 1996, at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Community update meetings will be held November 14, 1996, in Hobbs and November 22, 1996, in Artesia and Roswell.
- A Performance Assessment briefing to the NAS is scheduled for November 22, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The 56th WIPP Quarterly Review will be held November 26, 1996, Albuquerque, NM. ?

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 10/11/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 10/96.
- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by 10/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Develop classification guidance for Remote Handled (RH) Transuranic (TRU) Waste by 11/96
- Perform QA audits of Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), Rocky Flats (RF), and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The toll-free number 1-800-493-9768 will be activated the week of October 14, 1996, to improve news media access to WIPP information.
- Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) representatives presented an overview of the CAO's National Stakeholder Outreach Partnership Program to transportation working group members at the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) meeting October 8-9, 1996, in Savannah, GA. The SSEB is planning to develop a joint Transportation Public Information Plan modeled after the Western Governors' Association effort.
- During the 1996 Energy and Quality Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C., Secretary Hazel O'Leary presented the prestigious 1996 Hammer Award to CAO in recognition of its recent accomplishments within the DOE Environmental Management program. Westinghouse's Waste Isolation Division received the 1996 Energy Quality Accomplishment Level Award.
- Emergency Response Training and WIPP Education Programs were presented to the city and county administration and emergency response organizations of Ft. Collins, Colorado.

- The National TRU Program provided DOE-Headquarters (HQ) with supporting documentation for the Federal Register Notice announcing a meeting with vendors of mobile TRU waste characterization systems. The Notice is due to be published on October 14, 1996. Copies of the Mobile Systems Capability Plan will be mailed to site representatives and others in advance of the meeting.
- The CAO participated in the DOE-HQ Waste Management Steering Committee meeting held in Gaithersburg, MD, on October 8, 1996. A presentation on the National TRU Waste Management Plan was given to the members. All sites agreed to the plan, however, the question of redirecting funding to pay for activities identified in the plan are still in question.
- The DOE/EPA Technical Exchange Meeting was held on October 10, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The topic was Castile Brine Reservoir and Salt Water Injection Effects on WIPP. Representatives from Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Protection Agency Region VI, Environmental Evaluation Group, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and New Mexico Attorney General's Office were in attendance.
- The DOE/State of New Mexico Technical Exchange meeting was held on October 11, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The topic was radioactive material retardation in the Colebra and flow/transport in the Colebra. Representatives from Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Protection Agency Region VI, Environmental Evaluation Group, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, and New Mexico Attorney General's Office were in attendance.

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

- None to report.

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

- The National Academy of Science (NAS)WIPP Panel is scheduled to be in Carlsbad, New Mexico, on October 23, 1996.
- A Performance Assessment briefing to the NAS is scheduled for November 22, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/27/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by October 30, 1996.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Use the National TRU Waste System Model to complete the TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- On September 20, 1996, the SEIS was transmitted to EM-1 for transmittal to EH-1 for approval.
- Distributed a news release September 23, 1996, announcing President Clinton's endorsement of the Defense Authorization Act, which contained constructive amendments to the 1992 WIPP Land Withdrawal Act. The release outlined the impacts of the amendments on the WIPP program. In conjunction, informed community leaders and the generator/storage site Public Affairs directors about the milestone. The PA directors also were provided a CAO-produced backgrounder that outlined site-specific benefits of the amended act.

- Environmental Evaluation Group staff were provided overviews and tours of the WIPP waste handling demonstration activities September 18-20, 1996.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) inspector arrived on site September 26, 1996, to conduct the final quarterly inspection of the WIPP site in FY96. The underground inspection was completed Wednesday, September 25,<sup>7</sup> with no courtesy assisted visit, or recommendations issued. The surface, hoist, and shaft inspections were completed Thursday September 26.
- The New Mexico Environment Department DOE Oversight Bureau closed its WIPP office on September 24, 1996. All files and NMED equipment were removed from the WIPP Site. Future activities of the NMED Oversight Bureau at WIPP will be conducted by staff from the Santa Fe Office.
- A Westinghouse subcontractor has started the work to identify the source of water entering the Exhaust Shaft. A borehole was drilled in the vicinity of the WIPP Exhaust shaft. Water was found at approximately the 50' level, in the Santa Rosa formation. The borehole continued into the Dewey Lake formation and was stopped at the 97' mark, as the Dewey Lake was dry. Hydrologic testing and chemical testing of the water is in progress.
- The International Conference on Deep Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste took place in Winnipeg, Canada on September 16-20,1996. Twenty countries were represented at the conference. Important discussions with other nations occurred on our present and future R&D programs. CAO sponsored a breakfast which included a presentation by the CAO manager and discussions on future collaborative efforts. The CAO manager also gave a presentation to the conference on WIPP's status and progress during the plenary session.
- CAO provided to EM an analysis of change between the Internal Review Budget (IRB) submission for FY98 and the Ten Year Plan as modified by the CAO workout. This analysis will be used by Al Alm during the October 3, 1996, budget meeting with HQ DOE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Primary changes were the acceleration of receipt of TRU waste from the generator sites to meet the ten year vision and the acceleration of the opening of WIPP from April 1998 to November 1997 as approved by the FY97 Defense Authorization Act. Funding for the CAO programs continues to be an issue since the Ten Year Plan for FY98 requires \$30 million more than the amount approved for the FY 1998 EM Budget Request.
- CAO, WID, SNL and CTAC personnel have met two times to develop the assumptions and strategy for resubmitting Financial Management System Integration Council (FMSIC) data to EM-15 based upon the guidance received at the CAO workout. The proposed resubmission should be completed by October 10, 1996. CAO and EM-15 personnel will then discuss the approach and reach agreements for future submissions.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The FY97 Energy and Water bill included an increase of \$42 million for EM which should include \$7 million for WIPP, \$20 million for impact assistance to the State of New Mexico, and \$15 million for Hanford. EM is currently proposing scenarios for distribution which would provide only \$5 million for WIPP to open routes, or no money for WIPP at all. Scenarios also include not covering the \$20 million for the State assuming that the funds are covered somewhere else rather than in the Energy and Water Bill.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- An Environmental Protection Agency technical exchange on Castile brine reservoir and fluid injection is scheduled for October 10, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- A meeting with the State of New Mexico Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force on flow and transport in the Culebra is scheduled for October 11, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

*Steve Z*

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/20/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Issue the 1994-1996 Biennial Environmental Compliance Report (BECR) by October 30, 1996.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.
- Use the National TRU Waste System Model to complete the TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) staff visited the site on September 18-20, 1996, to observe waste handling demonstrations and become familiar with the project's associated plans.
- Technology Transfer requests for various businesses and learning institutions were signed. This brings the total to 1340 requests for FY 1996.

- The CAO has released the Program Guidance letters for FY 1997 to the majority of the program participants. The remaining guidance letters for SNL, LANL, INEL and ANL-W will be released next week.
- The CAO Manager gave a presentation at the plenary session of the International Conference on Deep Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste September 16-19, 1996 in Winnipeg, Canada. The presentation highlighted progress towards opening of the WIPP and how it will affect international waste management. The CAO representatives staffed the WIPP interactive exhibit during the conference.
- The CAO representatives staffed the WIPP transportation exhibit September 11-14, 1996 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, during the First Annual International Conference on Conservation of Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage.
- A training session on the Performance Assessment flow and transport computer codes (GRASP\_INV, SECOFL, and SECOTP) was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Environmental Protection Agency and their contractors. Staff members or representatives from Environmental Evaluation Group and the New Mexico Attorney General's Office attended the training session.
- The initial meeting of the GSA building task team was held on 9/18/96. The team is chartered to plan and implement all actions required for the occupancy of the building in FY 1998.
- A quality assurance surveillance of the WIPP Waste Information System was conducted at INEL on September 9-12, 1996. The implementation of the QA program on the software was satisfactory. Ben Walker from EEG was an observer on the surveillance.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The Office of Inspector General has announced a review of the Department's Reporting and Investigating Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. The M&O Contractor is to provide OSHA logs, First Aid Logs, and listings of all Workers' Compensation Claims for calendar year 1995, to the OIG for review. Selected Departmental sites will be selected for visits after the initial data review.
- The next WIPP QA Managers meeting will be held in Washington, DC on September 24 and 27, 1996, in conjunction with the EPA/DOE Technical Exchange on waste characterization. Topics on the agenda include CCA Chapter 5, EPA/NMED/EEG oversight, QAPD (Revision 1), QAPP status, audits/surveillances, QA records, software QA, and training.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/13/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Completed comment resolutions to the Compliance Certification Application and began finalizing the application for submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency in October 1996. The application is undergoing final technical editing and printing will begin September 30, 1996.
- The compliance team is finalizing the Quality Assurance Records on the Compliance Certification Application review.
- The FY 96 Performance Appraisal of WID IRM was completed by Albuquerque personnel on Tuesday, September 10, 1996. Our site had the distinction of being the first site AL had reviewed that had no observations, no noted areas for improvement, and three areas of excellence, which are: (1) cost savings of \$309,000 through equipment upgrades versus procurement; (2) graded application of software QA is a "best business practice", and (3) migration to Windows 95.

- A letter was drafted for and approved by Al Alm to the DOE Operations Offices which manage TRU waste activities. This letter provides directions on implementing CAO QA requirements to the operations offices and their contractors.
- The CAO Senior Program Analyst participated with staff from the Albuquerque Operations Office in completing the FY 1996 performance appraisal of WIDs Financial Management System. The CAO is responsible for WIDs Program and Budgeting controls instead of Albuquerque; therefore, the CAO assessments were completed and provided to AL for integration into the overall assessment.
- The continuation application for the Technology Training Center has been received from the Carlsbad Department of Development. The continuation will be processed and will be effective on November 1, 1996. Additional funding in the amount of \$500,000 is being provided for FY 1997.
- CAO representatives attended the Western Governors' Association meeting September 10, 1996, in Portland, Oregon to update Association members on CAO outreach efforts and institutional programs. CAO liaisons for the DOE's western sites also were introduced to the state representatives. Overall response to the National Stakeholder outreach Partnership Program with the sites and the WGA member states was very constructive and positive. The Southern States Energy Board representative requested a similar presentation to the council at the next meeting in early October.
- Provided the *Carlsbad Current-Argus* with information for "Outlook '97" a special edition of the newspaper. The information focused on goals for the new year, permits, public hearings, number of employees, the new DOE building, and operational changes in response to possible early waste receipt.

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

- WIPP readiness preparations will be impacted if formal delegation of start-up authorization authority from the Secretary of Energy to the CAO Manager has not been received by 10/31/96. WID cannot issue its ORR Implementation Plan as planned on 10/31/96 unless the start-up authority approves the associated ORR Plan of Action (scheduled for 7/12/96). WID is proceeding in the meantime as directed by CAO, based upon anticipated delegation and previous CAO Manager ORR Plan of Action concurrence.

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

- The EPA Computer Code Training will be held September 17-19, 1996, on GRASP\_INV and SECO.

- The International Conference on Deep Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste will be held September 16-19, 1996, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. CAO Manager George Dials is scheduled to give a presentation at the plenary session. A breakfast for international stakeholders is scheduled for September 18, 1996, and will highlight the impact of opening the WIPP and how it will affect international waste management.
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) DOE Oversight Bureau Chief and members of his staff will meet with the CAO on September 18, 1996, to discuss the transition of responsibilities associated with the closure of the WIPP office of the NMED DOE Oversight Bureau. ✓
- The Environmental Evaluation Group staff will be visiting the WIPP on September 18-19, 1996, to observe waste handling readiness activities. An overview will be given to them on the WIPP proposed waste handling plan.
- Top executives from Day & Zimmermann will visit the WIPP on September 19, 1996, for a site tour, "All Hands" to their Carlsbad employees, and discussions with CAO and WID Senior Management.
- An EPA Technical Exchange meeting will be held on September 25-26, 1996, in Washington, DC on Waste Characterization issues.
- The second meeting of Field Office representatives to review recommendations from the EM Business Management Process Improvement Team is tentatively scheduled in Washington, DC on October 1, 1996. Dave Holmes attended the first meeting and reports that significant progress is being made to integrate the Ten Year Plan and the budgeting process. The second meeting will review the consolidated changes and prepare final recommendations to be presented at the next EM Corporate Forum.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 09/6/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- On September 6, 1996, Dan Berkowitz, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Compliance and Program Coordination, toured the WIPP site and received a briefing on the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO).
- Denny Brown has been selected to serve as a member of the 1996 New Mexico Quality Awards Board of Examiners.
- There were 32 new technology transfer requests to various businesses and educational institutions signed this week bringing the total signed this fiscal year to 1,330.
- All past due deliverables from the Carlsbad Department of Development have been received and payments have been made on vouchers they have submitted. All funds have been disbursed on the Planning Grant and the Technology Training Center.
- On August 27 and 28, 1996, the National TRU Programs supported the State of New Mexico WIPPTRAX drill and exercise that occurred in Moriarity, New Mexico. The exercise began at 9:00 p.m. and lasted until 3:00 am with a requirement to demonstrate a tractor replacement on the TRUPACT II shipment.

- The CAO "Program Workout" was held September 4-5, 1996, in Albuquerque, NM. It facilitated a better understanding throughout the DOE complex of the requirements for opening and operating the WIPP and the CAO roles & responsibilities in managing the TRU process. The integrated 10 year-plan for TRU waste management was presented and discussed. Participants included Al Alm, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, and representatives from all the operations offices.
- Phase II of the Experimental Area Closure Plan is complete. Omega block barricades have been installed in the E-0 and E-140 drifts north of the N-780 drift.
- Revision 1 to Management Procedure 10.4, "Observations," was approved by the CAO Manager and has been issued for use.
- The Security Training Plan was completed and submitted for approval approximately one month before the deadline. The plan is fully integrated with the Security Training Accreditation Program requirements.
- Completed comment resolutions to the Compliance Certification Application and began finalizing the application for submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency in October 1996.

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

- We are now projecting a September 20, 1996, delivery date to Headquarters of the revised SEIS-II, including accident analysis, which will result in approval in late September or early October. This will mean hearings will likely begin in November and extend through the first two weeks of December.
- WIPP readiness preparations will be impacted if formal delegation of start-up authorization authority from the Secretary of Energy to the CAO Manager has not been received by October 31, 1996. WID cannot issue its ORR Implementation Plan as planned on October 31, 1996, unless the start-up authority approves the associated ORR Plan of Action (scheduled for 7/12/96). WID is proceeding in the meantime as directed by CAO, based upon anticipated delegation and previous CAO Manager ORR Plan of Action concurrence.

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

- Albuquerque Operations Office Business Management Oversight Review of Westinghouse is scheduled from September 9 through September 13, 1996.
- The next Plutonium Residues Assessment Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 12-13, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- The EPA Computer Code Training will be held September 16-19, 1996, on GRASP\_INV and SECO.
- The International Conference on Deep Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste will be held September 16-19, 1996, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. CAO Manager George Dials is scheduled to give a presentation at the plenary session. A breakfast for international stakeholders is scheduled for September 18, 1996, and will highlight the impact of opening the WIPP and how it will affect international waste management..
- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) DOE Oversight Bureau Chief and members of his staff will meet with the CAO on September 18, 1996, to discuss the transition of responsibilities associated with the closure of the WIPP office of the NMED DOE Oversight Bureau.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 08/16/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Complete WID ORR by 7/97.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Manager George Dials gave a WIPP update August 13, 1996, to local city and county officials.
- CAO supported the 10-Year Plan development at Headquarters during the week of August 5-9, 1996.
- The General Services Administration announced the signing of a contract to provide a built-to-suit leased office building for the CAO and a portion of its contractor staff. Occupancy of the new building is expected to occur in October 1997.
-  The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) DOE Oversight Bureau announced that its WIPP office will be closed on September 30, 1996. Oversight activities in the future will be performed by NMED DOE-OB staff from the Santa Fe office.
- The project review of the final Compliance Certification Application (CCA) is in progress at the Pecos River Village. The review is being well-supported by the CAO and its contractors. All comments are due by August 23, 1996.

- The final walkdown inspection of the East 0 and North 140 was completed on August 12, 1996. This walkdown completed Phase II of the north closure. Wood cribbing and a wire mesh barrier will be installed by 780 drift prior to the installation of the omega block barricade. Representatives from the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) were present during the final walkdown.
- Review sets of the CCA were sent to the EPA and EEG on August 12-13, 1996. All appendices were sent to EPA on August 16, 1996.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None to report.

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

- The Compliance Certification Application (CCA) review will be from August 13-23, 1996, and the comment resolution meeting for the CCA will be from August 26-28, 1996, at the Pecos River Village Conference Center in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- WIPPTRAX 96-2 functional exercise is scheduled to be conducted in Moriarity, New Mexico, on Saturday, August 17, 1996, in conjunction with the table-top exercise.
- Spectrum '96 will be held August 18-23, 1996, in Seattle, Washington. CAO Manager George Dials is scheduled to give a presentation, and the CAO exhibit will be on display.
- A DOE Public Affairs Directors meeting will be held August 19-20, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Public Affairs Directors from Headquarters and the field offices are scheduled to attend. The agenda includes a tour of the WIPP.
- The next quarterly National TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be at Hanford, August 21-22, 1996. A tour will be conducted on August 20, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.
- The Oakland Operations Office is scheduled to tour the WIPP site September 4, 1996.
- The CAO "Program Workout" is scheduled for September 4-5, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A pre-brief video conference is scheduled with CAO and EM-1 on August 26, 1996, at 1:30 a.m. MST to discuss the desired outcome of the Workout.
- The International Conference on Deep Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste will be held September 16-19, 1996, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. CAO Manager George Dials is scheduled to give a presentation.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 08/02/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 9/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 9/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Complete WID ORR by 7/97.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Federal Management System Improvement Council's (FMSIC) data mapping for support versus direct mission costing has been completed and provided to EM-15.
- There have been 1224 technology transfer requests processed with various businesses and educational institutions in FY 1996. A Technology Transfer Utilization Survey was conducted. It showed that approximately 86 percent of the material that has been transferred is being used, 7 new jobs have been created and 20 existing jobs were retained.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) completed their review of M & O Contract Reforms Initiatives at the Carlsbad Area Office on August 1, 1996. They reported that several CAO procedures will be recommended to be used throughout the DOE complex.
- A "photographic tour" of the WIPP surface and underground have been added to the WIPP Home Page. The information will benefit stakeholders who are not able to make a trip to Carlsbad and actually tour the facility.

- The final report of the Engineered Alternatives Cost/Benefit Study peer review was received. Copies were sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) on July 25, 1996.
- The CAO participated in technical discussions, status meetings, and a WIPP underground tour with Professor Wittke and Dr. Erichsen, participants in the German Waste Management Program. Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) presented technical discussions on the WIPP shaft seals and rock mechanics program. Professor Wittke and Dr. Erichsen presented technical concerns and status of the German Waste Management Program with emphasis on Morselaben activities (i.e., keyed bentonite seals and field permeability testing). These meetings focused on WIPP as a center of excellence for sealing systems and rock mechanics and the importance of joint international test participation.
- The Compliance Team conducted a Technical Exchange meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the Engineered Alternatives Cost/Benefit Study, the Passive Institutional Controls effectiveness report, and their associated peer reviews. The meeting was attended by the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG), and the New Mexico Attorney General's office. A representative of the Southwest Research and Information Center attended the PICs portion of the meeting.

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

- Formal delegatin of starup authorization authority from the Secretary of Energy to the CAO Manager has not been made; however, EM-1 has recommended delegatin to the Secretary. WID is proceeding as directed by CaO, based upon anticipated delegation and previous CAO Manager concurrence.
- The Compliance Team held another conference call with the designated Headquarters reviewers of the Compliance Certification Application. The reviewers are having problems meeting the Secretary's submittal schedule because they have "other priorities." The reviewers have stated that they will not have the authority to resolve comments on behalf of their Assistant Secretaries; they feel that upper management will need to perform their own reviews.

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

- The formal HQ Validation review will be held August 12-15, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Joe Boda (EM-35) will be the lead reviewer. A tentative list of initiatives to be reviewed has to be provided to the CAO and a detailed agenda should be completed by August 5, 1996.
- A DOE Public Affairs Directors meeting will be held August 19-20, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Public Affairs Directors from Headquarters and the field offices are scheduled to attend. The agenda includes a tour of the WIPP.

- The next quarterly National TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be at Hanford, August 21-22, 1996. A tour will be conducted on August 20, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.
- The CAO "Program Workout" is scheduled for September 4-5, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A pre-brief video conference is scheduled with CAO and EM-1 on August 24, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. MST to discuss the desired outcome of the Workout. Operations Offices have been requested to designate a senior level representative by August 5, 1996, to participate in this workout

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/26/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 7/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96 ✓
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Complete WID ORR by 7/97.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

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*Can this  
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201 permit, NMD  
not in place?*

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly attended a program review at the CAO July 23, 1996. Prior to the review, he toured the construction site of the new Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center. He also attended a reception event for community leaders and updated the group about the DOE's continuing support for the WIPP and the Carlsbad community.
- A series of National Outreach Partnership Program meetings were conducted during the week of July 15, 1996, in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho with DOE field offices, elected officials, Western Governors' Association representatives, and news media. The meetings updated involved and interested stakeholders on the status of the WIPP, SEIS-II public hearings, current issues, and future plans.
- The WIPP Home Page has been added to 50 independent search engines on the World Wide Web of the Internet. This addition ensures that stakeholders and the media will have easy access to WIPP information by simply typing key search words. To date this fiscal year, the WIPP Home Page has received nearly 22,000 inquiries from interested stakeholders.

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- WID completed its first in a weekly series of demonstration of response exercises to TRU contact-handled waste operations emergencies. This series is intended to validate draft operations procedures, build response expertise, and eventually to demonstrate proficiency. Intensity and complexity will increase with time. The demonstrations will continue until the WIPP is open.
- The 55th WIPP Quarterly Meeting was held on July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe, NM. Topics of discussion included the No-Migration Variance Petition and the Final CCDF calculations/PA parameter data.
- The CAO submitted Chapter 7 of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on July 24, 1996. Included with this submittal were five appendices to aid in their review.
- The final report of the Engineered Alternatives Cost/Benefit Study peer review was received. Copies were sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) on July 25, 1996. This topic will be discussed at the Technical Exchange meeting on July 30-31, 1996 in Albuquerque.
- On July 24, 1996, six representatives of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), led by NMED Secretary Mark Weidler, inspected brine collection and sampling systems at the base of the exhaust shaft at the WIPP. Detailed briefings and discussions also were conducted on shaft brine seepage and condensate sources, lead contamination analyses and mitigation, and corrective action and assurance measures. ✓
- The Headquarters (EM-30) audit of the CAO's Quality Assurance Program implementation was completed July 19, 1996, and results showed that the QA Program is adequate and effective.

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

- None to report.

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

- The General Accounting Office (GAO) has announced they will be at CAO starting July 29, 1996, to initiate a one week review of M&O Contract Reform Initiatives. This is a DOE wide audit effort. The entrance conference is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 1996, at 4:00 p.m. in the west conference room.
- The CAO and the EPA will hold a technical exchange meeting in Albuquerque on July 30-31, 1996, to discuss the PIC's and EAC/BS peer reviews.
- A DOE Public Affairs Directors meeting will be held August 19-20, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Public Affairs Directors from Headquarters and the field offices are scheduled to attend. The agenda includes a tour of the WIPP.

- The next quarterly National TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be at Hanford, August 21-22, 1996. A tour will be conducted on August 20, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.
- The CAO "Workout" established through the FY98 Internal Review Budget (IRB) meeting in May is tentatively scheduled for September 4-5, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Workout will bring senior managers from Headquarters, CAO, WID, SNL, and CTAC and the Operations Offices together to determine new ways to achieve the CAO mission in a faster, more effective, and cheaper manner.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/19/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 7/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Complete and approve Disposal Operations WIPP Safety Analysis Report. 3/97
- Complete WID ORR by 7/97.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Declare WIPP Operational Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Two CAO representatives participated in the 1996 National Association of Counties annual convention in Houston, Texas, July 13-16, 1996. The WIPP interactive exhibit and the TRUPACT-II transporter were featured. Our representatives report that attendee response to the exhibits was very positive.
- The WIPP information Center was relocated July 18-19 from 304 N. Main Street to the first floor of the Greene St. office. The WID External Affairs initiated this move to ensure effective external information management and responsiveness.
- The July 1996 Change Control Board and the CAO Manager's decisions were completed and changes submitted for the August Approved Funding Profile (AFP). The letter transmitting the approvals and setting the next Board meeting on August 2, 1996, was sent to CAO participants on July 19, 1996.

- The CAO presented an overview of the WIPP transportation system to the participants of the latest Wyoming WIPPTREX exercise conducted in Evanston, Wyoming, on June 12, 1996. The participants were a part of the combined response, Utah and Wyoming, for the June WIPPTREX.
- CAO participated with the TRU Carrier and WID Public Affairs in Houston, Texas, with a WIPP exhibit in conjunction with the National Association of Counties Conference conducted July 13-16, 1996, in the Houston Convention Center. Approximately 5,000 participants were in attendance.
- Scheduled a Technical Exchange meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The meeting will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on July 30-31, 1996. The topics include overviews of the Engineered Alternatives Cost/Benefit Study (EACBS) and Passive Institutional Controls (PICs) effectiveness report, as well as overviews of the respective peer reviews.
- Final technical editing of Chapter Seven of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) is complete. The senior staff will be briefed as soon as all Quality Assurance related signatures have been obtained. The chapter is scheduled for transmittal to the Environmental Protection Agency on July 24, 1996.
- CAO participated in discussions, status meetings, and a WIPP underground tour with the Canadian Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Programme (CNFWMP) Whiteshell Laboratories representative G. F. McCrank and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) Underground Research Laboratory's (URL) representative N. A. Chandler. These discussions and status meetings focused on the WIPP participation in joint international testing, the Canadian test program status and the Tunnel Sealing Experiment (TSX), and the WIPP sealing system program status.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The Compliance Team held another conference call with the designated Headquarters reviewers of the Compliance Certification Application. The reviewers are having problems meeting the Secretary's submittal schedule because they have "other priorities." The reviewers have stated that they will not have the authority to resolve comments on behalf of their Assistant Secretaries; they feel that upper management will need to perform their own reviews.
- Recent changes in offices of General Counsel and Environment, Safety and Health views on the adequacy of the analysis in the Waste Management PEIS (particularly the lack of treatment facility accidents) could result in a one to two month delay to the SEIS schedule since the SEIS will have to analyze those accidents rather than relying on the Waste Management PEIS analysis.

## MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly is scheduled to attend a management program review at the Carlsbad Area Office July 23, 1996. A tour of the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center and community dinner event are also planned.
- The 55th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) has announced they will be at CAO starting July 29, 1996, to initiate a one week review of M&O Contract Reform Initiatives. This is a DOE wide audit effort. The entrance conference is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 1996, at 4:00 p.m. in the west conference room.
- The CAO and the EPA will hold a technical exchange meeting in Albuquerque on July 30-31, 1996 to discuss the PIC's and EAC/BS peer reviews.
- The Plutonium Resides Task Force meeting originally scheduled for July 22-23, 1996, is being rescheduled during the week of August 5, 1996.
- A DOE Public Affairs Directors meeting will be held August 19-20, 1996 in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Public Affairs Directors from Headquarters and the field offices are scheduled to attend. The agenda includes a tour of the WIPP.
- The next quarterly National TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be at Hanford, August 21-22, 1996. A tour will be conducted on August 20.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.
- The CAO "Workout" established through the FY98 Internal Review Budget (IRB) meeting in May is tentatively scheduled for September 4-5, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Workout will bring senior managers from Headquarters, CAO, WID, SNL, and CTAC and the Operations Offices together to determine new ways to achieve the CAO mission in a faster, more effective, and cheaper manner.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/12/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 7/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Perform QA audits of INEL, Rocky Flats, and LANL by 12/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Declare WIPP Operatinal Readiness by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The Defense Authorization bill containing the Land Withdrawal Act amendment was passed by the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, July 10, 1996. The bill will now be considered by a joint House and Senate conference.
- QAPD, Revision 1, and Management Procedure training was conducted for the CAO Staff.
- As a result of the National Tribal Symposium conducted during June, the States Training and Education Program (STEP) has changed its name to include the tribal nations. The new name is States Tribal and Education Program (STEP).
- WIPP entered the waste handling mode on July 8, 1996, as planned. Waste handling demonstrations have commenced. In line with continuous improvement practices, demonstrations will continue until actual TRU waste receipt, on actual anticipated receipt schedules. They will refine handling procedures and establish operator proficiency.
- Construction of the Sand Dunes to Ochoa power transmission line continues. All h-frame and other support structures have been installed. Cable installation continues, with approximately eight miles complete of the nineteen-mile transmission line.

- General McFadden, NN-50, Don Solich, NN 513.2, and Linda Chiaramonte, SNSD, AL, were provided CAO briefings and a site tour. The briefings were General WIPP Overview, National TRU Programs, the Residue Task Force and current WIPP Security Posture.
- The CAO and EM-36 kicked off the Headquarters (HQ) review process for the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) on July 9, 1996. The HQ offices are beginning their reviews of chapters that have been sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Weekly conference calls will be conducted to work issues before the August 13 - August 23 review of the entire CCA.
- CAO participated in the EM Corporate Forum held in Chicago on July 11 and 12, 1996.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None to report.

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

- The CAO QA program audit will be held July 15 - 19, 1996. The audit team (EM-36 personnel) will be evaluating compliance to the CAO QAPD and Management Procedures.
- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly is scheduled to attend a management program review at the Carlsbad Area Office on July 23, 1996.
- The 55th WIPP Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe, N.M.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) has announced they will be at CAO starting July 29, 1996, to initiate a one week review of M&O Contract Reform Initiatives. This is a DOE wide audit effort.
- The Plutonium Resides Task Force meeting originally scheduled for July 22-23, 1996, is being rescheduled during the week of August 5, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 07/05/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Develop an integrated records management system by 7/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 9/96
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- CAO personnel conducted a training session for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the Performance Assessment (PA) parameterization process (date-parameters-PA computer models) on June 25 in Albuquerque.
- The Carlsbad Area Office, in discussions with the states of California and Nevada, has resolved the routing issues from the Nevada Test Site and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to the WIPP.
- Presented Quality Assurance Program Document (QAPD) and Management Procedure training to approximately 44 CAO staff members in three classes.
- Review of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) TRU Waste Certification Plan was completed. The Plan was returned to LANL for incorporation of the relatively minor set of comments. LANL did an excellent job on their first submittal of the certification plan.
- The Transuranic Waste Baseline Inventory Report (TWBIR) Revision 3 was published and distributed. The TWBIR Rev. 3 contains the data used by Sandia National Laboratory (SNL) for the performance assessment analysis of WIPP and by the Office of Regulatory Compliance for the Compliance Certification Application.
- The Plutonium Residues Task Force toured the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site on June 26 and held a task force meeting on June 27, 1996. Representatives in attendance included Los Alamos, Rocky Flats, Hanford, Savannah River, and the

Securities Application Center. Presentations were made to the group on reactivity determinations, "acceptable knowledge" for waste characterization, and security vulnerability assessments. Each residue generator site provided a report on current plans for residue processing and status of completing the residues characterization forms.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None

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

- A performance assessment computer code training session for the EPA is scheduled for the week of July 8, 1996, at SNL in Albuquerque, NM.
- The Western Governors' Association meeting will meet in Denver, Colorado, on July 9, 1996, to discuss their cooperative agreement with the DOE/CAO.
- The next Plutonium Residues Task Force meeting will be on July 22-23, 1996, in Los Alamos, NM.
- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly is scheduled to visit the Carlsbad Area Office on July 23, 1996.
- The 55th WIPP Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe, N.M.
- General McFadden, NN-50, Director, Office of Security Affairs, and Edward J. McCallum, NN-51, Director, Office of Safeguards and Security, are scheduled for a visit to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on July 10, 1996. Management briefings are scheduled.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) will come to WIPP to do an audit on contract reform provisions within our WID contract the week of July 29, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 06/21/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative by 6/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 6/96.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- There were 36 Technology Transfer requests for various businesses and learning institutions signed this week. This brings the total to 1167 requests for FY 1996.
- The list of DOE Orders applicable to the Westinghouse contract has been completed and sent to Albuquerque Operations Office for incorporation into the contract.
- The CAO Manager was briefed on the results of the concurrent review meetings and changes being made in the SEIS to prepare him to submit the Draft SEIS to DOE Headquarters on June 21, 1996.
- Chapter 3, Facility Description, of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) was approved by the CAO Manager on June 20, 1996. The CCA will be sent to EPA on June 24, 1996.
- A CAO representative attended the first National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference June 20-22, 1996 in Albuquerque, and staffed the WIPP exhibit, which was featured June 22. Approximately 150 people participated in the conference, designed to inform the Hispanic community about the need to be more environmentally active.

- The second TRUPACT-II users school in FY 96 was conducted in cooperation with the Technical Training Center. There were 33 students from five DOE sites. Subjects covered were the TRUPACT-II Safety Analysis Report for Packaging (SARP), TRUPACT-II Content Codes (TRUCON), and the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). The students toured the WIPP and observed a demonstration of the TRUPACT-II waste handling operations.
- CAO supported a State of New Mexico Public Awareness meeting and radiological emergency training conducted on June 15, 1996, in Las Vegas, New Mexico.
- Emergency Response supported the WIPPTREX 96-1 full-scale exercise in Evanston, Wyoming, on June 12, 1996, providing Controllers and Evaluators for the exercise. The exercise included personnel from Uinta County, Wyoming, City of Evanston, Wyoming, Utah Hazmat Team, Wyoming Hazmat Team, INEL Radiological Assistance Team, Wyoming State Police, CAO's Incident/Accident Response Team, WID, Red Cross, and Cast Transportation, Inc. The exercise was a tremendous success. The next WIPPTREX is scheduled in November at the Port of Entry in Fort Collins, Colorado.
- The CAO National TRU Program has approved the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Site Project Office and Environmental Chemistry Laboratory Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjP).
- Construction has started on the Sand Dunes to Ochoa transmission line portion of the permanent electrical service line item project. H-frame structures have been installed from Sand Dunes (mile 13 on the Jal Highway) to mile 24. Cable has been pulled from Sand Dunes to mile 18. The remaining H-frame structures and additional cable are positioned along the route to Ochoa (mile 32).
- Submitted the final No-Migration Variance Petition to the EPA on June 18, 1996. Copies will be provided to the WIPP reading rooms in approximately one month.
- The Carlsbad Area Office hosted a National Tribal Symposium in Carlsbad, NM June 17-19, 1996. The event included a tour of the WIPP site for the participants. The symposium was created to discuss issues relating to proposed shipping routes of TRU waste to the WIPP, and issuance of SEIS-II. Approximately 70 representatives from 36 tribes and pueblos participated. It was a consensus of the group that the TRU waste problem should be resolved through disposal at the WIPP. The symposium was covered by television stations KBIM and KOBR (Roswell), KOB (Albuquerque), KTSM (El Paso), and KWES (Midland). KOB-AM radio in Albuquerque also covered the event, as did the Associated Press and the Carlsbad Current Argus.
- Carlsbad Area Office personnel staffed the WIPP exhibit on display during the American Nuclear Society annual meeting June 16-18, 1996 in Reno, Nevada.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- WID reported two (2) lost work day cases and two (2) recordable injuries during the month of may.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- A Technical Exchange with the EPA-ORIA on the Actinide Source Term Program is scheduled for June 26-28, 1996 at SNL in Albuquerque.
- The next Plutonium Residue Assessment Task Force meeting will be on June 27, 1996, at RFETS.
- A performance assessment computer code training session for the EPA is scheduled for the week of July 8, 1996, at SNL in Albuquerque, NM.
- Western Governors Association Meeting will meet in Denver, Colorado, on July 9, 1996, to discuss their cooperative agreement with the DOE/CAO.
- The 55th EEG/NMED Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe.
- General McFadden, NN-50, Director, Office of Security Affairs, and Edward J. McCallum, NN-51, Director, Office of Safeguards and Security, are scheduling a visit to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for the second week of July 1996. A security briefing and site tour are anticipated.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) will come to WIPP to do an audit on contract reform provisions within our WID contract the week of July 29, 1996.
- Hanford has requested that a TRU Waste Certification Program review be conducted at their site in the late August to September time frame.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/31/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative by 6/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 6/96.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

- DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Alvin Alm attended the Carlsbad Area Office program review May 30, 1996. Key management of the CAO contractor organizations and several Headquarters EM-30 representatives also attended the review. In conjunction, local community officials briefed participants on existing and proposed regional economic development initiatives. Mr. Alm then participated in the ground-breaking ceremony for Carlsbad's new Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center, and toured the WIPP site. Mr. Alm expressed his support for the program and reaffirmed its priority in EM.
- ✓ ● The CAO provided an amended Part A application and minor Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B application editorial page changes to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Copies of changes will also be provided to the WIPP Reading Room distribution list.
- The CAO submitted the second phased chapter (Chapter 4, entitled "*Waste Description*") in support of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA) to the Environmental Protection Agency on May 29, 1996.
- Quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, RF, SNL, and WID were completed to implement CAO requirements. ORNL has not had any waste to characterize and no assessment has been conducted yet.

- The CAO conducted an informal review with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), CAO Technical Assistance Contractors (CTAC), and the Waste Isolation Division (WID) representatives on the progress to date of revisions for the Passive Institutional Controls (PICs) for WIPP Reports on May 28-29, 1996.
- The CAO supported the Southeast New Mexico National Environmental Technology and Training Center with a presentation of the TRANSCOM, including a live demonstration of the tracking and communication features.
- The CAO National TRU Program Steering Committee met in Las Vegas, Nevada, on May 22-23, 1996. The Steering Committee endorsed the Prototype Draft National TRU Waste Management Plan and NTP plans for alternative evaluations. Additionally, the committee endorsed the Remote Handled (RH)/High-Level Waste (HLW) Definition Decision Tree and plans. Interchange and consensus was reached on many other topics.
- WIPP operating requirements derived from various Federal and State directives have been tabulated, completing the priority milestone, "Complete Standards/Requirements Identification Document (S/RIDS) Development, Requirements Identification," on schedule. These requirements, to be validated and further refined, will form the basis for (1) the WID Line Management Assessment leading to WID's readiness declaration; (2) the WID WIPP Start-Up Operational Readiness Review (ORR); (3) the DOE WIPP Start-Up ORR. The S/RIDS tabulation is also planned for inclusion in the FY97 and out year WIPP management and operating contract to replace manual listings of applicable operating directives.
- The States Training and Education Program (STEP) completed all necessary training in preparation for WIPPTRAX 96-1 scheduled for May 31, 1996, in Albuquerque, NM. A second exercise will be conducted on July 8, 1996, in Moriarity, NM.
- The CAO hosted the first Plutonium Residue Assessment Task Force meeting on Wednesday, May 29, 1996. The Task Force includes representatives from CAO, DOE-HQ EM-66, DOE-Richland, DOE-RFFO, Los Alamos, Savannah River, Westinghouse WID, and Day and Zimmerman. The meeting consisted of the following briefing and discussions: Task Force Charter, Identification of Residue Data Parameters, WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) and Residue Comparisons, and Attractiveness Level Comparisons. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 1996, at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS).
- WIPP Home Page links were established on the Internet to DOE Headquarters, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the University of New Mexico. Links will also be established with all other generator/storage sites and national laboratories having home page access, thus making the WIPP home Page easier to find and more accessible to stakeholders interested in information about the WIPP and other CAO programs and activities.

- Kathleen Trever, Idaho Deputy Attorney General, visited the Carlsbad Area Office and toured the WIPP site on May 31, 1996.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- FY97 budget reductions at the state level may result in cessation of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) staff operations at the WIPP beginning October 1, 1996.
- Delegation of WIPP start-up authorization authority is needed from the Secretary of Energy to the CAO Manager, to allow aggressive Operational Readiness Review (ORR) process management control in support of the WIPP Disposal Decision Plan. The WID ORR Plan of Action is scheduled for approval by the Start-Up Authorization Authority in July and by DOE Order the Plan of Action is subject to DOE-EH review and comment. Timely delegation of authority is necessary to meet this first milestone in the ORR process.

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

- Concurrent review/comment resolution meetings for the SEIS are scheduled for Carlsbad on May 30 - June 5, 1996. All headquarters Management Council representatives will either participate themselves, or send staff to represent them at the review.
- The Passive Institutional Controls (PICs) Peer Review is scheduled for June 5-6, 1996.
- A performance assessment computer code training session for the EPA is tentatively planned for the week of June 24, 1996, at SNL in Albuquerque, NM.
- Western Governors Association Meeting will be in Denver, Colorado, on July 9, 1996, to discuss their cooperative agreement.
- The 55th EEG/NMED Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe.
- The General Accounting Office (GAO) released their Draft report titled "Nuclear Waste, Uncertainties About Opening Wasted Isolation Pilot Plant" for advanced review and comment. Oral and written comments will be provided to GAO for their consideration.
- DOE Headquarters Contract Reform Group reported that GAO was going to be coming to WIPP to do an audit on contract reform and will be particularly interested in the fixed price incentives and their development.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/24/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative by 6/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 7/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96. —
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96. ○
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 6/96.

**ACCOMPLISHMENT**

- The WIPP Home Page was accessed 1,322 for this week ending May 24, 1996.
- The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan was distributed on May 10, 1996.
- 19 Technology Transfer requests for various businesses and learning institutions were signed. This brings the total to 999 requests for FY 1996.
- Final design documents for the transmission line subproject of the WIPP Permanent Electrical Service line item project have been received from Southwestern Public Service Company. These final documents close out open items from the May 8, 1996, design review.
- The Technology Training Center (TTC) is holding the first National TRU Waste Program Overview course this week in Carlsbad. There are 17 students attending this course.
- Acceptable Knowledge requirements for waste characterization were distributed to all generator sites. These requirements will be incorporated into the next revision of the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP).

- Per the DOE/State of New Mexico Consultation and Cooperation Agreement, CAO held a consultation meeting with the State of New Mexico on the reasonably conservative coefficients of radio nuclide retardation in the Culebra formation that is experimentally justified. The State of New Mexico representative stated he had confidence in the coefficients presented due to the work and thought that the scientific community put into it. He will be putting together a recommendation for the State's Task Force.
- A Radiochemistry Laboratory Quality Assurance Workshop to support WIPP's analytical and monitoring activities was held in Carlsbad on May 22-23, 1996. Speakers from the National Institute of Standards Technology, DOE Richland Operations Office, Analytics Inc., and Yankee Atomic Energy presented information. Representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department, Environmental Evaluation Group, Westinghouse, Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center, and CAO attended the meeting to support coordinating environmental monitoring activities at WIPP.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Delegation of WIPP start-up authorization authority is needed from the Secretary of Energy to the CAO Manager, to allow aggressive Operational Readiness Review (ORR) process management control in support of the WIPP Disposal Decision Plan. The WID ORR Plan of Action is scheduled for approval by the Start-Up Authorization Authority in July and by DOE Order the Plan of Action is subject to DOE-EH review and comment. Timely delegation of authority is necessary to meet this first milestone in the ORR process.

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

- The first Plutonium Residues Assessment Task Force meeting is scheduled for May 29, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. Attendees include members from DOE-HQ, LANL, SRS, RFFO, and Hanford.
- Assistant Secretary Alvin Alm will visit the Carlsbad Area Office May 30, 1996, for a program review and to participate in ground-breaking ceremonies for the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center.
- Concurrent review/comment resolution meetings for the SEIS are scheduled for Carlsbad on May 30 - June 5, 1996. All headquarters Management Council representatives will either participate themselves, or send staff to represent them at the review.
- The Passive Institutional Controls (PICs) Peer Review is scheduled to begin on June 3, 1996.
- A performance assessment computer code training session for the EPA is tentatively planned for the week of June 24, 1996, at SNL in Albuquerque.
- The 55th EEG/NMED Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 05/03/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative by 6/96.
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 6/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste by 6/96.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The CAO sponsored a project update breakfast in conjunction with the High-Level Radioactive Waste Conference April 28 through May 3, 1996 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Twenty-four key invites attended the briefing event, which focused on the international importance of the WIPP. The update was provided by CAO Manager George Dials, who also addressed the full plenary session.
- Three Environmental Protection Agency staff members toured the WIPP facility. The tour and discussions centered around monitoring activities in progress.
- The independent review panel for the shaft seal design met in Albuquerque on April 24-26, 1996 for resolution of comments on the draft Compliance Submittal Design Report (CSDR). Revision of the CSDR appendices reflect the resolved comments agreed to during the meeting with the review panel.

- A public meeting of the New Mexico Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force was held in Santa Fe, N.M. on May 2, 1996. The WIPP Project Status Report was given to the task force. Some members of the task force were concerned about the forest fire near Los Alamos National Laboratory and noted a strong desire to achieve permanent disposal at WIPP.
- The CAO completed the accelerated Rev. 1.0 of the TRU Waste Characterization Sampling and Analysis Methods Manual and provided the advance requested copies to the Office of Regulatory Compliance for transmittal to the State of New Mexico. Controlled copies of the document will be distributed across the DOE complex in mid-May.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None to report.

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

- Twenty members of the Low-Level Waste Technical Committee visited the WIPP site May 2, 1996, to learn about the WIPP mission, status and general operations.
- A member of the Bulgarian National Parliament and a crew from Bulgaria National Television visited the WIPP facility in Carlsbad May 2-3, 1996. The crew interviewed CAO spokespersons about the project and viewpoints on nuclear waste management issues for a planned 1-hour documentary production.
- Engineered Alternatives Cost/Benefit Study Peer Review will be May 7-10, 1996.
- The Passive Institutional Controls (PICs) Peer Review is scheduled to begin on or about May 13, 1996.
- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly will visit the Carlsbad Area Office May 14, 1996 for a program review and to participate in ground-breaking ceremonies for the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center.
- Consultation with the State of New Mexico on the retardation coefficient and the Culebra hydrology program will be held in Carlsbad on May 21, 1996.
- The DOE Records Management Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 10-13, 1996. A CAO subcontractor, Day and Zimmerman Inc., will be presenting two papers on WIPP records issues.
- The 55th EEG/NMED Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 25, 1996, in Santa Fe.

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**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 04/26/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 4/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 4/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson hosted Idaho Governor Phil Batt and Idaho Congressman Mike Crapo on a fact finding visit to the WIPP April 22, 1996. The officials assessed firsthand the WIPP's readiness to open and operate. Both Governors' reaffirmed their support for the program. Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Manager John Wilcynski and Carlsbad Mayor Gary Perkowski also participated in the tour event. Mr. Wilcynski confirmed that the INEL is ready to ship waste when WIPP opens.
- Don Pearman, Associate Deputy Secretary for Field Management, visited the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) April 23, 1996, for an update on National Transuranic Program activities and to coordinate the agenda for Acting Under Secretary Tom Grumbly's planned visit to the CAO on May 14, 1996.

- Mario Fiori, Manager, Savannah River Operations, visited CAO Manager George Dials and toured the WIPP site April 24, 1996, to become familiar with WIPP operations and progress toward opening.
- The CAO hosted the 54th WIPP Quarterly Review April 24, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The quarterly meeting offers the Environmental Evaluation Group; the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department; and the New Mexico Environment Department and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to discuss WIPP regulatory compliance activities.
- CAO representatives met April 24, 1996, with Western Governors' Association staff and members of its Technical Advisory Group for WIPP Transportation to develop a Transportation Public Information Strategy that will coordinate and integrate the transportation corridor issues and activities with initiatives of the CAO Stakeholder Outreach Strategic Plan.
- Revision 1 of the CAO Quality Assurance Program Description (QAPD) was approved by the CAO Manager on April 29, 1996.
- Technical discussions were held with the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) and the State of New Mexico Assistant Attorney General on performance assessment, containment and assurance requirements, waste characterization and acceptable knowledge, and source term test program. Bob Neill, Director of the EEG stated that he was very pleased with the discussions and appreciated CAO's effort to discuss preliminary information.
- The CAO has submitted the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit application Rev. 6 to the WIPP reading rooms and others on the approved distribution list.
- CAO has resolved comments on the Quality Assurance chapter of the Compliance Certification Application (CCA).
- The fifth TRUPACT-II users school was conducted at the Pecos River Village Conference Center in Carlsbad, NM by the Southeast New Mexico National Environmental Technology Training Center (TTC). Thirty-four students from seven DOE sites attended four days of classroom sessions and an optional one-day WIPP tour and TRUPACT-II demonstration.
- The approved WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC), Revision 5, was printed and distributed.

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

- None to report.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly will visit the Carlsbad Area Office May 14, 1996 for a program review and to participate in ground-breaking ceremonies for the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center.
- An actinide source term audit is scheduled for April 29-May 1 at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- A briefing on WIPP Compliance to the New Mexico Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico on May 2, 1996.
- The DOE Records Management Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 10-13, 1996. A CAO subcontractor, Day and Zimmerman Inc., will be presenting two papers on WIPP records issues.
- Mr. George Dials will be the keynote speaker at the International High Level Waste Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 29, 1996.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 04/19/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement Carlsbad Area Office (CAO)/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 4/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 4/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Management Procedures (MPs) 4.3, Document Printing and Distribution 4.4, Document Preparation and Control, and 4.5 Records Management were finalized the week of April 15th.
- The WIPP exhibit was displayed at a Rocky Flats Field Office public workshop April 10-12, 1996, in Arvada, Colorado as part of the Carlsbad Area Office stakeholder outreach partnering program with major TRU generator/storage sites. Workshop participants included state and federal regulators, special interest group leaders, and other interested general public stakeholders. The participants and RF officials were very complimentary about display and the information initiative.
- The revised SEIS II Implementation Plan was approved and signed by Acting Under Secretary Tom Grumbly on April 17, 1996.

- The CAO 1996 Student Shadowing Program was concluded April 18, 1996, at the WIPP. A brief recognition ceremony was held honoring the shadows and their mentors. School representatives also attended the ceremony.
- The WIPP overview was presented to approximately 50 members of the Pecos River Compact Commission, with emphasis on the hydrological effect of the WIPP on the Pecos River. Members from New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Texas attended the 71st annual meeting. Mr. Brad Newton, a state of Texas Commissioner, extended a personal invitation for a CAO representative to attend the entire meeting. Mr. Newton is planning a future tour of the WIPP site.
- The CAO developed a Response to Inquiry about New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall's petition against the Environmental Protection Agency seeking to remand the WIPP compliance criteria back to the EPA for further rulemaking. The response was used in conjunction with Associated Press-Albuquerque and other media inquiries regarding both the petition and a companion filing by the Texas Attorney General's office.
- Performance Assessment computer code training on the BRAGFLO code was conducted from April 15-18, 1996. Staff from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Evaluation Group attended.
- Transmitted Chapter 2 of the Compliance Certification Application to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Evaluation Group.
- A Packaging, Handling, and Transportation Surveillance was conducted at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) April 8, 1996, through April 11, 1996. The scope of the surveillance was to verify that the INEL is in compliance with the applicable requirements for the use, transport, and maintenance of the TRUPACT-II packaging. The results were good; there were no findings, observations or concerns.
- The CAO supported a waste transfer from the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) to the Argonne National Laboratory-West, which was a part of the surveillance to insure the correct use of the TRUPACT-II packaging. Five (5) drums were transferred in two standard waste boxes. The transfer was made smoothly and efficiently.
- The CAO completed development of the National TRU Waste System Model for the existing facilities and the planned configuration based on the Federal Facility Compliance Act (FFCA) Site Treatment Plans. Future activities include development of new configurations to more effectively manage TRU waste across the DOE Complex from generation to disposal.
- The CAO distributed copies of the Waste Acceptance Criteria, Revision 5, to the Operations Managers at the DOE TRU Waste sites. Remaining distribution to the TRU Waste Steering Committee, the TRU Waste Executive Committee, the DOE TRU Waste sites, and regulatory agencies will be made by 4/26.

- In response to a loss of commercial electrical power, WID employed backup systems and procedures to continue limited site operations and to effect the evacuation of personnel from the WIPP underground. Commercial power was returned to the WIPP after a 5-1/2 hour outage. The outage provided an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of WIPP's backup systems and procedures to safely respond to an unplanned event.
- CAO staff attended the Las Vegas, New Mexico meeting of the City and County Commissions and provided a WIPP Display for the public. The CAO supported the State of New Mexico presentation to the governing bodies regarding the current status of the WIPP Project.

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

- None to report.

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

- Governors Gary Johnson (NM) and Phil Batt (ID) are scheduled to visit the WIPP site and meet with CAO Manager George Dials on April 22, 1996.
- Assistant Secretary Don Pearman will visit the CAO April 23, 1996, to coordinate program activities and receive an update on WIPP progress.
- The 54th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for April 24, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at the DOE Carlsbad Area Office.
- Under Secretary Tom Grumbly is tentatively scheduled to attend a program review May 14, 1996, at the Carlsbad Area Office.
- An actinide source term audit is scheduled for April 29-May 1 at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- The DOE Records Management Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, on June 10-13, 1996. A CAO subcontractor, Day and Zimmerman Inc., will be presenting two papers on WIPP records issues.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 04/05/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement CAO/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 3/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.
- Respond to Notice of Deficiency on the RCRA Part B Permit Application from the NMED by April 15, 1996.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Congressman Joe Skeen, and four members of his staff, toured the WIPP site April 3, 1996. A media interview in which Congressman Skeen expressed strong support for the WIPP was held with the Carlsbad Current-Argus following the tour. Mr. Skeen was accompanied by CAO Manager George Dials and Dennis Hurtt, CAO Public Affairs.
- Twelve representatives of the Texas Low-Level Waste Authority toured the WIPP site April 3. The visitors were briefed on general WIPP operations, mission, and project status.

- Seven visitors from Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation toured the WIPP site April 3-4 to establish a mentoring partnership with the CAO and the Waste Isolation Division for the Voluntary Protection Program. In conjunction, a recognition ceremony was held April 4, 1996 at the WIPP, which included the signing of a Certificate of Agreement. A reporter from KBIM-TV, Channel 10, Roswell, New Mexico, covered the event. Other regional media expressed interest in reporting the event utilizing a CAO-issued news release.
- The CAO met with Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Geochemical staff to review chemical retardation data and establishment of conservative  $K_D$ S. A consultation meeting with the State of New Mexico will be scheduled for April 23.
- Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) was able to meet the milestone of delivering all data to Performance Assessment (PA) by March 29, 1996.
- The CAO met with the New Mexico Environment Department on April 4 to discuss specific responses to the Notice of Deficiency (NOD). Discussions included: Groundwater Monitoring Program; Risk Assessments; RH Waste Characterization; Backfill; Waste Characterization; Shaft Seal Reports; and FTIR inclusion in application; and other topics.
- Rev. 6 of the RCRA Part B permit application, including the NOD responses, is on schedule for submittal to NMED by COB April 15, 1996.
- The Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC), Revision 5, was signed by the CAO manager on April 4, 1996. This revision makes many editorial changes and provides a much more usable document for generator sites.
- The CAO met with the Technical Training Center (TTC). The next TRUPACT-II Users School will be a TTC course. This course includes one day of instruction on the WAC, Rev. 5. Both the NTP and WID will provide support and technical instructors for the courses.
- Hot testing of TRU waste drums, per the TRUPACT-II Gas Generation Test Plan, has begun at the INEL. The test data will be used to request the NRC to increase the TRUPACT-II wattage limits.

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

- None to report.

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

- A transportation and TRUPACT II usage audit of INEL and Argonne West is scheduled for the week of April 8, 1996. A program review of nondestructive assay technical activities at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex facility at INEL will be performed at the same time.

- Mark Silverman, Project Manager of Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, is scheduled to visit with CAO manager George Dials April 8-9, 1996.
- Senator Dirk Kempthorne (ID) is scheduled to tour the WIPP site and meet with CAO Manager George Dials April 9, 1996.
- Wes Barnes, Yucca Mountain Field Office Project Manager, is scheduled to visit with CAO manager George Dials April 9, 1996.
- Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) is scheduled to visit with CAO Manager George Dials April 10, 1996.
- The CAO Mid-Year Budget Review for WIPP and NTP is scheduled for the week of April 9-12.
- The CAO FY 96 Mid-Year Review will be conducted on April 9-14, 1996. Representatives from EM-36 will participate in the review.
- A Program Review of TRU waste characterization and certification activities at Savannah River Site (SRS) is scheduled for the week of April 15, 1996. The review is being conducted at the request of SRS to assist them in attaining CAO TRU waste certification.
- Governors Gary Johnson (NM) and Phil Batt (ID) are scheduled to visit the WIPP site and meet with CAO Manager George Dials April 22, 1996.
- Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary and Under Secretary Tom Grumbly are tentatively scheduled to visit the CAO May 13, 1996.
- The CAO Mid-Year Budget Review for WIPP and NTP is scheduled for the week of April 9-12.
- A Program Review of TRU waste characterization and certification activities at Savannah River Site (SRS) is scheduled for the week of April 15, 1996. The review is being conducted at the request of SRS to assist them in attaining CAO TRU waste certification.
- The 54th WIPP Quarterly Review has been rescheduled for April 24, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at the DOE Carlsbad Area Office.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 03/22/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Implement CAO/Generator Site Outreach Partnership Initiative
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 3/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.
- Respond to Notice of Deficiency on the RCRA Part B Permit Application from the NMED by April 15, 1996.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CAO manager presented a FY 97 budget overview to the Carlsbad community leaders on March 22, 1996. The meeting focused on the CAO budget and areas of program short falls. Twenty stakeholders present asked questions regarding the WIPP and National TRU Waste programs and budget needs.
- The CAO has completed the review and validation of FY97 and FY98-02 budgets. The manager's decisions will be forwarded to participants next week. Decisions will be integrated into the CAO activity data sheets and risk data sheets which are due to EM-34 April 15, 1996.
- Answers to questions from various Congressional Committees and Subcommittees are being processed. Most questions are associated with the FY97 budget which was sent to Congress on March 18, 1996.
- A meeting was held with the State of New Mexico on the renewal of their cooperative agreement for an additional six-year project period. At the meeting, resolution was reached on the Statement of Work for the next two-year period. Costs will be resolved when the cost/price analysis is completed by Albuquerque Operations Office.
- On March 18, 1996, the CAO Manager submitted to EM-1 a revised request for delegation of SEIS approval authority to CAO along with an issue paper supporting the delegation. The delegation was endorsed by the Secretary in the March 7, 1996, Field Managers meeting.
- Six visitors from the DOE Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site toured the WIPP site March 19, 1996. The visitors were briefed on waste handling procedures and general operations being conducted at the WIPP.
- The CAO Manager, George Dials, participated in the TRU Waste Executive Committee meeting on March 20, 1996, in Denver, CO. Mr. Dials made a presentation on the schedule for opening WIPP and the importance of team work in addressing national TRU program issues such as the proposed Revision 5 of the Waste Acceptance Criteria document.
- The NTP issued a memorandum to participating sites documenting the action items agreed at the February 1996 Interface Working Group (IWG) meeting on RH-TRU waste. Three teams have been designated to assist sites in completing the items; ORNL will be the lead site for one team, and INEL will be the lead site for the other two teams.
- CAO transmitted the estimated cost to support Mound in its tritium movement to Nevada Test Site. Mound is presently reviewing the estimate and has indicated a desire for the CAO to support this shipping campaign.

- A management review of the Gas Generation Experiment (GGE) QA program was conducted on March 21 at Argonne National Laboratory-West. The review determined that the GGE is operating under an acceptable QA program that is being adequately implemented.
- Julia Gabaldon, President of Quality New Mexico, presented the Roadrunner Quality Award to Westinghouse, Waste Isolation Division (WID), in a ceremony that involved the entire Westinghouse staff. Key note speakers also included Mayor Perkowski of Carlsbad, Mr. Mike McFadden, CAO Assistant Manager, and Mr. Joe Epstein, WID General Manager.
- Completed the review of Volumes I and II SPM-2 Final Report. An approval letter has been prepared for publication of Volumes I and II as SAND reports and is being circulated for concurrence signatures. Review of Volume III will be completed this week.

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

- None to report.

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

- A transportation and TRUPACT II usage audit of INEL and Argonne West is scheduled for the week of April 8, 1996. A program review of nondestructive assay technical activities at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex facility at INEL will be performed at the same time.
- The CAO Mid-Year Review for WIPP and NTP is scheduled for the week of April 9-12.
- A Program Review of TRU waste characterization and certification activities at Savannah River Site (SRS) is scheduled for the week of April 15, 1996. The review is being conducted at the request of SRS to assist them in attaining CAO TRU waste certification.
- The 54th WIPP Quarterly Review has been rescheduled for April 24, 1996, in Carlsbad, NM. The meeting will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at the DOE Carlsbad Area Office.
- To maintain the SEIS schedule, SEIS reviewers from WID, Sandia, and CAO will be expected to participate in comment review/resolution meetings for the draft SEIS to be scheduled (tentatively) in mid-May. Headquarters reviewers will be invited to participate in this concurrent review in an effort to expedite the review/approval of the SEIS.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 03/01/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 3/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- The SEIS Implementation Plan has been revised to respond to DOE Headquarters comments and submitted to Headquarters for approval.
- Thirty technology transfer requests for various businesses and educational institutions were signed. This brings the total technology transfer requests to 356 this fiscal year to date.
- The CAO was represented at both the EM-30 Performance Museums Workshop and the EM-30 Waste Managers Conference held the week of March 19, 1996.

- The CAO provided information to DOE Headquarters on Program Direction and the CAO support service contract with respect to costs, obligations, and number of Full Time Equivalents. The FY 1996 Energy and Water Development Conference Report directs the Department to consolidate all program direction and support service contract funding into one account beginning in FY 1997.
- Incremental funding in the amount of \$388,790 has been provided to the State of New Mexico for their Emergency Response Cooperative Agreement. This plus the previous \$200,000 given to them in January will be sufficient to cover costs incurred through June 30, 1996.
- CAO representatives attended the quarterly meeting February 21-23, 1996, of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Technical Advisory Group. During the presentations, the subject of reviewing the shipping routes was introduced. Nevada and California have no established routes around Las Vegas or Los Angeles. The various states were reminded that, under the new cooperative agreement terms, Environmental Justice considerations must be used as a basis for selecting routes.
- CAO representatives manned a WIPP booth at Waste Management '96 held in Tucson, Arizona, February 26-29, 1996. The booth attracted double the number of visitors than it has in the past. Interest was very high, and there were 300 entries for the rock salt drawing. CAO Manager George Dials' presentation at the plenary session was well received, and support of the WIPP was voiced by several people. Thirty-two people attended the WIPP breakfast. WIPP site tours in conjunction with Waste Management '96 have been well attended.
- Ten members of the International Alliance for Education in Radioactive Waste Management toured the WIPP site February 29, 1996, to exchange materials and information about radioactive waste management. Dr. Hans Dirk Krijn Codee of the Netherlands requested a substantial salt sample for display in a European exhibit.
- The Monumental Task Force held a video teleconferencing meeting February 27 to (1) discuss the first cuts of the Permanent Markers for the WIPP Report, (2) review team and project progress, and (3) further define expected resource and work requirement.
- The 1995 Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) Report, documenting CAO and contractor support of the New Mexico Environment Department DOE Oversight Bureau WIPP Office, has been forwarded to the DOE Albuquerque AIP Coordinator.
- The National TRU Program has approved the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPjP), Revision 0 for implementation. Approval of this document authorizes RFETS to conduct waste characterization activities in support of their certification program to permit disposing their waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

- The National TRU Program issued a notification letter via its support contractor to generator sites initiating the 1996 review cycle for Revision 1 of the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP). The letter solicited site input on required and/or suggested changes to the QAPP and provided a schedule for completion of the review cycle, which is planned for August 1, 1996.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- As a result of restructuring of alternatives that took place in a meeting with the SEIS Management Council on February 6, 1996, the approval of the Draft SEIS could be delayed 2 months. The CAO NEPA Compliance Officer is working with the SEIS preparation team and headquarters reviewers to minimize the impact this will have on the scheduled March 1997 Record of Decision.

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

- "The Problem - The Solution" exhibit will be on display March 12-14, 1996, in Albuquerque during the New Mexico Conference on the Environment.
- A surveillance has been scheduled for Albuquerque Operations Office's review of the safety program on March 14, 1996.
- The CAO will meet with the State of New Mexico on March 19, 1996, to continue negotiations on the renewal of the current cooperative agreement for six more years.
- A transportation and TRUPACT II usage audit of INEL and Argonne West is scheduled for the week of April 8, 1996. A review of non-destructive assay technical activities at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex facility at INEL will be performed at the same time.
- A Program Review of TRU waste characterization and certification activities at Savannah River Site (SRS) is scheduled for the week of April 15, 1996. The review is being conducted at the request of SRS to assist them in attaining CAO TRU waste certification.
- The 54th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for April 25, 1996, at the Stevens Inn in Carlsbad, NM. The CAO is hosting the meeting.
- To maintain the SEIS schedule, SEIS reviewers from WID, Sandia, and CAO will be expected to participate in comment review/resolution meetings for the draft SEIS to be scheduled (tentatively) in mid-May. Headquarters reviewers will be invited to participate in this concurrent review in an effort to expedite the review/approval of the SEIS.
- Members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will tour the WIPP site March 6, 1996. Their focus areas are packaging and transportation. Kent Hunter, National TRU Waste Operations Assistant Manager, will give the visitors a general program overview which will include technical information on TRUPACT-II.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/23/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 3/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The DOE/EPA technical exchange meeting held in Carlsbad February 21 and 22, 1996, addressed the technical basis for sealing of the repository shafts. At the request of the EPA the meetings consisted of an introductory general session followed by concurrent breakout sessions to facilitate in depth presentation of technical features and data. Following the two days of meetings the EPA representatives noted that their goals had been met and that the completeness of the presentations had been exemplary. Representatives from the Environmental Evaluation Group and the New Mexico Attorney General's office were present.
- A surveillance of the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Non-Salado hydrology contractor and analytical activities was conducted. There were no deficiencies noted on the conduct of the hydrology program, however there were two Corrective Action Reports (CARs) issued to the SNL Quality Assurance (QA) Department for deficiencies in the QA Procedure 9-1 "Development on Analysis Plans."
- A technical and Quality Assurance surveillance was conducted of the Sandia National Laboratories activities associated with the Culebra Multiwell Flow and Transport studies. The work was found to be effectively implemented except that one CAR was identified for inadequate flow down of a QA requirement into one procedure.
- A surveillance of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) implementation of QA procedures 9-1 "Conducting Analyses" and 9-2 "Selection and Documentation of Parameters used in WIPP Performance Assessment" was conducted on February 15-16, 1996. There were no deficiencies noted on the technical adequacies of the work, however there were two Corrective Actions Reports (CARs) issued for deficiencies of implementing the requirements in QA-Procedure 9-2.
- The quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting was held in Knoxville, TN. The meeting was extremely useful with much interchange between sites, CAO, and Headquarters, which included: 1) Discussion and Agreement for Returning Waste Shipments to Sites; 2) National TRU Model Site Treatment Plan Baseline; 3) Remote-Handled/High-Level Waste Definition Decision Tree; 4) Technology Development; 5) Unified Budget Prioritization; and 6) Baseline Inventory Report, Revision 3.
- The National TRU Program approved the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjP), for implementation. Approval of these documents authorizes these laboratories to conduct waste characterization activities in support of their certification program.

- Dr. Hamid Maleki of Maleki Technologies, a subcontractor of the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG), conducted an underground stability inspection at the site on February 22, 1996. EEG did not share the results of their inspection but will be sending a report of their findings in the near future.
- Fifty-eight technology transfer requests for various businesses and educational institutions were signed. This brings the total technology transfer requests to 326 so far this fiscal year. An "almost paperless" system has been initiated in the technology transfer area which has reduced the total cycle time from four weeks to one week.
- The DOE Office of Inspector General's Albuquerque Audit Group has finished the assessment of Westinghouse. The assessment found that the financial systems are approved and working properly. The auditor had no findings and no recommendations at the close-out meeting.
- In conjunction with National Engineers Week, February 19-23, 1996, presentations were conducted at schools in South East New Mexico. Approximately 246 students, as well as teachers and interested parents, attended the presentations.
- Staff from Senator Pete Domenici's Office toured the WIPP site February 23, 1996, to enhance their knowledge of the project.

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

- Several minor spills have occurred on the WIPP access road from local oil and gas commercial traffic in the past two weeks. The Environmental Programs Manager convened the Land Management Council to coordinate efforts with WID to request continued cooperation from the area companies for safe use of DOE roads and to notify them that their activities will be more rigorously monitored.

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

- The Waste Management 1996 Symposium will be held February 25-29, 1996 in Tucson, Arizona.
- "The Problem - The Solution" exhibit will be on display March 12-14, 1996, in Albuquerque during the New Mexico Conference on the Environment.
- A surveillance has been scheduled for Albuquerque Operations Office's review of the safety program on March 14, 1996.
- CAO will meet with the State of New Mexico on March 19, 1996, to continue negotiations on the renewal of the current cooperative agreement for six more years.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/16/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 2/96.
- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Board of Radioactive Waste Management visited the Carlsbad Area Office and toured the WIPP facilities. The Board was briefed on the status of the experimental program and WIPP compliance status by the CAO Manager. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation for an interesting and informative tour and discussion.
- CAO Manager George Dials made separate presentations February 13, 1996, to the NAS WIPP Panel and Northern New Mexico Citizens Advisory Board about the WIPP and completed and upcoming milestones.
- CAO public affairs staff met February 12, 1996, with representatives of the Oakland Operations Office and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in addition to Lawrence Livermore TRU Executive Committee members, and on February 14, 1996, with representatives of the Nevada Operations Office, to discuss teaming opportunities for a public outreach effort. On February 13, 1996, the CAO representatives toured the TRU waste facilities at Lawrence Livermore.
- CAO personnel met with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to discuss the use of the TRUPACT-II for the shipment of contact handled (CH)-TRU waste to WIPP. Topics included the use of the TRUPACT-II for on-site shipments, LANL site-specific TRUPACT-II authorized methods for payload control (TRAMPAC), new TRUPACT-II content (TRUCON) codes for LANL waste, authorized methods of bag closure, and a tour of the TRUPACT-II loading facility. The responses from the briefing indicated that LANL is interested in being one of the first sites to ship to the WIPP.
- Representatives of the CAO met in Albuquerque, NM, to establish the five-year plan for the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP). Funding was scheduled through 2003 so that the RAP program will be funded sufficiently to support the opening of the WIPP. The RAP program and States Training and Education programs are essential to be in compliance with the Land Withdrawal Act.
- The data call for the Transuranic Waste Baseline Inventory Report (TWBIR) was issued to the TRU waste generator/storage sites. Data from TWBIR Revision 2 was preloaded on electronic format questionnaires and distributed to TRU waste sites.
- The National Academy of Sciences, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Panel met on February 13, 1996, to discuss with the Environmental Protection Agency, Carlsbad Area Office, and Sandia National Laboratories the new 40 CFR 194 regulation, recent Performance Assessment, and Actinide Source Term work. The committee was pleased with the open discussions and will use the results in their report the WIPP.

- A meeting with the State of New Mexico regarding their renewal application for continuation of the cooperative agreement took place in Albuquerque on February 7. The State and DOE discussed ways that we could assist the State to provide them funding in a timely manner that would meet the needs of the State's accounting system and allow them to cost the funds to meet DOE's needs. We are going to change the period of the DOE agreement with the State from DOE's fiscal year to the State's fiscal year. The State's renewal application is due to DOE on February 29, 1996.

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

- None to report.

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

- A Technical Exchange between CAO and EPA is planned for February 21-22, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to discuss the shaft seal design.
- CAO staff members will meet with the WGA Technical Advisory Group February 21-22, 1996, in Colorado Spring, CO, to discuss WIPP transportation
- Carlsbad Area Office is working with the Waste Isolation Division Engineering Department on plans for National Engineers Week to be held February 18-24, 1996. Presentations will be offered to college-preparatory high school classes in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Eunice, Jal, Artesia, and Lake Arthur, New Mexico.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 02/09/96**

Steve H. [Signature]  
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**PRIORITIES**

- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 2/96.
- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Complete Draft SEIS by 5/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.
- Develop classification guidance of remote handled RH-TRU Waste.

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NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- CAO Manager George Dials gave a presentation February 6th to the Espanola Rotary Club and February 7th to the Santa Fe Rotary Club. They were well attended and everyone expressed support of the WIPP. Their main concern is transportation issues. The comment was made that the DOE's approach to working with the state has improved greatly since the early stages of the project in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Mr. Dials also met with two reporters from the major newspapers in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. One article has appeared in the Santa Fe New Mexican, and another is scheduled this week in the Albuquerque Journal North. A key issue was transportation of WIPP waste from Los Alamos through Santa Fe.
- On February 6th the CAO NEA Compliance Officer met with SEIS Management Council members to clarify headquarters concerns about comparability of the SEIS alternatives. The meeting resulted in a compromise set of alternatives similar to those originally proposed in the Implementation Plan. Battelle is drawing up a matrix depicting the revised alternatives which will be presented to the Management Council to assure that we all have the same understanding of how the alternatives should be structured.
- The six year renewal of the Western Governors' Association agreement was executed by the Department of Energy.
- An interim response to EEG's comments on the WIPP SAR (Nov 1995) was provided to the EEG on February 7, 1996.
- Awarded the Cooperative Agreement to the Carlsbad Department of Development for Advanced Manufacturing Center.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Battelle is revising the SEIS review schedule to allow us to deliver a preliminary draft SEIS to headquarters, on schedule, while restructuring the analysis slightly to address Management Council concerns. This revised schedule will require that aCAO, WID and Sandia review be conducted simultaneously at meetings planned for Carlsbad.
- The Rev. 3, Baseline Inventory Report must be approved in time to meet the schedule commitment for the Compliance Certification Application.

## **MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held February 14-15, 1996, in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- The CAO Assurance Team Leader will be hosting the upcoming QA Managers Quarterly meeting which is to be held at the Rocky Flats facility on February 15-16, 1996. Generator sites will be sending their representatives to discuss QA activities at their respective facilities.
- There will be a National Academy of Science Radioactive Waste Management Board meeting February 16, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- A Technical Exchange between CAO and EPA is planned for February 21-22, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to discuss the shaft seal design.
- Carlsbad Area Office is working with the Waste Isolation Division Engineering Department on plans for National Engineers Week to be held February 18-24, 1996. Presentations will be offered to college-preparatory high school classes in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Eunice, Jal, Artesia, and Lake Arthur, New Mexico.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 01/26/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Award the Cooperative Agreement to Carlsbad Department of Development for Advanced Manufacturing Center by 2/96.
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 2/96.
- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Complete Draft SEIS by 5/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- State Senators Don Kidd and Gary Don Reagan and State Representatives Robert Light and Joe Stell hosted a WIPP informational breakfast January 24, 1996, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. CAO Manager George Dials and New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Mark Weidler were the featured speakers. Thirty-eight guests attended, including 14 legislators, 4 cabinet secretaries, and the Attorney General. Mr. Dials also met with the Governor Gary Johnson, Secretary of Transportation Pete Rahn, Secretary of Energy, Minerals, & Natural Resources Jennifer Salisbury, and Mr. Weidler in separate meetings after the breakfast.

- The cooperative agreement to the Carlsbad Department of Development for the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center has been completed and is effective February 1, 1996. Funding in the amount of \$1,960,000 has been provided for the 4-year period of the agreement.
- Carlsbad Area Office has recently approved twenty-five technology transfer requests from Westinghouse for private industry and educational institutions. This brings the total technology transfers approved by CAO to 183 for fiscal year 1996 to date.
- Cable News Network (CNN) reporter Anne McDermott and news producer Chuck Conder, from the CNN Los Angeles Bureau, interviewed Carlsbad Area Office Manager George Dials and Waste Isolation Division General Manager Joe Epstein concerning the WIPP. The news team videotaped work in progress in the WIPP underground and interviewed Mayor Gary Perkowski of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The interviews focused on the value of the WIPP to the nation and the community, technical issues such as safety, and site history.
- The 53rd WIPP Quarterly Review was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 25, 1996. New information concerning application schedules, experimental program status, National TRU Program activities, and Revision 2 of the Baseline Inventory Report was shared with New Mexico Environment Department; New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department; and Environmental Evaluation Group representatives. The quarterly meetings offer a forum for the Carlsbad Area Office and oversight organizations to discuss WIPP issues.
- The following document has been reviewed and approved by CAO for publication, SAND95-2571 "Probability, Conditional Probability and Complementary Cumulative Distribution Function in Performance Assessment for Radioactive Waste Disposal."
- The CAO Office of Regulatory Compliance met with project participants to discuss impacts which may be derived from 40 CFR 194. A detailed assessment meeting to insure coverage of all aspects of the rule will be held among project participants next week.
- The Gas Generation Experiment (GGE) glove box at the INEL has gone hot with the installation of the initial test container. Brine and inoculum have been added and the container is being purged of oxygen. The container will be brought up to test pressure (2150 psi) by January 29, 1996.
- The WIPP Land Management Plan (DOE/WIPP 93-004) was completed January 25, 1996. It represents a merger of two prior documents, the Land Management Plan and the Land Management Implementation Plan.

- The CAO TRU Carrier supported a drum transfer at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) for the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) and Argonne National Laboratory - East (ANL-E) to continue in the characterization of drums for shipment to WIPP. In addition, the carrier traveled to Spokane, Washington, to deliver another trailer for maintenance and repairs.
- CAO, Waste Isolation Division (WID), and Colorado All State Transportation (CAST), Inc. conducted an exercise to determine the response capabilities in replacing a tractor disabled by mechanical problems. The requirements were that the carrier must replace an out-of-service tractor within eight hours from the time of notification by the drivers. CAST completed the replacement, including relocating the TRANSCOM to the replacement tractor, in seven hours.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- None to report.

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

- The FY97 validation/FY98-02 Planning cycle review is underway with the Technical Support Contractor, Westinghouse, and the National TRU Program offices reviews completed. The review of all contractors budget submissions is scheduled to be complete on January 29, 1996.
- The NTP staff issued the notification memorandum for the Interface Working Group meeting in Albuquerque, NM, on February 6-7, 1996.
- Barbara Smith, CAO contracting officer, will meet with State of New Mexico on February 7, 1996 to discuss the upcoming renewal of their Cooperative Agreement.
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held February 14-15, 1996, in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- The CAO Assurance Team Leader will be hosting the upcoming QA Managers Quarterly meeting which is to be held at the Rocky Flats facility on February 15-16, 1996. Generator sites will be sending their representatives to discuss QA activities at their respective facilities.
- There will be a National Academy of Science Radioactive Waste Management Board meeting February 16, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- A Technical Exchange between CAO and EPA is planned for February 21-22, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to discuss the shaft seal design.
- Carlsbad Area Office is working with the Waste Isolation Division Engineering Department on plans for National Engineers Week to be held February 18-24, 1996. Presentations will be offered to college-preparatory high school classes in Hobbs, Carlsbad, Eunice, Jal, Artesia, and Lake Arthur, New Mexico.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 01/19/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Participate in five regulatory/technical interface meetings with our regulators (EPA and NMED) by 1/96.
- Award the Cooperative Agreement to Carlsbad Department of Development for Advanced Manufacturing Center by 1/96.
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 1/96.
- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CAO manager held follow-up discussions with representatives of the OECD/NEA and the IAEA concerning a joint international review of the WIPP performance assessment program. The agencies have agreed in principle to participate in such an effort, and letters of request for the joint review have been sent from the CAO to them.
- A WIPP informational breakfast was held January 16, 1996 in Boise, Idaho for Idaho legislators, local congressional office staffers and the INEL Site Specific Advisory Board. Idaho Governor Philip Batt and several members of his cabinet and staff also participated. Approximately 70 officials and guests attended the event. The Governor gave welcoming remarks and re-emphasized the importance to Idaho of opening and operating the WIPP. CAO Manager George Dials presented an update on the CAO program, including status of the WIPP project. Gerald Bowman, assistant manager for Institutional Development at INEL, also commented on INEL's TRU waste situation and need for the WIPP. Reaction to the event, hosted by the legislature's Environmental Common Sense Task Force, was very positive. A WIPP exhibit and related exhibits from the INEL and Argonne-West were displayed in the capitol rotunda area.
- A WIPP update was provided January 11, 1996, to the city officials of Hobbs, New Mexico. Media coverage included KOBR-TV, KOAT-TV, KBIM-TV, and the *Hobbs Daily News-Sun*. Each television station broadcast segments on the event, and the *News-Sun* provided positive coverage for its readership. Update reports were presented by Mike McFadden, CAO's assistant manager for Regulatory Compliance, and Joe Epstein, WID's general manager.
- On January 17, 1996, CNN reporter Anne McDermott and news producer Chuck Conder, both from the CNN Los Angeles Bureau, interviewed CAO Manager George Dials and WID General Manager Joe Epstein concerning the WIPP. The news team also video taped work in progress in the WIPP underground and interviewed the Mayor of Carlsbad, Gary Perkowski.
- The Carlsbad Department of Development provided an update of the status of the Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Training Center. They are looking at obtaining a prefabricated building from a company in Hobbs, New Mexico. Construction of the building should begin in six weeks with it ready for use by September 1, 1996.
- The following SAND documents have been reviewed and approved for publication: 1) SAND95-1704C "Brine Release Based on Structural Calculations of Damage Around an Excavation at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant," and 2) SAND93-1000 "Data Report on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Small-Scale Seal Performance Test, Series F Grouting Experiment."

- On January 16, 1996, all RCRA Part B Permit Application chapter revisions and responses to NMED's technical adequacy review comments were sent to both NMED and their technical contractor.
- Responses to comments on the Draft Compliance Certification Application (DCCA) were sent to the Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Evaluation Group, New Mexico Environment Department, and the New Mexico Attorney General's office.
- The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) Gas Generation test is expected to commence next week. The integration testing of the test set-up has been successfully completed.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- The EPA's proposed criteria, 40 CFR 194, have reportedly been finalized and will be provided to OMB for approval early next week. CAO will likely have to implement a program to demonstrate compliance with the new requirements expected to be included (e.g. consideration mining in human intrusion) in the proposed regulation 40 CFR 194
- The NTP is completing the final review of revisions to the draft Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPjP) for Los Alamos National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. If the revisions are complete, NTP expects to approve all three documents by the end of January. The revised Rocky Flats QAPjP is on schedule to be resubmitted to NTP by the end of January. Two of the five Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) QAPjPs have been received and comments are undergoing resolution. Submittal of the Nevada Test Site (NTS), Savannah River Site (SRS), and Hanford QAPjPs has been deferred by NTP pending individual discussions with these sites.

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

- The Office of Inspector General Albuquerque Audit Group has announced the initiation of an assessment of the Internal Control Structure and Internal Audit functions of Westinghouse systems. The entrance conference is scheduled for January 22, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. at the WIPP site.
- The FY97 validation/FY98-02 Planning cycle review is underway and the Technical Support Contractor review is completed. The review of all contractors budget submissions is scheduled to be complete on January 25, 1996.
- The 53rd WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for January 25, 1996, in the conference room at NMED's old location, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

- The NTP staff issued the notification memorandum for the Interface Working Group meeting in Albuquerque on February 6-7.
- Barbara Smith, CAO contracting officer, will meet with State of New Mexico on February 7, 1996 to discuss the upcoming renewal of their Cooperative Agreement.
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held February 14-15, 1996, in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- The CAO Assurance Team Leader will be hosting the upcoming QA Managers Quarterly meeting which is to be held at the Rocky Flats facility on February 15-16, 1996. Generator sites will be sending their representatives to discuss QA activities at their respective facilities.
- There will be a National Academy of Science Radioactive Waste Management Board meeting February 16, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
- A Technical Exchange between CAO and EPA is planned for mid-February on shaft seals.
- The Office of Inspector General Albuquerque Audit Group has announced the initiation of an assessment of the Internal Control Structure and Internal Audit functions of Westinghouse systems. The objective of the audit is to provide reasonable assurance that costs claimed by the contractor and reimbursed by the Department were allowable, and that the work by the Internal Audit function was adequate and could be relied upon by the Department. The entrance conference is scheduled for January 22, 1996, at 11:00 a.m. in the Support Building large conference room at the WIPP site.

**CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING 01/05/96**

**PRIORITIES**

- Participate in five regulatory/technical interface meetings with our regulators (EPA and NMED) by 1/96.
- Award the Cooperative Agreement to Carlsbad Department of Development for Advanced Manufacturing Center by 1/96.
- Complete Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Implementation Plan by 1/96.
- Revise the Waste Acceptance Criteria by 2/96.
- Provide quality experimental data to Performance Assessment by 3/96.
- Issue a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) by 5/96.
- Do quality assurance assessments of LANL, INEL, ORNL, RF, SNL, and WID to implement CAO requirements by 5/96.
- Submit final No Migration Variance Petition to EPA by 6/96.
- Develop an integrated records management system by 6/96.
- Develop a National TRU Waste Management Plan by 9/96.
- Submit the Compliance Certification Application to EPA by 10/96.
- Issue operational readiness declaration by 9/97.
- Maintain dialogue with and respond to New Mexico Environment Department's technical review of Part B application.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- A CAO representative presented a program on January 2, 1996, to 26 members of the Los Alamos Kiwanis Club in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Jeanette Wallace, State Representative, was in attendance and expressed her support of the WIPP project. Other attendees included business owners and community members. Their main question was, "What is going to happen to all the waste scheduled to be stored at the WIPP if the site doesn't open as planned?".

- WIPP Participant Budget Submissions for FY 1997 - FY 2002 have been distributed in preparation for Budget Validation which will commence on January 8, 1996, and continue through January 25, 1996. The schedule for the budget validation for each participant is included in each budget submission.
- The CAO Safety and Occupational Health Manager issued the November injury/illness report. The site has worked over one million seven hundred thousand safe employee hours without a lost time injury.
- The Waste Treatability Guidance Computer program has been accepted by the CAO. The computer program is a computerized version of the *Waste Treatability Group Guidance Document*, DOE/LLW-217, Rev. 0, dated January 1995. The computerized version will save generator sites time and money, and will now be made available to them.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/PROBLEMS**

- Due to the budget impasse, Mine Safety and Health Administration failed to conduct the first quarterly inspection of the WIPP Site and underground facility.

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

- A data call meeting for Transuranic Waste Baseline Inventory Report (TWBIR) Revision 3, of generator site representatives is scheduled for January 10, 1996, in Concord, California. The data call questionnaire and schedule of TWBIR events will be delivered to the sites and questions answered.
- The WIPP 53rd Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for January 11, 1996, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- The next SNL WIPP Status Meeting will be January 16-17, 1996, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- On January 16, 1996, a WIPP informational breakfast for Idaho legislators and the INEL Site Specific Advisory Board will be held in Boise, Idaho. A WIPP exhibit will be displayed in the capitol building.
- The date of the 53rd WIPP Quarterly Review has been changed to January 25, 1996, from January 11, 1996. The meeting will be held in the conference room at NMED's old location, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- The next quarterly TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting will be held February 14-15, 1996, in Knoxville, Tennessee.
- There will be a National Academy of Science Radioactive Waste Management Board meeting February 16, 1996, in Carlsbad, New Mexico.