



**Washington Group International**  
Integrated Engineering, Construction, and Management Solutions

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**For Immediate Release**

**Washington TRU Solutions Named Mine  
Operator of the Year**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., September 19, 2005** – Washington TRU Solutions, LLC (WTS) has been named Mine Operator of the Year in the large underground metal/nonmetal mine category based on safety excellence. The New Mexico Mining Association presented WTS the award during its 66<sup>th</sup> annual convention and trade show held September 7 at the Santa Ana Pueblo near Albuquerque.

Association president Leroy Apodaca and state mine inspector Rebecca Boam recognized WTS for its outstanding safety record at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a half-mile deep repository where the U.S. Department of Energy disposes of radioactive defense wastes. "WIPP has consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment to safety," said Boam. WTS has operated the facility for the Energy Department since 1985.

Subhash Sethi, WTS repository development project manager, accepted the 2005 award on behalf of WTS employees. "I'm honored to accept this award on behalf of our employees. It is their every day efforts that make this mine a safe place to work."

Sethi says the ultimate safety goal at WIPP is zero injuries. Three WTS sections earned the New Mexico State Inspector of Mines certificate of merit for zero injuries in 2005: Underground Maintenance, Underground Facility Operations and Surface Operations and Maintenance.

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**-2-**

WTS also received recognition for its Close Call Program under the Association's new innovative safety and health category. The Close Call Program encourages employees to report all close-call incidents for immediate corrective action.

In 2005, WTS crews completed mining activities in Panel 3 and began mining Panel 4. Eight panels, each containing seven football-field-length disposal rooms, are planned for the Energy Department facility, where radioactive defense wastes are disposed 2,150-feet underground in an ancient salt formation. Mining is performed on a just-in-time basis to meet waste disposal schedules.

Washington TRU Solutions, LLC is part of Washington Group International, a leading international engineering, construction, and management-solutions company, headquartered in Boise, Idaho.

**-30-**

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