



Washington Division

Washington TRU Solutions LLC

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

P.O. Box 2078

Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Contact:

Mike Antiporda

Public Affairs

(575) 234-7215

www.trusolutionsnm.com

For Immediate Release

**Mining Organizations Honor Washington TRU Solutions
with Safe Operator of the Year Award**

CARLSBAD, N.M., September 9, 2008 – Outstanding safety by Washington TRU Solutions, LLC (WTS) employees at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has resulted in accolades from state and industry mining organizations. The New Mexico Mining Association and the New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety recently honored WTS with numerous awards, including its 22nd consecutive Safe Operator of the Year award.

“At WIPP, mine safety lays the foundation for our waste disposal mission,” says WTS President and General Manager Farok Sharif. “I’m very proud of our employees’ commitment to safety and pleased that they are being recognized for their great work.”

The minimum criteria for the award included a frequency rate, or injury rate, below national average (national average for the mining industry in 2007 was 3.43) and no fatalities during the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Since there were no federal or state reportable injuries for that period, WTS achieved a perfect rate of zero.

Five groups within WTS were also recognized individually for having a zero frequency rate. The groups included: Integrated Waste Handling Operations, Underground Services, Hoisting Operations, Mining and Ground Control Operations and Maintenance Operations.

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Finally, WTS was also presented with the Safety and Health Innovator Award for its efforts to heighten safety awareness at WIPP. Among the reasons for the award were efforts to promote forklift safety, quarterly pre-Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) self-inspections, operations safety team meetings and other employee-involvement safety events.

The awards were given at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Mining Association in Grants, N.M. Repository Development Project Manager John VandeKraats, Underground Operations Manager Bob Kirby and Operations Safety Team Member Randy Galindo accepted the awards on behalf of WTS employees.

WTS crews completed mining activities in Panel 5 earlier this year and have begun mining Panel 6. Each panel at WIPP contains seven football-field-length disposal rooms. Disposal operations are currently underway in Panel 4.

WTS has managed WIPP for the U.S. Department of Energy for more than 20 years. WIPP, the nation's first permanent geologic repository for defense nuclear waste, began disposal operations in 1999. WTS is part of the Washington Division of URS Corporation.