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WTS awards container contracts

CARLSBAD, N.M., July 17, 2006 – Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) announced today that two companies were awarded contracts to manufacture steel containers that will be used to dispose of transuranic radioactive waste at the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Peterson, Inc. of Ogden, Utah, was awarded a contract with a potential value of over \$13 million for the construction of two types of disposal containers. The Type A containers are designed to fit inside a Nuclear Regulatory Commission-certified shipping cask for transport. At WIPP, the containers are removed from the shipping cask for final disposal 2,150-feet underground. The initial contract is to be performed over a 12-month period, and includes four one-year options.

A second contract was awarded to Washington Government Technical Services/Engineered Products Department (WEPD) to construct steel containers, lifting fixtures and the adapters needed to safely handle the steel containers. WEPD is a precision metals fabricator and machining facility located in Carlsbad, N.M. The company manufactures containers for the nuclear and hazardous materials industry. The WEPD contract includes four one-year options with a potential value of more than \$5 million.

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the world's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from research and production of nuclear weapons. WTS has managed WIPP for the U.S. Department of Energy for more than 20 years.