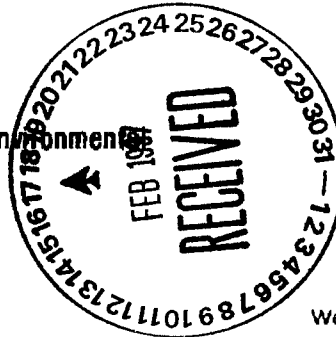


Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Government and Environment
Services Company



Steve Z

Waste Isolation Division

Box 2078
Carlsbad New Mexico 88221

Media Contact

Donavan Mager
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division
(505) 234-7219

<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>

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**Westinghouse Engineers Make Significant
Contributions at WIPP, for Nation**

CARLSBAD, N.M., February 12 -- On the eve of National Engineers Week, February 16-22, employees of Westinghouse Electric Corporation and the Waste Isolation Division celebrate a company history that is bathed in a rich engineering tradition.

Through the years, Westinghouse employees have witnessed a series of "firsts," including everything from construction of the first major alternating-current power plant at Niagara Falls in 1895, to the Waste Isolation Division's use of mining and nuclear engineering technology to complete the nation's first underground repository for defense-generated radioactive waste, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), in the mid-1980s.

"When George Westinghouse died in 1914, he left behind a company that was founded on sound engineering practices," said John Garcia, manager of engineering at the Waste Isolation Division. "Westinghouse was acclaimed in his time as the 'greatest living engineer.' As a corporation and division we are proud to add to the wonderful engineering legacy he left behind. Without engineers, this nation, company and division would undoubtedly be in the dark ages."

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Westinghouse Engineers/Add One

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Since its charter was granted in 1886, Westinghouse Electric Corporation and its long list of talented engineers have created many of the mechanical marvels upon which Americans have become dependent.

There were several engineering milestones that took place in the company's early history. In 1890, the first long-distance, alternating-current power transmission system in the United States was established from Willamette Falls to Portland, Oregon. Ten years later, in 1900, Westinghouse built the first steam turbine generator, revolutionizing the generation of electricity from coal.

Several other Westinghouse engineering projects have also left their mark on history. For example, in 1921, the Pittsburgh-based company created the first factory-made radio receiver for home use. Then in 1928, Westinghouse engineers invented the first electronic television camera tube. Engineers also designed the first automatic washing machine that didn't have to be bolted to the floor, and the first atomic engine (Nautilus prototype) in 1953.

A little closer to home and more recently, Westinghouse's Waste Isolation Division engineers have created their own engineering-rich legacy at the WIPP. In the early 1980s, engineers designed and constructed "Room H." The doughnut-shaped WIPP experimental room is mined out of salt rock, 2,150 feet below the earth's surface.

In the late 1980s, engineers also constructed a roof support system in Room 1 of Panel 1 that has since been described by scientists as the "safest underground laboratory in America." The unique support system was created for underground radioactive waste experiments at the WIPP, but in 1993 the tests were relocated to two national laboratories. The uniquely engineered roof support system is designed so that technicians can monitor each of the 54 roof support bolts from the surface.

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Westinghouse Engineers/Add Two**-3-**

Westinghouse engineers have also designed a transuranic radioactive waste transportation container described by the National Academy of Sciences as ". . . safer than that employed for any other hazardous material in the United States today." The Transuranic Package Transporter model two, or TRUPACT-II, received Nuclear Regulatory commission approval in August 1989. It will be used to transport transuranic waste from generator/storage sites, to the WIPP for permanent disposal.

Garcia said Waste Isolation Division engineers have made the WIPP project what it is today -- a world-class facility that is based on sound, safe engineering practices, and a critical step toward solving the nation's nuclear waste disposal problem.

"Westinghouse engineers have a lot to be proud of. They are responsible for some amazing products, which -- on a daily basis -- solve problems and make our lives easier. And, let us not forget George Westinghouse and his vision. Mr. Nikola Tesla, whose electrical patents revolutionized the industrial world, said it best: 'George Westinghouse was one of the world's true noblemen, of whom America may well be proud and to whom humanity owes an immense debt of gratitude'."

In observance of National Engineers Week, employees of the Waste Isolation Division will visit Carlsbad, Hobbs, Jal , Lake Arthur and Loving schools to educate students and teachers about the importance of engineering to society.

The Waste Isolation Division is the managing and operating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Area Office at the WIPP.

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