PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• On December 8, 1999, an ANDRA/CAO technical exchange was held in Carlsbad. ANDRA is the lead Nuclear Waste Management organization in France, and they are responsible for designing and constructing two Underground Research Laboratories (URL). ANDRA is paying $30,600 to CAO for information, support and a report to aid them in designing and constructing their URLs. CAO’s knowledge and experience will be of great benefit to ANDRA’s mission. This exchange is viewed as an important step to establishing a mutually beneficial relationship between CAO and ANDRA.
• The FY 2001 Budget Validation will be completed on December 15, 1999. This validation process is also re-evaluating FY 2000 to incorporate all the changes occurring in FY 2000 as a result of reductions in the CAO budget from $186.4 million to $180.5 million.
• Albuquerque Operations Office and the Carlsbad Area Office have reached agreement with Westinghouse on the FY2000 amounts for award fee and incentive fee for the performance based incentives. The FY1999 Performance Evaluation Report was approved by the Manager, Albuquerque Operations Office, on December 8, 1999.
• The RH-72B Cask Draft RFP has been transmitted to ABQ for inclusion on the internet. The Draft RFP can be seen at www.doeal.gov. Comments are due from offerors by December 21, 1999.
• The December CAO Monthly Calendar was produced and distributed to approximately 2,900 stakeholders, including the DOE and its contractors. Also produced and distributed the Fall issue of TRU Progress. Electronic copies were placed on the WIPP Home page.
- Final public hearings of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis were conducted in Carlsbad, Artesia and Hobbs this week. The final version of the analysis will be completed by the end of January 2000 and issued to the public after DOE review. The analysis was funded with DOE 3161 program support.

**ISSUES/CONCERNS**

- None to report

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The annual New Mexico Legislative Breakfast will be held January 27, 2000, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Carlsbad Area Manager Dr. Inés Triay will give an update on recent activities at the WIPP.

- The 69th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2000, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment Department.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• A Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Representative attended and gave several presentations at the Joint States’ Meeting October 26-29 in San Diego, California. CAO developed, presented, and distributed a CD-ROM that contained a WIPP overview and multiple WIPP-related pictures, and assisted in negotiating the cooperative agreements with the western states.

• The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) attended the Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and participated in the discussions regarding the re-organization of the Emergency Management functions within the Department of Energy. CAO was requested to participate in the total revision and simplification of the Emergency Management Order 151.1.

• WIPP safely received four TRU waste shipments, all from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) this week. As of November 6, 1999, 43 shipments of TRU waste have been received at WIPP.

• The Carlsbad Area Office hosted a group of international visitors Wednesday, November 3, 1999. This was a contingent of high level scientists and managers from countries trying to develop geologic repositories for the disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and radioactive waste containing long-lived radionuclides. This group visited WIPP after attending the Secretary of Energy’s International Conference on Geologic Repositories. The group consisted of 29 representatives from Russia, United States, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Indonesia, Japan and other countries, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency. At the conference, Under Secretary Moniz strongly suggested that WIPP be used as the international test bed for transparency technologies.
The Carlsbad Area Office WIPP team demonstrated real time tracking of a nuclear waste shipment with monitoring of several tamper-proof devices on a TRUPACT-II transporter at the Secretary of Energy’s International Conference on Geologic Repositories in Denver on November 1 - 2. In addition, technology was demonstrated showing real time display of several WIPP operational parameters, including video from the WIPP underground. The WIPP technical team implemented a request from Under Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernie Moniz, following his visit to the display, to allow incorporation of the tracking display into Dr. Moniz’s presentation at the conference. The tracking display became a featured part of Dr. Moniz’s presentation, during which Dr. Moniz stated that WIPP should be used as a test-bed for technology development and demonstration related to nuclear material transparency for the back end of the fuel cycle.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• Assistant Secretary Carolyn Huntoon is scheduled to visit the Carlsbad Area Office and tour the WIPP November 17.
PRIORITIES

- Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
- Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
- Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- WIPP safely received two TRU waste shipments, both from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) this week. As of October 29, 1999, 39 shipments of TRU waste have been received at WIPP.

- At an awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 20, 1999, at the DOE HQ Federal Energy Management Program Offices, James Hedin of WID Engineering was recognized as a DOE Energy Champion. This is the second year Mr. Hedin has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the DOE Energy Management Program.

- The Mine Rescue Assistance Agreement with the Potash Mines was corrected and signed by all parties. Closure and buyout of local mines have changed the list of participants. The agreement is mutual assurance that in a time of need, mine rescue teams will provide assistance.

- New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Peter Maggiore signed the Hazardous Waste Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on October 27, 1999. This permit will provide active environmental regulation of the WIPP during its operational phase. Before WIPP begins accepting waste under the permit, the DOE must demonstrate that its generator sites have characterized the waste per the requirements contained in the permit. The permit will become effective 30 days following the Secretary’s signature.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- None to report
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary James Owendoff, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary David Huizenga and EM-62 Director Lynne Wade are scheduled to visit the Carlsbad Area Office and visit the WIPP November 1.

• Assistant Secretary Carolyn Huntoon is scheduled to visit the Carlsbad Area Office and tour the WIPP November 17.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 22, 1999

PRIORITIES

- Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
- Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
- Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Carlsbad Area Office hosted a National TRU Waste Program Re-Engineering meeting in Carlsbad October 20-21, 1999. Representatives from DOE HQ, all of the major TRU waste generator sites, the National Laboratories involved, and the operating contractors were in attendance. The meeting was very successful in that opportunities to streamline and improve the system were identified, agreed upon, and paths forward charted.

- WIPP safely received two TRU waste shipments, both from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) this week. As of October 22, 1999, 37 shipments of TRU waste have been received at WIPP.

- The Carlsbad Area Office responded to a Headquarters budget call for Safeguards and Security. This call would identify all FY 2000 and FY 2001 funds devoted to Safeguards and Security and create a budget line item dedicated to those activities.

- The 68th WIPP Quarterly Review was held October 22, 1999, in Albuquerque. It was attended by representatives of the Carlsbad Area Office, Environmental Evaluation Group, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, and the New Mexico Attorney General.

- The Carlsbad Area Office Manager attended the New Mexico Legislative Radioactive and Hazardous Material Committee meeting held in Carlsbad on October 21, 1999. The Committee requested discussion on the status of WIPP including RCRA Permit status. NMED Secretary Peter Maggiore and Bureau Chief James Bearzi also attended the meeting.
• The Carlsbad Area Office and the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) held one of a series of technical exchanges on October 14, 1999. The subject of the exchange was WIPP Air Monitoring. The meeting was successful in that all of the issues and concerns were discussed and examined in full, and agreements reached on future discussions.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Eleventh National Technology Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D. R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 15, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• A delegation of members of the Japanese House of Representatives and their accompanying staff toured the WIPP October 13, 1999.
• Eleven scientists from China, Taiwan, France, Spain, Switzerland, Japan and Germany toured the WIPP this month. They are conducting experiments in an underground rock laboratory in Switzerland. Worldwide interest in WIPP continues as other countries search for solutions to their nuclear waste disposal problems.
• Mining activities developing the access drifts leading to Panel 2 are on schedule. The mining activity averaged 191 tons per shift and advanced the drifts some 152 feet this week.
• WIPP safely received two TRU waste shipments, both from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) this week. As of October 15, 1999, 35 shipments of TRU waste have been received at WIPP.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Eleventh National Technology Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D. R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.
The 68th WIPP Quarterly Review has been rescheduled for October 22, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the Environmental Evaluation Group.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The third TRU waste shipment from Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) safely arrived at the WIPP on September 30, 1999.
• The Department of Energy’s final set of comments on the WIPP Hazardous Waste Permit Hearing Officer’s Final Report were submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department last week.
• President Clinton signed the Energy and Water Appropriation Bill on September 30, 1999. The Department of Energy will not have to operate during the first part of FY2000 under a continuing resolution.
• WIPP is participating in energy conservation measures by installing induction coupled electrodeless (ICE) fluorescent lighting in its high-bay facility. This is the first installation of this new technology in the United States. The new fixtures provide the same light output but at half the power consumption. This installation is under the review of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.
• The Carlsbad Area Office and the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division continued their long history of operational excellence in mine safety, earning the Exceptional Safety Accomplishment Award for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). WIPP has received mine safety awards for 13 consecutive years.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The Eleventh National Technology Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D. R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

- A delegation of members of the Japanese House of Representatives and their accompanying staff are scheduled to tour the WIPP October 13, 1999.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.

• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.

• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit.

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Program Planning and Budget Team (PPB) supported the FY 2000 Westinghouse contract negotiations effort by assisting in finalizing Issue Sheets and obtaining signatures. One hundred-eighty seven of the 195 Issue Sheets have been signed.

• Provided funding requirements of CAO’s contractors for October and November 1999 to Albuquerque Operations Office for informational purposes for the anticipated Continuing Resolution (CR). This information will be used for initial funding in FY 2000. All indications are that DOE will be operating under a CR.

• Plans were made this week for completing an Individual Development Plan (IDP) and started required training in Facility Representative courses for CAO’s new intern.

• A September 18, 1999, tour of the WIPP was conducted for Senators Larry Craig (R-ID), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Frank Murkowski (R-AK), and Craig Thomas (R-WY). Morrison Knudsen and Westinghouse corporate officials also participated.

• The CAO supported the City of Carlsbad's Economic Summit meeting on September 20, 1999. Mayor Gary Perkowski called on city leaders, community organizations, WIPP contractors, and other key players in CAO programs to focus on exploring potential economic development opportunities and supporting projects and commitments.
A CAO representative attended the September 15, 1999, public information meeting on proposed upgrades to New Mexico Road 128. Although the majority of responses to the proposed construction were positive, concern was expressed that once an improved road was completed, WIPP waste would be hauled on that route in the event the north access road became impassable.

A CAO representative met September 21, 1999, with Bob Gallagher, DOE Special Assistant to Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, to show support for efforts to find solutions to a depressed economy in this area. Mr. Gallagher also met with local officials in Hobbs.

On September 22, 1999, one shipment from LANL arrived at WIPP at approximately 8:00 a.m. carrying 3 TRUPACTs. Unloading was completed on September 23.

On September 23, 1999, one shipment from Rocky Flats arrived at WIPP at 1:00 p.m. carrying 2 TRUPACTs (containing 28 Pipe Overpack containers) with the unloading of the waste from TRUPACTs scheduled for September 24.

Two TRU waste shipments were received at WIPP the week ending September 24, 1999:

- LANL-00017 (September 22, 1999) – 6 SWB
- RF-99012 (September 23, 1999) – 28 drums

The processing of the LANL shipment is complete. The waste from both the LANL and RFETS shipments is currently scheduled for downloading and emplacement on September 28, 1999. As of September 23, 1999, 31 total shipments of non-hazardous TRU waste have been received and processed, and 95 SWB and 350 drums have been emplaced in the WIPP Facility.

The Security Plan, the Security Training Plan, the Emergency Plan and the Hazards Assessment deliverables were provided to DOE on schedule.

The vendor previously supplying magnesium oxide (MgO), which is utilized for backfill during the waste emplacement activities at WIPP, is no longer producing the originally specified MgO. WID has received proposals from two other manufacturers; however, both of their products deviate slightly from the criteria established by Specification D-0101. CAO Safety and Operations is coordinating with CAO Regulatory Compliance to assist WID in requesting Sandia to perform a technical evaluation and provide recommendations regarding the similar MgO products. Currently, WIPP has approximately a five-months supply of MgO; however, timely support from Sandia, and WID and CAO procurement will be necessary to avoid operational impacts.
ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Eleventh National Technology Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D. R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

• The 68th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for October 26, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the Environmental Evaluation Group.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation; and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999.
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• An archeological investigation of sites in the vicinity of the site preliminary design validation (SPDV) salt pile is being conducted prior to commencing activities to reclaim the salt pile. The Mescalero Apache tribe has been informed of the activities.
• The 15th TRU waste shipment from Los Alamos National laboratory safely arrived at the WIPP on September 2, 1999.
• The 10th TRU waste shipment from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site safely arrived at the WIPP on September 3, 1999.

Regional Development

• CAO has been working with the Carlsbad department of development and representatives from City of Carlsbad to develop a proposal for a regional Community Reuse Organization (CRO). The CRO is required to process and administer DOE Worker and Community Transition funds for regional economic development. Work will require participation and support from regional communities, economic development organizations and industry. A proposal to DOE is expected by the end of September 1999.
• The Carlsbad Area Office will participate in the Cluster Repository Project. This Project, which is being spearheaded by the European Community, will develop an international guidance document for planning and construction of future underground radioactive waste repositories. CAO involvement will allow WIPP’s success to be showcased internationally and will also attract other programs to collaborate with us in the future.
ISSUES/CONCERNS

- Status of CAO’s $5M Internal Reprogramming - The current status is that the House Energy and Water is the only committee to have concurred to date. It is unlikely that we will get any further concurrence until Congress returns back to work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The Eleventh National Technology Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, October 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D. R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

- The M&O contract for the WIPP will be competed. That action is being handled by Contracts and Procurement Division, Department of Energy in Albuquerque. Also, there will be a competition for the CTAC contract. That action is being handled by CAO.

- The 68th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for October 26, 1999, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the Environmental Evaluation Group.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.

• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.

• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• DOE-CAO conducting an observation of WID Maintenance activities to support accelerated mining.

  Areas under observation:

  • Identification of critical equipment required to conduct accelerated mining and hoisting activities.
  • Critical spare parts program
  • Critical spare parts requirements
  • Critical spare parts on-hand
  • Evaluation of preventative maintenance schedules for impact on mining and hoisting activities.

• Quantification of waste received and emplacement:
Three shipments were received at WIPP during the respective week
  RWMC/INELL (re’d 8/28/99) 28 drums
  RFETS (826/99 28 drums)
  LANL (8/26/99) 6-SWB
  All three shipments are scheduled for emplacement on August 31, 1999

• Peter Lyons, Legislative Assistant to Senator Pete V. Domenici, toured the WIPP August 25, 1999, and met with Carlsbad Area Office senior staff to discuss the state’s permitting process, border initiative, and other WIPP-related issues. He also met with city leaders to discuss associated issues.
- Provided information to the Associated Press in Albuquerque, *Inside Energy*, and the *Carlsbad Current-Argus* and conducted a telephone interview with KOB-AM in Albuquerque about the August 23, 1999, shipment of non-mixed transuranic waste from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory to WIPP. The reporters were interested in the timing and contents of the shipment, as well as the cause for the gap between the first shipment from INEEL in April and the second shipment August 23.

- The last safety-related system identified as Y2K non-compliant has been successfully fixed using a roll-back of the internal clock. The radio frequency alarm repeater (RFAR) is used to transmit fire alarms to the Central Monitoring Room from areas of the site that can't be hardwired. Although a purchase request has been submitted by WID IRM to completely eliminate the Y2K threat, the successful rollback of the RFAR clock means the system is now Y2K ready and will not be a problem.

- The notice of intent to issue an RFP for the 72-B Casks was published in the Commerce Business Daily on August 25, 1999. The RFP will be issued by this office in mid-September (once all the reviews and approvals are completed as required by the dollar level of the procurement).

**ISSUES / CONCERNS**

- **Status of CAO’s $5M Internal Reprogramming** - The current status is that the House Energy and Water is the only committee to have concurred to date. It is unlikely that we will get any further concurrence until Congress returns back to work.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS**

- The Eleventh National TIE Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, Oct. 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D.R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

- The M&O contract for the WIPP will be competed. That action is being handled by Contracts and Procurement Division, Department of Energy in Albuquerque. Also, there will be a competition for the CTAC contract. That action is being handled by CAO.

- M. Halaska will travel to Las Vegas, NV, August 31 - Sept 2, 1999, to attend the meeting on Project Execution Tracking Module for IPABS-IS, sponsored by DOE Headquarters.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The 3rd Quarter FY 1999 Management Review is scheduled for September 21. Program Planning submitted progress updates for the report.

• The WIPP received a shipment containing TRU waste in 28 drum pipe over-pack containers from Rocky Flats on August 19, 1999, during the afternoon. This was the only shipment received at WIPP for the week of August 15-21, 1999.

• J.R. Galle, CAO, Gary Young, WID and A.J. Hill, WID, participated on August 17, 1999, in an Eddy County Emergency Management sponsored Y2K based table top exercise. We worked with representatives from Eddy County, the City of Carlsbad, and the City of Artesia regarding potential problems related to Y2K or Y2K similar activities - such as total loss of power. WIPP appears well versed and capable to handle the scenarios presented.

• Revised and signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were distributed to the Eddy County Manager and the Carlsbad City Manager. The revisions are routine updates to keep established MOUs current.

• Regional Development

Wind Power Project: Follow up on last week's Carlsbad Department of Development tour of potential sites for locating a wind power generation farm. Site locations in Eddy County offer the most potential for job creation, ease of access and local support. DOE, U.S. Forest Service, State of New Mexico, Eddy County, City of Carlsbad, and private industry are participating on this potential project idea.
• Technology Transfer

Completed 37 technology transfers, bringing the FY99 total to 3,912. Recipients included 3M, George Washington University, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Motorola.

Results of the annual survey of economic impacts of the technology transfer program were presented to Dr. Triay. Using data gathered from survey respondents, the report shows how the program has helped non-profit organizations and businesses. Non-profit organizations have been awarded a total of $128 million through 754 grants. Private industry has benefitted from the creation of 3,000 jobs and $9 million in commercial sales and cost savings.

• Economic Development

The Carlsbad City Council approved funding $20,000 for the annual Downtown Revitalization Services Contract, negotiable for three years. Westinghouse economic development has been supporting the Carlsbad MainStreet Project with administration and $15,000 to leverage a full-time, independent MainStreet manager.

Prepared additional MainStreet proposal books for use at a City Council presentation.

In partnership with the Carlsbad Department of Development, representatives made a presentation to Mayor Perkowski, Representative Heaton, and City Manager Tully of Carlsbad, NM. This presentation addressed results of airline service surveys and analyses. Results indicate that 30-seat jet services from Carlsbad to Dallas Fort Worth is feasible because of adequate demand and profitable margins. The mayor and representative agreed to participate in recruiting efforts, but asked that further study be conducted to determine customer acceptance of smaller aircraft.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• Status of CAO’s $5M Internal Reprogramming - The current status is that the House Energy and Water is the only committee to have concurred to date. It is unlikely that we will get any further concurrence until Congress returns back to work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Eleventh National TIE Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, Oct. 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D.R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

• The M&O contract for the WIPP will be competed. That action is being handled by Contracts and Procurement Division, Department of Energy in Albuquerque. Also, there will be a competition for the CTAC contract. That action is being handled by CAO.

• Peter Lyons, Legislative Assistant to Senator Pete V. Domenici, is scheduled to tour the WIPP August 25, 1999.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.

• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.

• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The CAO Price-Anderson Amendments Act (PAAA) coordinator attended an Environmental, Safety and Health forum at the DOE Albuquerque Operations Office. The CAO participant gave a brief overview at the forum of CAO’s integrated safety management activities and implementation of the WIPP PAAA compliance program.

• CAO representatives met with regional county, community and economic development organization representatives to review a proposal for a Community Reuse Organization. A proposal is expected to be submitted to CAO for approval by the end of August.

• Technology Transfer division completed 69 technology transfers, bringing the FY99 total to 3,875 and exceeding the FY99 goal of 3,820. Recipients included the World Bank.

• CAO representatives met with Michael McDiarmid, an engineer for the Energy Conservation and Management Division of the New Mexico Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources Department. The focus of the meeting and area tour was to explore the resource potential of a wind power generator for the region. Also attending were local businesses, city and county representatives.

• WID Economic Development personnel prepared and provided CARUS brochures to CAO Scientific Advisor.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• Status of CAO’s $5M Internal Reprogramming - The current status is that the House Energy and Water is the only committee to have concurred to date. It is unlikely that we will get any further concurrence until Congress returns back to work.
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Eleventh National TIE Workshop is to be held in Las Vegas, NV, Oct. 26-29, 1999. Abstracts are to be presented by D.R. Anderson and L. Dotson of SNL.

• The AL Environmental management Fiscal Year 2000 “Needs” workshop is being held on August 18-19, 1999, in Albuquerque. D&R will be represented and an overview of the National TRU Program Needs Statements for CAO will be presented. The focus will be on identifying opportunities to reduce costs and/or shorten schedules identified with the baseline technologies in the DOE/AL Path to Closure. The goal of this workshop is to bring together the AL technology end users and system wide development and deployment programs to review existing science and technology needs, to identify new needs and discuss potential deployment opportunities for new and for new and innovative technologies.

• The M&O contract for the WIPP will be competed. That action is being handled by Contracts and Procurement Division, Department of Energy in Albuquerque. Also, there will be a competition for the CTAC contract. That action is being handled by CAO.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JULY 23, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.

• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.

• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The CAO reached agreement with the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico, regarding shipments of TRU waste from LANL to the WIPP. A formal signing ceremony is planned for July 27, 1999, in Santa Fe.

• Final plans were made to link the satellite course into the Skeen-Whitlock Building for certification/recertification of Registered Environmental Managers. The course will be received August 10-12, and five CAO personnel are planning to attend.

• The Tactical Planning and the Business Plans for the Domestic Programs, International Rad Waste Programs, Hazardous Waste Programs, Regional Socio Economic Programs, and CARUS are being written to define business strategies for both areas in the Development and Research Group. The Domestic Programs area involves the Technology development and Development areas and include CAO participation in the EMI process as the TRU T&D PAIT (Program Area Integration Team Member), membership in the Mixed Waste Focus Area’s End-User Steering Committee and the National TRU Program’s Site Technology Coordinating Group membership. The Technology Deployment Initiative will be the main focus of the hazardous Initiative Program and will provide an outlet for development of EM-50’s technologies to be demonstrated and deployed. This program will be coordinated with several sister federal agencies.

• A planning session was held in Salt Lake City last week with the TRU Transportation & Disposal PAIT and the TRU Storage and Treatment PAIT, both attending to work together to assess the disposition of the Small Quantity Sites TRU wastes. The path forward for working on the EMI Round Robin opportunities of Large Containers Disposition, the Drum Age Criteria model to expand the number of possible waiting times for drums, and the disposal versus decontamination issues were discussed and
future workshops are being planned. The Drum Age Criteria model has been sent to the scientists at Idaho to model the envelope of possibilities for drum waiting times. The Core Team had given the CAO TRU PAIT the go-ahead to proceed with implementation of the results of the previous workshops with this new modeling of an additional 32 drum waiting times. Results are expected in the late fall.

- The U. S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan, Richard Jones, visited the WIPP July 16, 1999. He is interested in environmental cleanup and safe disposal of radioactive waste in his country. Ambassador Jones was in Carlsbad visiting family members.

- A CAO representative attended the annual meeting of the Council of State Governments-West July 16-20, 1999, in Sun Valley, Idaho, to monitor the activities and represent the WIPP. Key legislators and governors from the western states were briefed on the status of the WIPP. Support was provided to Tim Jennings, New Mexico State Senator from Roswell, who was chairman. Legislators from 13 Western States and Pacific Island governments worked in plenary sessions on Western States issues, including nuclear waste disposal. A number of environmental issues and trends were identified that impact the western states. More than 750 persons attended.

- Developed a communications/outreach plan in response to Seminole, TX, community concerns about a proposed WIPP transport route change through that community. Other concerned communities include Big Spring and Lamesa, TX, and Hobbs, NM. The CAO will discuss the route change with Texas representatives in Austin on July 28, 1999. The outreach plan will be implemented if the route change becomes a viable consideration.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

- None

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- On July 22, 1999 the 3rd Winston Solar Challenge (WSC) cross-country race stopped briefly at the DOE’s Carlsbad Area Office before journeying on to El Paso, Texas. The CAO is the only DOE site on the race schedule. The WSC is an educational program designed to help motivate high school students in the sciences, teach them how to build road-worthy solar cars, and provide a safe environment for racing. This year’s race is a 7-day event from Dallas to Los Angeles, beginning July 20 and ending July 27

- CAO staff members are planning to attend the NAS meeting in Albuquerque the week of July 26.

- The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review has been tentatively rescheduled for July 28, 1999, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Participated in a meeting with WID, SNL, and CTAC staff to discuss future activities needed to comply with the terms of the compliance Certification Application.
• CAO Staff provided a briefing to Jim Owendorf, EM-1, on the near term shipping schedule and status of small quantity sites.
• A CAO representative met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with the Transportation External Working Group to discuss the umbrella grant and tribal transportation agreements with the DOE.
• The CAO conducted its first characterization, certification and transportation audit of Hanford the week of July 12-16, 1999. There will be six Corrective Action Reports (CARs) issued. None of these CARs are deemed significant. They will not be certified as a result of this audit. It has been determined that Hanford has a marginal program with several areas indeterminate or incomplete. The CAO audit team leader stated that, for a first audit, Hanford has done very well.
• HQ is releasing $5M of the funds that were withdrawn in March and May. The funds would be converted to capital equipment to be used to purchase 12 TRUPACTS. The funds will be available in the July AFP which will be released the 10th working day in July. However, in order to reprogram this funding, Congressional approval will be required. In addition, $500K is being released to cover the legal fees of Winston & Strawn.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- On July 22, 1999 the 3rd Winston Solar Challenge (WSC) cross-country race will stop briefly at the DOE’s Carlsbad Area Office before journeying on to El Paso, Texas. The CAO is the only DOE site on the race schedule. The WSC is an educational program designed to help motivate high school students in the sciences, teach them how to build road-worthy solar cars, and provide a safe environment for racing. This year’s race is a 7-day event from Dallas to Los Angeles, beginning July 20 and ending July 27.

- CAO staff members are planning to attend the NAS meeting in Albuquerque the week of July 26.

- The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review has been tentatively rescheduled for July 29, 1999, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
PRIORITIES

- Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
- Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
- Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The 12th TRU waste shipment from Los Alamos National Laboratory arrived safely at WIPP on June 24, 1999.
- On June 14 - 17, 1999, the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) co-hosted and co-sponsored with the Nuclear Energy Agency the 4th workshop of GEOTRAP, which is a project on the transport of radionuclides in geologic, heterogenous media. Representatives from 12 nations attended this major international workshop. The workshop was extremely successful, with the participants thanking CAO for its roles as co-host and co-sponsor.
- On June 19th, 1999, the CAO conducted a joint technical exchange with ENRESA, which is responsible for repository research and development in Spain. The focus of the exchange was on flow and transport of radionuclides. This was the second of two exchanges planned in 1999 with ENRESA. Possible areas of future collaboration were identified and follow-on discussions will take place.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

- The CAO Manager, Dr. Ines Triay, is sending assessment teams to the sites currently shipping TRU waste to WIPP to conduct reviews of adherence to loading and inspection procedures. This is a result of a WIPP waste handling technician finding a vent port plug cover missing from one of the TRUPACT-II shipping containers that arrived at WIPP this week. While the incident did not pose a safety risk, the goal of the CAO is to achieve and maintain a perfect record of operations.
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review has been tentatively rescheduled for July 29, 1999, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JUNE 18, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The eleventh TRU Waste shipment from Los Alamos National Laboratory arrived safely at WIPP on June 16, 1999.
• The first shipment of TRU Waste from Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site to the WIPP left Rocky Flats at approximately 8:30 p.m. June 15, 1999, and arrived safely at the WIPP the afternoon of June 16, 1999. Joint Carlsbad Area Office - Rocky Flats pre-shipment and post-shipment news releases were issued in support of the event. Media coverage was extensive and universally positive.
• The Carlsbad Area Office, together with the Albuquerque Operations Office, issued a Commerce Business Daily announcement requesting interest on providing carrier services for shipments to WIPP.
• The Department of Energy and the New Mexico Environment Department entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which establishes methods of information exchange between the two departments until a final permit is issued and in force. The MOA covers the process for the exchange of data and information concerning future waste shipments to WIPP.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review has been tentatively rescheduled for July 19, 1999, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department.

- The CAO will conduct its annual QA audit of Westinghouse, Waste Isolation Division, June 28 - July 2, 1999.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JUNE 11, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The WIPP Radiation Protection Plan (RPP), Revision 6a, which prescribes WIPP requirements under which all operations shall be conducted to ensure compliance with 10 CFR 835, was approved by the CAO Manager on June 8, 1999.
• The Carlsbad Area Office conducted an audit of the waste characterization mobile vendors, TRUTech and MCS, during the period June 6-11,1999. The limited program for waste characterization was found to be adequate, implemented and effective although some corrective action reports were generated.
• One waste shipment (WIPP’s eleventh) was received from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This shipment and two previous shipments were stored in the Waste Handling Building. Transfers to the underground repository and disposal of the waste will resume during the week of June 14, 1999.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
• CAO will conduct an audit at LANL on their homogeneous solid waste June 14-18, 1999.
CAO will conduct its annual QA audit of Westinghouse, Waste Isolation Division, June 28 - July 2, 1999.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a superior state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Western Governor's Association (WGA) approved a concept presented by Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) to provide the official WIPP shipment schedule and bills-of-lading on a secure, protected Web site. This will allow TRANSCOM personnel to concentrate on implementing TRANSCOM-1000 quickly instead of continuing to attempt fixes to outmoded TRANSCOM software. The CAO Web site is being designed by TRANSCOM subcontractors, and will be fully compatible with the current and future TRANSCOM systems.

• Two members of the Albuquerque Operations Office Utilities Management Team visited WIPP on June 3rd for a review of the WIPP energy Management Program. In-place and planned energy management initiatives were the focus of the review. The representatives were very complimentary of the WIPP energy Management Plan and proposed the showcasing of the most innovative of the WIPP energy conservation initiatives.

• The CAO is conducting the FY 1999 Mid-Year Review this week with Westinghouse presenting on Tuesday June 8, 1999, followed by the technical contractor and Sandia National Laboratories on Wednesday, June 9, 1999.

• WIPP received the ninth shipment of TRU non-mixed waste on June 2, 1999 from Los Alamos National Laboratory.

• A CAO Office of Public Affairs representative provided an update on DOE public outreach plans for the first Rocky Flats Environmental Technical Site waste shipment to the WGA Transportation Working Group at its May 26, 1999 meeting in Denver, CO. The group members are very interested in maintaining close coordination of outreach activities along each WIPP transportation corridor.
ISSUES / CONCERNS

- None

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- A TRU Waste Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Richland, WA June 7 & 8, 1999. Along with the meeting a workshop will be conducted covering Large Containers and is planned to develop complex wide understanding of DOE needs related to sorting, segregating, size-reducing and characterizing large containers across the complex.

- The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

- CAO will conduct certification audits of NTS, MCS, and TRUtech June 7 - 11, 1999.

- CAO will conduct an audit at LANL on their homogeneous solid waste June 14 - 18, 1999.
PRIORITIES

- Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
- Ramp up TRU Waste Shipments to 5 per week.
- Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- CAO Representatives met with the Western Governors’ Association in their regular quarterly meeting in Denver, CO May 26. A CAO proposal for a protected web site display of TRANSCOM scheduling and Bill-of-lading information was favorably received. This will relieve some of the system loading on the existing TRANSCOM system during a transition period to TRANSCOM-2000 systems so they are fully compatible. The CAO system will also be linked to the existing TRANSCOM during the transition period.

- A CAO representative attended the Western Governors’ Association Transportation Working Group meeting May 25, 1999 in Denver, Colorado, and gave a presentation about activities associated with plans for the first transuranic waste shipment from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site to the WIPP.

- A Y2K independent verification and validation team (IV&V) reviewed the one mission-critical system (WWIS) that CAO owns and determined that the performance of the IV&V after end-to-end testing of the system resulted in a more efficient review. The documentation provided to the IV&V team was found to be very thorough and well organized, and the team concluded that there is a high level of confidence that the WWIS is Y2K compliant. The review was conducted on May 26.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

- The WIPP Site Waste Hoist was taken out of service on Monday, May 24, 1999, due to a problem with an electrical transformer. WID hoisting engineers, maintenance and supporting personnel safely removed the damaged Waste Hoist transformer from service and transported it to the vendor in Lubbock, TX for repairs. The CAO/WIPP site team members performed oversight of these activities.
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The 67th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

• The CAO will conduct certification audits of NTS, MCS and TRUtech on June 7 - 11, 1999.

• The CAO will conduct an audit at LANL on their homogeneous solid waste on June 14 - 18, 1999.
PRIORITIES

• Establish CAO as the interface to NMED, implementing HQ policy.
• Fill pipeline to WIPP.
• Expand mission of CAO.
• Strive for efficiencies in waste characterization, certification, transportation and disposal.
• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
• Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review, hosted by the CAO, was held May 19, 1999, in Carlsbad. Those in attendance included representatives of the CAO, New Mexico Environment Department, and Environmental Evaluation Group.

• Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site waste stream lab glass and ceramics was approved. RFETS now has four waste streams approved.

• One waste shipment (WIPP’s ninth) was received from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This shipment, and the previous shipment, is being stored in the Waste Handling Building. Transfers to the underground repository and disposal of the waste will resume next week. Transfers have been halted to allow the use of the Waste Hoist and Waste Shaft station to transport and assemble a new mining machine.

• At the request of the New Mexico State Police, the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division dispatched its mine teams to Socorro, New Mexico. The Mine Rescue Teams responded for a miner trapped in a small gold mine.

• Sandia and WID staff gave a presentation to the National Academy of Sciences on WIPP monitoring activities, NRC staff gave a presentation on transportation packaging, and EEG gave a presentation on packaging. The questions asked by NAS members at the meeting demonstrated a concern with the cost/benefit of waste characterization, and environmental monitoring for WIPP and with the cost efficiency of waste transportation.

• The CAO has conducted a recertification audit of INEEL. At this time, there are three major issues. They involve acceptable knowledge, transportation and ANL-W activities. The total program has been determined to be marginal on implementation, adequacy, and effectiveness.
The WIPP in-vivo bioassay program was evaluated on May 12 - 13, 1999, by DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) assessors. The WIPP provides in-vivo bioassay monitoring to employees by using a vendor laboratory, the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center (CEMRC). The WIPP Program was observed to be satisfactory, and no deficiencies were found in the program.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

The CAO, in partnership with EM Integration, is sponsoring a workshop designed to discuss sorting, segregating, size reduction, and characterization of large containers. The emphasis of the workshop, scheduled for June 7 and 8, 1999 in Richland, WA, is to define the needs, problems, and opportunities, associated with these issues and develop a path forward. Technical subject experts from across the complex will discuss the issues and develop strategies for addressing the concerns which may include as necessary technology development or refinement of existing technology.

CAO will conduct certification audits of NTS, MCS and TRUtech on June 7 - 11, 1999.

CAO will conduct an audit at LANL on their homogeneous solid waste on June 14 - 18, 1999.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS  
WEEK ENDING MAY 14, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Certify RFETS for Salt Residue Stabilization and LECO Crucibles Repackaging processes by May 1999

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Shipment #7, from Los Alamos National Laboratory to WIPP, arrived on Wednesday, 5/12/99 without incident.

• Representatives of the State of New Mexico and CAO met to review activities associated with transportation through New Mexico of the first 6 shipments from Los Alamos National Laboratory and the shipment from the Idaho Nation Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. There are no significant issues to resolve; shipments appear to have become procedurally routine.

• Auditors representing the DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) performed an on-site evaluation of the WIPP invivo internal dosimetry program. Preliminary results indicate that the WIPP Program is satisfactory. DOELAP accreditation of dosimetry programs is required at DOE nuclear facilities by 10 CFR 835.

• A CAO representative attended the New Mexico State Highway Commission meeting May 13 -14, 1999, in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review, to be hosted by the CAO in Carlsbad, has been rescheduled for May 19, 1999. The meeting will be held in the large conference room, second floor, Skeen-Whitlock Building.
• A DOE Re-Certification Audit with concurrent EPA Approval Inspection is planned for the INEEL the week of May 17-21, 1999.

• The CAO, in partnership with EM Integration, is sponsoring a workshop designed to discuss sorting, segregating, size reduction, and characterization of large containers. The emphasis of the workshop, scheduled for June 7 and 8, 1999 in Richland, WA, is to define the needs, problems, and opportunities, associated with these issues and develop a path forward. Technical subject experts from across the complex will discuss the issues and develop strategies for addressing the concerns which may include as necessary technology development or refinement of existing technology.
PRIORITIES

• Certify RFETS for Salt Residue Stabilization and LECO Crucibles Repackaging processes by May 1999

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The fourth shipment of waste was received at the WIPP from the Los Alamos National Laboratory on April 21, 1999. Waste packages from the third and fourth shipments were placed in disposal configuration on April 23, 1999.

• Approximately 1,500 people participated in the April 17, 1999 WIPP Grand Opening event. Keynote speaker was Secretary Bill Richardson. Other speakers included Senators Domenici and Bingaman, Representative Skeen, and Carlsbad Mayor Perkowski. News media representing 13 outlets covered the event. The TRU Progress Commemorative Edition was distributed to everyone who attended the event.

• CAO representatives staffed the WIPP exhibit April 22, 1999 at New Mexico State University Career Day in Alamogordo, New Mexico; April 23 at the TVI Environmental Open House in Albuquerque; and April 23-25 at the Emergency Medical Services Region III Conference in Ruidoso.

• The gas generation experiment (GGE) at ANL-W is now moving into the final data reduction phase, along with initiating post-test microbial analyses. Efforts to correct all past pressure data for temperature effects was successful. Container termination is beginning in April, and waste disposal and post-test microbial analyses will occur through the remainder of the year.

• CAO held a technical status meeting with the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) in Carlsbad on April 21, 1999. The EEG commented that it was a very good meeting.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The CAO will conduct an audit of RFETS Salt Residues and LECO Crucible concurrently with an EPA inspection April 27 - 29, 1999.

• The CAO will conduct a recertification audit of INEEL Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program May 17 - 21, 1999.
• The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for May 1999. It will be hosted by the Carlsbad Area Office in Carlsbad.

• The Carlsbad Area Office will attend the TRANSCOM Steering Committee meeting scheduled May 4 - 5, 1999, in Albuquerque. The purpose of the meeting is to address current and future functionality requirements of the TRANSCOM system.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING April 16, 1999

PRIORITIES

- Certify RFETS for Salt Residue Stabilization and LECO Crucibles Repackaging processes by May 1999
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The third shipment of waste was received at the WIPP from the Los Alamos National Laboratory on April 14, 1999. The waste is now being processed for emplacement in the underground next week.
- The 14 day Letter of Notification for the 1st shipment of waste from Idaho was mailed on April 12, 1999. This shipment is scheduled to leave INEEL on Tuesday, April 27, 1999, arriving at the WIPP the afternoon of April 28, 1999.
- The CAO completed a Waste Characterization/Certification audit of RFETS Salt Residues and LECO Crucible this week. The site demonstrated an effective and well implemented program.
- The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Program Planning team (PPT) is in the process of submitting all documents necessary for the FY 2001 budget submission, and the Path to Closure update. The due date to DOE/HQ is April 15, 1999, and this date will be met.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

- None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The CAO will conduct an audit of RFETS Salt Residues and LECO Crucible concurrently with an EPA inspection April 27 - 29, 1999.
- The CAO will conduct a recertification audit of INEEL Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program May 17 - 21, 1999.
- WIPP Grand Opening Ceremonies will be conducted Saturday, April 17, 1999, at the site to celebrate the opening of the WIPP. Secretary Richardson is scheduled to participate, along with officials and dignitaries who have supported the WIPP mission.
- The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for May 1999. It will be hosted by the Carlsbad Area Office in Carlsbad.
- The Carlsbad Area Office will attend the TRANSCOM Steering Committee meeting scheduled May 4 - 5, 1999, in Albuquerque. The purpose of the meeting is to address
current and future functionality requirements of the TRANSCOM system.
PRIORITIES

• Certify RFETS for Salt Residue Stabilization and LECO Crucibles Repackaging processes by May 1999

• Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999

• Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Carlsbad Area Office and Westinghouse set up a satellite broadcast at the Skeen Whitlock Building for the local National Park Service employees to hear the Director and members of the National Leadership Council (NLC) speak on the National Park Service Diversity Plan. Some members of the CAO Diversity Council also attended the broadcast.

• The second shipment of waste was received at the WIPP from the Los Alamos National Laboratory on April 6, 1999. Emplacement of six waste packages in the WIPP underground disposal room was completed on April 8, 1999.

• The Idaho Quality Assurance Project Plan, the Certification Plan, and the Quality Assurance Plan were approved. The approved documents have been forwarded to the EPA for posting in the docket. These documents are required to support the Idaho recertification audit and to support revised process in their waste certification program.

ISSUES / CONCERNS

• None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Southwest Region Mine Rescue contest will be held in Carlsbad April 15-16, 1999.

• Grand Opening ceremonies will be conducted Saturday, April 17, 1999, at the site to celebrate the opening of the WIPP. Secretary Richardson is scheduled to participate, along with dignitaries who have supported the WIPP mission.

• The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for May 1999. It will be hosted by the CAO in Carlsbad.

• Carlsbad Area Office will attend the TRANSCOM Steering Committee meeting scheduled May 4-5, 1999, in Albuquerque. The purpose of the meeting is to address current and future functionality requirements of the TRANSCOM system.
The 1999 New Mexico Library Association annual conference is scheduled on April 28-30, 1999 in Carlsbad at Pecos Village River Conference Center. On Wednesday, the 28th, there will be a tour of the Information Center and library at the Skeen-Whitlock building from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING April 2, 1999

PRIORITIES

- Certify RFETS for Salt Residue Stabilization and LECO Crucibles Repackaging processes by May 1999
- Obtain a Hazardous Waste Permit by September 1999
- Maintain the WIPP Site in a state of safety, health, and operational readiness

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Carlsbad Area Office sent notices of the initiation of operations at WIPP required by the National Emission System for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPS) and 40 CFR Part 191, Subpart A guidance out on March 26, 1999
- On March 30, 1999, WIPP completed emplacing, in the underground disposal facility, the four remaining standard waste boxes which had been sent to WIPP from Los Alamos on March 26, 1999. Two boxes had been emplaced on the day of receipt. This completed full emplacement of the first shipment of transuranic waste to WIPP.
- Dermot Winters, of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, visited the WIPP Site from March 26-30, 1999 to observe receipt and emplacement of the first shipment of transuranic waste to WIPP. Mr. Winters observed all phases of the waste handling and emplacement operations.
- Carlsbad Area Office staff met with two Russian scientists, V. Petrov-RAS and T. Gatupalo-MINATOM, along with SNL and LANL representatives, to discuss future collaborations and to explore areas of interests in underground repositories for nuclear wastes. Following the meetings, the scientists were provided a standard level tour of the WIPP underground and waste handling facilities.
- CAO Acting Manager Keith Klein was interviewed March 29, 1999 by a CNN Moneyline reporter. The interview centered around WIPP's first receipt of waste March 26. The CNN crew also toured the site and shot video.
- The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an Inspection at the WIPP site of 40 CFR 191, Subpart A and 40 CFR 19.42 monitoring programs from March 23-25, 1999. The EPA inspectors did not make a final Agency determination but will recommend to EPA management that WIPP has adequate programs in place to meet the start up expectations under the authority of 40 CFR 191, Subpart A and has monitoring programs in place as required by 40 CFR 194.42, Section (c).
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided an approval letter on March 24, 1999 for the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) system of controls and processes for characterizing contact-handled debris waste. The EPA letter provides approval for DOE to ship contact-handled transuranic debris waste from RFETS to WIPP.
ISSUES / CONCERNS

- None to report

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- Grand opening ceremonies will be conducted Saturday, April 17, 1999 at the site to celebrate the opening of the WIPP. Secretary Bill Richardson is scheduled to participate, along with other dignitaries who have supported the WIPP’s mission.

- The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 1999. It will be hosted by the CAO in Carlsbad.

- The 1999 New Mexico Library Association annual conference is scheduled on April 28 - 30, 1999 in Carlsbad at Pecos Village River Conference Center. On Wednesday, the 28th, there will be a tour of the Information Center and library at the Skeen-Whitlock building from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
PRIORITIES

• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The first shipment of transuranic waste arrived safely at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant at 3:53 a.m. Friday, March 26, 1999. The first shipment was scheduled to leave Los Alamos National Laboratory early Thursday morning, but was delayed due to fog conditions along the route. DOE delayed the shipment to assure weather conditions were safe, and to meet the criteria established in the Western Governors' Association agreement regarding safe transportation. The event was of major significance for media and the international waste community.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING MARCH 19, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.
• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.
• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting was held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia. The meeting focused on proposed decisions from each program area integration team.

• Carlsbad Area Office staff confirmed that the State of New Mexico will award a $125K grant to Lea County to be used in supplementing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis being funded by DOE's Office of Worker and Community Transition. The previous $300K SWOT scope was to study the impacts of WIPP on the communities of Carlsbad and Artesia and identify paths forward for mitigating impacts only in Eddy County. The additional $125K (a part of the $20M impact assistance funding to the State by DOE under provisions of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act) will enable the scope of the current SWOT analysis to include Lea County and comes in time to augment the effort in the impact identification stage. With the added funding, the effort will truly represent a Southeast NM Regional SWOT for Lea and Eddy Counties.


• The Carlsbad Area Office sent an updated 14-day notification letter to state and tribal officials and the Western Governors’ Association on March 12, 1999 in anticipation that the first shipment of non-mixed transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will occur no later than March 26, 1999. This date is pending the District Court ruling.

• A CAO representative met March 18, 1999 with Mayor Larry Delgado of Santa Fe, New Mexico to discuss WIPP issues.

 ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.
UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct a recertification audit of INEEL Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program May 17-21, 1999.

- The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct an audit of the RFETS Salt Residues from April 12-16, 1999.

- The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 1999. It will be hosted by the CAO in Carlsbad.

- The Umbrella Grant Working Group will meet in Washington, DC, on March 29-30, 1999. The Working Group was formed to review the feasibility of developing a Department-wide umbrella grant to fund state and tribal government transportation planning, emergency preparedness, and public information activities for DOE shipments.
PRIORITY

- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.
- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.
- Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mark Matthews was selected as one of the two chairmen for the Nuclear Waste Policy and Program track of papers for the Waste Management (WM) 2000 conference. Mr. Matthews is also on the WM Program Committee and lead session organizer for several sessions.
- Representatives from the Institute of Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (INPAC) visited the WIPP site March 9, 1999, and meetings were held with WID and SNL. INPAC is evaluating the possibility of using the WIPP underground to conduct multiple physics experiments. These experiments would take advantage of two unique properties of the WIPP underground setting: (1) the excellent shielding from cosmic rays and (2) the extremely low background radiation environment due to the absence of naturally occurring radionuclides. INPAC intends to develop funding proposals on the basis of their visit in May.
- A CAO representative attended the Energy Communities Alliance meeting March 4-5, 1999 in Washington, D.C.
- A workshop for the TRU Environmental Management Integration (EMI) Program is being held in Miamisburg, Ohio, on March 15-16, 1999, to evaluate TRU waste disposal alternatives. This will aid the evaluation of currently identified TRU wastes and identify recommendations for disposition and a path forward for the Mound site. A second workshop will be held at Battelle Columbus, Ohio, later in the week on March 17-18, 1999, for evaluation and recommendation of a path forward for their TRU wastes. A representative of CAO will attend both workshops to support the EMI efforts and add technical support.
- The Carlsbad Area Office attended the Quality Carlsbad Banquet and received a plague from the City in recognition of being a Quality New Mexico award winner.
• The WIPP RCRA Technical hearings were held in Santa Fe February 22, 1999, through March 5, 1999. The hearing officer and most of the parties to the proceedings toured the WIPP March 8, 1999, in Carlsbad, and Technical hearings will resume March 15, 1999, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

• The Office of Program Support is currently establishing a Strategic Acquisition Procurement Plan to evaluate contractual opportunities approaching in FY 2000.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, to focus on proposed decisions from each program area integration team.

• The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct a recertification audit of INEEL Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program from May 17-21, 1999.

• The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct an audit of the RFETS Salt Residues from April 12-16, 1999.

• The 66th WIPP Quarterly Review is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 1999. It will be hosted by the CAO in Carlsbad.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING MARCH 5, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.

• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) issued the 14-day notification letter to the State of New Mexico and other heads of agencies and tribes. This notification states that the first shipment of non-mixed transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory could begin as early as March 15, 1999. The 14-day notification is required to be made under agreements with the Western Governors’ Association.

• Preparations for the CAO Readiness Assessment have been completed. The Readiness Assessment Plan was approved. Dr. Jim Mewhinney was appointed as team leader for the assessment. Team member assignments have been issued. WID’s Readiness to Proceed memo has been reviewed and accepted. The Readiness Assessment will be conducted from March 8-9, 1999.

• The Carlsbad Area Office Acting Manager and several support staff attended the RCRA permit hearings conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department February 22nd through March 5th in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Nontechnical hearings will resume March 8th in Carlsbad and continue in Santa Fe the week of March 15th if necessary. The Santa Fe hearings generated little media interest, and there were no public demonstrations.

• CAO representatives staffed the WIPP exhibit February 28, 1999 through March 4, 1999 at the Waste Management Conference ‘99 in Tucson, Arizona; March 1-2 in the DOE Forrestal Building, Washington, D.C. and at the Rio Grande Minority Purchasing Council Trade Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and March 3-5 at the Energy Communities Alliance Conference in Washington, D.C.

• The CAO distributed a questionnaire requesting information on WIPP groundwater monitoring programs. This has been requested by the Inspector General’s Office. The responses are due on March 18, 1999.
The CAO completed arrangements to conduct a Transporter speed governing test with the New Mexico State Police. This test will mitigate a citizen's complaint about the truck speeding.

The Carlsbad Area Office issued guidance to participants for the final submittal of FY 2000/2001 budget data. Electronic data is due March 5, 1999, and all revised formats and Basis of Estimates are due April 2, 1999.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

None to report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, to focus on proposed decisions from each program area integration team.

Plans have been completed for a visit and WIPP tour by executive members of the Institute for Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology (INPAC) on March 9, 1999. INPAC has indicated their desire to use the WIPP underground for performing multiple nuclear physics experiments related to cosmic ray and neutrino observations. Discussions with CAO and WID will determine INPAC's needs and the possibility of additional excavation for these experiments.

RCRA Part B hearing in Carlsbad, New Mexico from March 8-12, 1999.

The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct a recertification audit of INEEL Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program from April 12-16, 1999.

The Carlsbad Area Office will conduct an audit of the RFETS Salt Residues from April 12-16, 1999.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 26, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.

• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Carlsbad Area Office Acting Manager and several senior staff attended the RCRA permit hearings being conducted by the New Mexico Environment Department February 22 through March 5, 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. DOE/CAO is providing Technical testimony on WIPP operations. Nontechnical hearings will resume March 8 in Carlsbad, and continue in Santa Fe the week of March 15 if necessary.

• OD&R staff participated in a mid-year review for the Office of Science and Technology (EM-50) Mixed Waste Focus Area. Topics reviewed included; programs to enhance transportation capabilities, waste handling capabilities, and mechanical systems designed to assist sites meet the needs and requirements of Low Level and Transuranic waste treatment, storage and disposal.

• Mark Frei, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management (EM-30), and Scott VanCamp, Acting Director of Western Operations (EM-36) visited Carlsbad Area Office. Briefings on the mission and scope of the Office of Development & Research in the areas of Program Development, Technology Development, and Applied Research were given.

• The Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site received CAO approval for three documents they submitted. The documents were: Salt Residue Stabilization, Building 707 Process Control/Qualification Plan, RS-020-006, Rev. 1; Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site TRU Waste Characterization Program Quality Assurance Project Plan, 95-QAPjP-0050, Rev. 3; Transuranic Waste Management Manual, 1-MAN-008-WM-001, Rev. 2.

• The CAO performed a surveillance of the SNL document management system on February 23-25, 1999. The surveillance team concluded that an acceptable system was correctly implemented and effective.
Donald Garcia from the Albuquerque Operations Office, Business Management Oversight Process (BMOP) Focus Group was at CAO Feb 25, 1999. He presented the results of the Focus Group's survey. Discussions were held between CAO, WID and Mr. Garcia on problems with the current system and changes that could be made to the system to improve the current process. The results of the survey, and discussions with the laboratories and Area Offices will be presented to the BMOP Steering committee on March 31, 1999.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• CAO will conduct a recertification audit of RFETS Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program March 1-5, 1999.

• The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, to focus on proposed decisions from each program area integration team.

• The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, to focus on proposed decisions from each program area integration team.
PRIORITIES

- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.
- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.
- Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CAO participated in a surveillance of EPA 40 CFR 191 and 194 compliance programs. The surveillance resulted in no CARs, observations or recommendations and found four exemplary practices. In general, the monitoring programs were found to be adequate, implemented and effective.
- CAO provided WIPP status information to the state of Louisiana for a briefing to the Governor.
- A member of the Carlsbad Area Office gave a presentation on February 16, 1999, to 25-30 members of the Santa Fe Kiwanis Club. The CAO addressed their concerns about the Santa Fe relief route, road issues, and funding for the State for other transportation issues. The presentation was well received.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- None to report.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The WIPP hazardous waste permit hearings will commence in Santa Fe on February 22nd through March 5th, and moves to Carlsbad on March 8, 1999.
- CAO will conduct a recertification audit of RFETS Characterization, Certification, and Transportation program March 1-5, 1999.
- The Environmental Management Program Integration Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 18, 1999, in Atlanta, Georgia, to focus on proposed decisions from each program area integration team. Butch Stroud will represent the CAO.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 12, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.

• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The Carlsbad Area Office completed 188 technology transfers this week, bringing the FY99 total to 1,957. Recipients included Loyola university Medical Center, Oregon department of Transportation, ORISE, Enron, Mississippi education TV, and Hellgate Elementary School ("My Child is an Honor Student at Hellgate").

• The Savannah River Site (SRS) WIPP Disposal Plan, WSRC-RP-97-00769, Revision 0, dated February 1999, was approved by the CAO. This document includes the site TRU waste certification plan, packaging quality assurance plan, the site-specific TRAMPAC, and the quality assurance project plan (QAPjP). The approval of this document is a major step in the certification of SRS to ship TRU waste to WIPP.

• Three members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) staff visited WIPP to investigate safety concerns alleged in an anonymous letter to the Secretary of Energy. The DNFSB staff team concluded that the WIPP mine safety, electrical safety, and radiological safety programs are adequately implemented. The team's overall conclusion is that the WIPP remains safe to operate.

• A detailed technical exchange meeting on experimental and modeling feasibility studies was held in Carlsbad with the Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG) on February 10, 1999. During the closeout of the meeting, the EEG indicated that overall the technical exchange was good.

• CAO received a New Mexico Quality Award. The CAO of the Department of Energy received the Roadrunner Award for 1998 and was recognized on the floor of the house and Senate, and at the Governor's mansion.

• The CAO Acting Manager gave a WIPP update February 5, 1999 in Santa Fe to members of the New Mexico Legislature. The presentation was termed very informative by more than two dozen lawmakers who attended. New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid and Highway and Transportation Department Secretary Pete Rahn also attended. (Hurtt
ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The WIPP hazardous waste permit hearings will commence in Santa Fe on February 22nd through March 5th, and moves to Carlsbad on March 8, 1999.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 5, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.

• Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.

• Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• The 65th WIPP Quarterly Review, hosted by the New Mexico Environment Department, was held February 2, 1999 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Carlsbad Area Office, New Mexico Environment Department, New Mexico Attorney General’s office, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department.

• CAO representatives staffed the WIPP exhibit February 4, 1999 at Career Expo ’99 at New Mexico State University - Carlsbad.

• The semi-annual notification letter for WIPP shipments scheduled during 1999 was mailed out to state and tribal governors on February 1, 1999. This notification is required under agreements with the Western Governors’ Association, the Southern States Energy Board, and the State of New Mexico.

• CAO staff participated in a program review of the Savannah River Site (SRS) ship to WIPP initiative on February 2-3, 1999. Areas reviewed included characterization processes, non-destructive assay and non-destructive examination, gas analysis, and gas sampling, loading, visual examination, records management, and training. SRS found the review extremely useful because it provided them with several program areas to focus on for the upcoming site audits.

• CAO participated in the Program Committee meeting of the Organization of Economic Development (OECD)/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). CAO is co-hosting a NEA International Project on Radionulide Migration in Geologic, Heterogeneous Media (GEOTRAP) workshop. This major GEOTRAP workshop will have about 50 participants from countries around the world with deep geological radwaste repository programs. The focus of the workshop will be “confidence building in models of radionulide transport for site specific performance assessment purposes.” The workshop will take place during the week of June 13, 1999 here in Carlsbad.
• CAO, Westinghouse, and Day and Zimmermann, LLC Security provided briefings and a WIPP tour to the Senior Agent in Charge of the Albuquerque regional office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, two Roswell Office Agents and the Roswell Office Manager.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The CAO Acting Manager will present a WIPP update February 9, 1999, to members of the New Mexico Legislature.

• The Technical Exchange meeting scheduled for February 10, 1999, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, is for presenting and discussing these topics: Culebra Transport, Disposal Room Processes, and Bates fluid samples analysis. This meeting will be held at the Skeen-Whitlock Building in room T-271 at 10:00 A.M.
PRIORITIES

- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval for RFETS certification.
- Obtain the Environmental Protection Agency approval for INEEL certification.
- Open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The WIPP Safety Analysis Report, DOE/WIPP 95-2065 Revision 3, November 1998 was approved by the Carlsbad Area Office Manager on January 26, 1999. The Waste Isolation Division was directed to incorporate the document in WIPP facility-controlled documentation. The annual updating of the SAR is required by DOE 5480.23, and the document approval allows the project to work from the most current safety analyzes.

- The Carlsbad Area Office submitted an article for publication in the *Pollution Prevention Advisor* which is a DOE defense program publication. This publication is provided to stakeholders and other DOE sites to report on the successes of Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization efforts.

- The Carlsbad Area Office staff attended the TRU Technology Development Workshop and the TRU Waste Steering Committee meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, held the week of January 25, 1999. Discussions included: Implementation of the Quality Assurance Program Plan, Rev. 1; TRUPACT II Status; Intersite Shipments - NEPA Considerations; Buried TRU Waste Data Call; Gas Generation Testing; Update on National Transportation Program Services; Disposition Map Overview and System Demonstration; DOE Order 435.1; and an EM Integration Report.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

- The WIPP 65th Quarterly Meeting will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on February 2, 1999.

- The Technical Exchange meeting on February 10, 1999, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to discuss Culebra Transport, Disposal Room Processes, and Bates fluid samples analysis.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JANUARY 22, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain EPA approval for RFETS certification.
• Obtain EPA approval for INEEL certification.
• Open WIPP for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• On Tuesday, January 19, 1999, the Carlsbad Area Office and the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division submitted a second set of public comments on the revised Hazardous Waste Disposal Permit. The next submittal WIPP personnel make will occur on February 1, 1999, and consist of an "Entry of Appearance and Notice of Intent to Present Technical Testimony." Following this submittal in February, the Public Hearings are scheduled to begin in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on February 22, 1999.

• The Carlsbad Area Office conducted a surveillance of WIDs compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. The areas of review included stormwater management, wastewater management, and the management of the public water supply. The overall program was found to be adequate.

• The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Federal Energy Management Program, the Department of Energy (DOE), Albuquerque, DOE Carlsbad Area Office (CAO), and Westinghouse, in support of DOE’s Super Energy Savings Performance Contracting, has been signed by all participants. The contractor is currently preparing their proposal in response to the Request for Proposal. Once submitted and evaluated, the CAO will issue a delivery order to NORESCO to begin acquiring and installing equipment and training personnel in support of the energy savings program.

• A delegation of various agencies and groups from Japan visited CAO. Discussions were held with a Director from the Ministry on International Trade and Industry (MITI) regarding future cooperation between MITI and CAO. MITI will be gaining additional authority for the Japanese nuclear waste program in the future.

• The Carlsbad Area Office distributed copies of a WIPP Public Service Announcement (PSA) to 11 Spanish-speaking radio stations in New Mexico. The PSA talks about the extensive safeguards that are in place at the WIPP and the need to move forward with the project.
On January 14, 1999, CAO representatives met with the offices of Senator Richard Shelby, Senator Jeff Sessions, Representative Spencer Bachus, and Representative Earl Hilliard in Alabama. Provided briefings and information about the WIPP transportation system and corridor training program.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The CAO staff will attend the TRU Technology Development Workshop scheduled for January 25-26, 1999, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

• The CAO staff will meet with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC. on February 4, 1999, to discuss EPA site inspections.

• Technical Exchange meeting on February 10, 1999 in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to discuss Culebra Transport, Disposal Room Processes, and Bates fluid samples analysis.

• A DOE Headquarters Procurement team will arrive the first week of February to look at CAO’s contract with Westinghouse as we are one of the leaders in adopting contract reform by utilizing performance-based, fixed-price contracts.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JANUARY 15, 1999

PRIORITIES

• Obtain EPA approval for RFETS certification.
• Obtain EPA approval for INEEL certification.
• Open WIPP for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• A team from DOE Headquarters EH-10 visited the WIPP on January 12th and 13th in order to review local procedures and current implementation status for compliance with the Price Anderson Act (PAA). The team concluded that the CAO and WID have adequate systems for compliance and recommended that CAO and WID continue to work together to assure that accurate reporting of any PAA incidents is accomplished.

• The DOE Laboratory Accreditation Program (DOELAP) on-site assessment of the WIPP Dosimetry Program was completed on January 13, 1999. The assessors found the WIPP Program to be satisfactory. That combined with the WIPP Dosimetry Program’s recent satisfactory completion of performance evaluation work, leads to the Program retaining its DOELAP accreditation.

• Mr. Bob Card, President and CEO of Kaiser-Hill Company, Rocky Flats, Colorado, along with several corporate executives received briefings and toured the WIPP facilities last week. The CAO Manager, along with key operational staff members participated in mission and issue resolution discussions which were very productive.

• A meeting was held in Carlsbad on January 13, 1999, to resolve comments on the Savannah River Site (SRS) Quality Assurance Project Plan and Certification Plan. The approval of these documents is the first step in certifying SRS to ship defense TRU waste. All comments were resolved.

• A meeting was held with members of the State of New Mexico Radioactive Waste Force, the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, and the State Police on January 12, 1999. The purpose of the meeting was to address issues that the State of New Mexico had concerning the first TRU waste shipments to WIPP. Topics included the TRANSCOM system, protestors and civil disobedience, and shipment notification and scheduling. The meeting was productive in finalizing and clarifying procedures in these areas.
• The Carlsbad Area Office provided answers to questions from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Amendment 17 to the TRUPACT-II SARP. Once approved, the amendment upgrades the analysis to demonstrate the TRUPACT-II meets the new NRC requirements and allows fabrication of TRUPACTs in the future. In addition a new leak check procedure that is easier and cheaper and payload control changes are in the amendment. The amendment will increase the amounts of waste that can be shipped in the TRUPACT-II.

• CAO representatives presented the WIPP overview January 12, 1999 to the Midday Lions Club in Roswell, New Mexico and the Santa Fe Newcomers Club in Santa Fe, New Mexico; January 14 to the Tucumcari City Commission in Tucumcari, NM and the Society of Mining Engineers, Central New Mexico Section in Albuquerque; and January 15 to the Santa Rosa Health Council in Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• The CAO staff will attend the TRU Technology Development Workshop scheduled for January 25-26, 1999, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

• The 65th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for January 28, 1999. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

• EEG meeting on January 29, 1999, in Carlsbad to discuss Culebra Transport, Disposal Room Processes, & Bates fluid samples analysis.

• A DOE Headquarters Procurement team will arrive the first week of February to look at CAO's contract with Westinghouse as we are one of the leaders in adopting contract reform by utilizing performance-based, fixed-price contracts.
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
WEEK ENDING JANUARY 8, 1999

PRIORITIES

- Obtain EPA approval for RFETS certification.
- Obtain EPA approval for INEEL certification.
- Open WIPP for disposal operations upon favorable litigation decision.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted its annual audit of the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) Quality Assurance Program on January 6-8, 1999. The EPA team of five auditors identified three findings and six concerns. The EPA concluded that the CAO is maintaining a properly implemented Quality Assurance Program. The CAO has assessed the impact of these issues and found them to be negligible. The CAO is proceeding with the necessary program improvements.

- The Carlsbad Area Office conducted a site tour for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) which is a regulatory agency equivalent to the New Mexico Environment Department. The TNRCC toured the waste handling building, the repository, and the central monitoring room. The TNRCC was particularly interested in their role in an emergency response situation along the I-20 corridor. The TNRCC was very impressed with the WIPP.

- Dr. John Mansfield of the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board (DNFSB) made an informational visit to the WIPP on January 7, 1999. The visit included a tour of the WIPP waste handling building and underground area. Dr. Mansfield was accompanied by Dermot Winters, Technical Specialist, DNFSB, and Mark Whitaker, DOE Representative to the DNFSB.

- A delegation of various agencies and groups from Japan visited the Carlsbad Area Office. Discussions were held with a Director from the Ministry on International Trade and Industry (MITI) regarding future cooperation between MITI and CAO. MITI will be gaining additional authority for the Japanese nuclear waste program in the future.

- Letters were sent, with a listing of available computer equipment for donation, to area school districts that participate in the DOE Math and Science Gift Program. Responses are due February 29, 1999.
• The Carlsbad Area Office Manager participated in a WIPP readiness and safety briefing for New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid January 6, 1999, in Santa Fe. At the new Attorney General’s request, the briefing proffered independent technical perspectives on these topics by key representatives of the DNFSB, EPA, MSHA, and NAS. In conjunction, the technical briefing team also met with editorial staffs of the Santa Fe New Mexican and Albuquerque Journal.

• The Carlsbad Area Office supported the National Academy of Sciences Committee on WIPP at a meeting held on January 7, 1998. The committee requested presentations on underground evolution and disposal and waste characterization. The committee is broken into two subcommittees, waste characterization and geotechnical. The presentations were well received.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

• None to report.

MEETINGS/REVIEWS/AUDITS

• DOE-HQ/EH-10 will visit the WIPP Waste Isolation Division the week of January 11th for a Price-Anderson review.

• A meeting to discuss transportation issues is planned for January 12, 1999. Those planning to attend are Chris Wentz, Coordinator/Senior Policy Analyst - New Mexico Radioactive Waste Task Force; Captain Mark Radosevich, NM State Police Hazmat Coordinator; Heidi Snow, Administrative Assistant; and John Shea, Program Manager for the NM Transportation Department. Jim Klaus will host the meeting in Carlsbad and the group will be given a tour of the WIPP. This is a closed meeting.

• The 65th WIPP Quarterly Review is scheduled for January 28, 1999. It will be hosted by the New Mexico Environment Department in Santa Fe, New Mexico.