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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY: EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

PRESENTED AT

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION
AND
THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC**

**January 31-February 2, 1995
Las Vegas, Nevada**

2/1/95

BY

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*WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:
EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED*

SCOPE OF PRESENTATION

- **PROJECT OVERVIEW**
 - MISSION, SCOPE AND STATUS
 - OPERATIONS/MANAGEMENT
 - REGULATORY DRIVERS

- **WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM**
 - PARTICIPANTS AND AFFECTED ENTITIES
 - STRUCTURE
 - IMPLEMENTATION

- **LESSONS LEARNED**
 - NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS
 - STATE/TRIBAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:
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MISSION, SCOPE AND STATUS

- FEDERAL PROJECT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- MISSION: PERMANENT DISPOSAL OF DEFENSE TRANSURANIC WASTE IN A DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY

- SCOPE
 - STATUTORY CAPACITY IS 6.2 MILLION CUBIC FEET
 - SHIPMENTS FROM TEN (10) DOE SITES
 - OPERATIONAL LIFE OF 25 YEARS

- STATUS
 - FOCUS ON REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
 - EARLIEST DATE FOR WASTE RECEIPT: MID-1998
 - PHASED, RAMP-UP APPROACH FOR SHIPPING CAMPAIGN

*WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:
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MANAGEMENT/OPERATIONS

- NEWLY ESTABLISHED DOE CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE (DOE/CAO)
 - DOE/HQ PROVIDES POLICY DIRECTION
 - DOE/AL PROVIDES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- CREATION OF A NATIONAL TRANSURANIC PROGRAM OFFICE
 - GENERATOR/STORAGE SITE INTERFACE
 - WASTE CHARACTERIZATION & CERTIFICATION
 - TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OPERATIONS
 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

- OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

*WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:
EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED*

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DRIVERS

- 1981 LAWSUIT BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
 - CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT
 - SUPPLEMENTAL STIPULATED AGREEMENT

- WIPP LAND WITHDRAWAL ACT (PUBLIC LAW 102-579)
 - SPECIFIES REQUIREMENTS FOR WIPP OPERATIONS/ACTIVITIES
 - ESTABLISHES REGULATORY ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES
 - PROVIDES FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED ENTITIES

- KEY REGULATIONS IMPACTING ON TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS
 - EPA DISPOSAL STANDARDS (40CFR191), COMPLIANCE CRITERIA (40CFR194), AND LAND DISPOSAL RESTRICTIONS (40CFR268)
 - NEW MEXICO HAZARDOUS WASTE ACT (RCRA PART B PERMIT)
 - DOT HIGHWAY ROUTING CRITERIA (49CFR397.101)
 - NRC TRANSPORTATION PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS (10CFR71)
 - OSHA EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS (29CFR1910.120)

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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

- PARTICIPANTS AND AFFECTED ENTITIES
 - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (DOE, DOT, EPA, NRC, OSHA)
 - STATE GOVERNMENTS
 - * NEW MEXICO (HOST STATE)
 - * STATES WITH DOE GENERATOR/STORAGE SITES (10)
 - * CORRIDOR STATES (22)
 - TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS
 - LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
 - * COUNTIES
 - * MUNICIPALITIES
 - OTHER
 - * MONITORING/OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATIONS (NAS, EEG)
 - * PRIVATE INDUSTRY (CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS)
 - * ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS
 - * GENERAL PUBLIC ALONG THE ROUTE AND OTHERWISE
- MANY DIVERSE PLAYERS--ALL OF WHICH CAN MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAFETY OF THE WIPP SHIPPING CAMPAIGN

***WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY:
EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED***

WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

- PROGRAM EVOLUTION
 - NATIONAL/REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS
 - COORDINATION THROUGH A REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION (WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION)
 - EXECUTION OF A DOE/WGA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

- PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY/METHODOLOGY
 - WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH DOE AND OTHERS TO:
 - * ASSESS ADEQUACY OF WIPP TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
 - * RECOMMEND SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS
 - * PROVIDE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT/MONITORING
 - PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH AFFECTED ENTITIES

- PROGRAM STRUCTURE
 - ACCIDENT PREVENTION
 - EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS
 - PUBLIC AWARENESS, INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION

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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

- ACCIDENT PREVENTION
 - HIGH-QUALITY DRIVERS AND CARRIER COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS
 - * DOE TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT
 - * CARRIER MANAGEMENT PLAN
 - * RECORDKEEPING/SITE AUDITS
 - RADIOLOGICAL/MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS OF SHIPMENTS
 - PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR HANDLING ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS
 - GUIDANCE FOR THE SELECTION AND USE OF SAFE PARKING AREAS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS
 - ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND MONITORING OF SHIPMENTS
 - ROUTE DESIGNATIONS

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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

- EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS
 - PLANS AND PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO A WIPP TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENT
 - * RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH
 - * FIRE PROTECTION
 - * LAW ENFORCEMENT
 - * EMERGENCY MEDICAL (EMTs/HOSPITALS)
 - TRAINING, DRILLS AND EXERCISES
 - * CLASSROOM (TABLETOP)
 - * FIELD
 - EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
 - * RADIATION DETECTION
 - * RADIATION PROTECTION
 - * OTHER HAZARDS

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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM

- PUBLIC AWARENESS, INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION
 - DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF TIMELY, ACCURATE INFORMATION
 - * MANY AND VARIED AFFECTED "PUBLICS"
 - * EACH INDIVIDUAL HAS UNIQUE FRAME OF REFERENCE AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS
 - DEAL HONESTLY AND STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH PUBLIC
 - MULTI-FACETED APPROACH TO PUBLIC OUTREACH
 - * DIRECT MAILINGS
 - * PUBLIC MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS
 - * ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS
 - * "800" LINES
 - * TECHNICAL CONFERENCES/PUBLICATIONS
 - PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERESTED/AFFECTED "PUBLICS" TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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**WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM:
LESSONS LEARNED**

- ACCIDENT PREVENTION
 - USE OF A CONTRACT CARRIER HAS MANY ADVANTAGES
 - FULL-SCALE TESTING OF TRANSPORTATION PACKAGES CAN BE COST-EFFECTIVE WHILE ENHANCING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
 - EFFICIENCIES CAN BE REALIZED THROUGH CROSS-TRAINING OF SHIPMENT INSPECTION PERSONNEL
 - TESTING OF PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ADVERSE DRIVING CONDITIONS IS CRITICAL
 - EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTES CAN SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES IN THE LONG RUN

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**WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM:
LESSONS LEARNED**

- EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS
 - COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH LOCAL RESPONSE PERSONNEL IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE
 - UTILIZE THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE OF DOE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL
 - SIGNIFICANT EFFICIENCIES CAN BE REALIZED THROUGH USE OF SMALLER-SCALE TRAINING EXERCISES
 - INCORPORATION OF PROGRAM-SPECIFIC (WIPP) TRAINING INTO HAZMAT COURSES GETS YOU MORE BANG FOR THE BUCK
 - PROPER EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING AND EXERCISES, NOT JUST PRIOR TO RESPONSE
 - TEST AND RE-TEST ALL PLANS, PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE

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WIPP TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROGRAM:

LESSONS LEARNED

- PUBLIC AWARENESS, INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION
 - LET ACCURACY, CLARITY AND CREDIBILITY BE YOUR GUIDEPOSTS FOR ALL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS
 - MEET THE PUBLIC ON THEIR TURF
 - MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT AN INDIVIDUAL WANTS FROM YOU, AND THEN FOLLOW UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
 - TAILOR YOUR PROGRAM TO YOUR PUBLIC