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**For Immediate Release**

**Farok Sharif Appointed WTS Deputy Manager**

Three others assume new management roles

**CARLSBAD, N.M., February 15, 2006** – Washington TRU Solutions (WTS)

President and General Manager Dick Raaz has appointed Farok Sharif as the WTS deputy general manager. In addition, three other individuals have been appointed to new management roles at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Appointments include: David Haar as assistant manager, Retrieval, Characterization and Transportation; Tim Hedahl as manager, External Programs; and Todd Sellmer as deputy manager, Packaging.

As deputy general manager, Farok Sharif is responsible for supporting the general manager and will provide guidance for all departments with emphasis on budget, program management and strategic planning. The general manager's office provides technical, operational and administrative direction for carrying out the company's scope of work safely and cost-effectively.

Sharif has more than 15 years of project management leadership in the National Transuranic (TRU) Waste Program and has been a leading figure in designing the strategy that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has adopted to clean up the TRU waste complex. He also serves on the DOE national transuranic waste complex corporate board.

Sharif was previously the assistant general manager, Retrieval, Characterization, and Transportation. He has held several key management posts at WIPP and was the TRU

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waste program manager at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York. He has also served as a project manager for Westinghouse Engineered Products Department, a shipping container manufacturer in Carlsbad. He holds a bachelor's degree in operations research and an MBA from New Mexico State University.

David Haar's appointment as assistant general manager follows 25 years of experience at DOE nuclear facilities, including nine at WIPP. Previous responsibilities include TRU waste management, environmental, health and safety management, engineering, facility management and plant operations.

In his new role, Haar will be responsible for the Central Characterization Project, projects and scheduling, the WIPP Waste Information System, transportation and packaging. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska in mechanical engineering and is a registered professional engineer in the state of New Mexico.

As manager, External Programs, Tim Hedahl is responsible for management of government furnished supplies and instruments, small-quantity site strategy and other external acceleration initiatives. He has over 28 years of environmental and waste management experience at DOE facilities. His past management assignments include TRU waste management, environmental restoration, facility decommissioning and demolition, environmental monitoring and protection, pollution prevention, laboratory operations and technology development.

Hedahl previously served as manager, projects and scheduling within the Retrieval, Characterization, and Transportation Department. He also previously served at WIPP as the National TRU Programs program manager and deputy manager. He holds a bachelor's degree from Washington State University and an MBA from Idaho State University.

Day-to-day management of TRU waste packaging will now be the responsibility of Todd Sellmer. He has over 16 years of experience in nuclear packaging design, inspection and testing. He has held management positions in both facility operations and quality. Sellmer is nationally certified by the American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) as an NDT Level III and is the chairman of the ASNT Leak Test Committee.

WTS has managed WIPP for the DOE for more than 20 years. WTS opened and has safely operated WIPP, the nation's first permanent geologic repository for defense nuclear waste since 1999. Washington Group International, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, is the parent company of WTS.