

## Section 1: High–Quality Drivers and Carrier Compliance

Lead States: Colorado, New Mexico

**The Issue:** Highly qualified, well–trained drivers; diligent vehicle maintenance; carrier compliance with regulations; and enhanced carrier and driver performance requirements can greatly reduce the risk and consequences of truck incidents.

**The Objective:** Establish, implement, and maintain an enhanced carrier contract and management plan for the dedicated WIPP carriers, focusing on high quality drivers and vehicles.

**The Approach:** Although the possibility of incidents cannot be eliminated, it can be significantly reduced by requiring stringent driver qualifications and training; through strict adherence to all applicable laws and regulations; and special provisions in the carriers' transportation contracts to enhance safety and performance.

In 2007, DOE-CBFO awarded an unrestricted contract and a small business set-aside contract to two different commercial carriers. The contracts provide truck transportation of transuranic waste to WIPP for a period of five years. Under these contracts, the two carriers are required to dedicate designated trucks and drivers for TRU waste shipments to WIPP.

DOE recognizes the experience and expertise of state regional group (SRG) organizations including WGA in working with carriers to ensure the safe and uneventful transportation of TRU waste to WIPP. The Technical Advisory Group has been able to provide suggested requirements for the WIPP transportation contract and the carrier's management plan. The contract and management plan includes above minimum regulatory requirements for driver qualifications, driver performance, driver training, carrier performance, inspection requirements, and vehicle maintenance. These and other safety requirements are described in detail in *Model Safety Elements in the WIPP Transportation Contract and Corresponding Carrier Management Plan*.

The Technical Advisory Group will participate in the carrier acquisition process through (1) the development of technical contract requirements (these requirements will drive the development and implementation of the carriers' transportation management plans as directed by DOE-CBFO and concurred with by the TAG) and (2) the technical evaluation of proposals. This participation will occur in accordance with applicable procurement regulations.

The Technical Advisory Group established the **Independent Contract Carrier Review Program** to verify compliance by the contract carriers with all applicable laws, regulations, and other requirements. This program or Carrier Review involves regularly scheduled site visits to the contract carrier's headquarters by a designated state authority where record keeping audits and other inspection functions are performed. Carrier Review checklists that identify applicable federal regulatory requirements, were

developed for use during the review process. These checklists have been reviewed, modified and approved by the Technical Advisory Group, DOE-CBFO, and contract carriers.

The DOE-CBFO and Western States agree that Carrier Reviews of companies awarded carrier contracts for shipments of transuranic waste in Western States will be performed. Where possible these Carrier Reviews will be performed by the host state which is the state designated as the carrier's headquarters by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). In the unlikely event that one or more host states are unwilling to perform the Carrier Reviews, those carriers will be reviewed by the State of New Mexico. Regardless, a DOE official will be present at all Carrier Reviews.

When a contract carrier resides in a host state outside of the WGA state regional group, WGA will seek to partner with the SRG to which that host state belongs and develop a joint independent contract carrier review program.

Carrier Reviews will be completed by the contract carrier's host state or the State of New Mexico on at least an annual basis. Consultation and coordination with the DOE-CBFO, its contractors/subcontractors, USDOT, and other interested and affected entities will remain an important, integral component of the Independent Contract Carrier Review Program.

**Evaluation:** On an annual basis, the WGA Co-Lead states and any other host state will review whether revisions are required to the checklists to incorporate changes in the applicable transportation requirements. Proposed revisions will be presented to the WGA Transportation Technical Advisory Group, corresponding SRG, DOE-CBFO and its contract carriers for their consideration and approval. Upon approval, the checklists will be revised accordingly and used during subsequent Carrier Reviews.

DOE-CBFO will work with the host states and corresponding SRGs to ensure that Carrier Reviews of all contract carriers are performed on an annual basis.

Each host state will analyze the Carrier Review and prepare a final summary of findings that will be shared initially with the contract carrier. The states conducting the Carrier Reviews will submit summary findings to DOE-CBFO and WGA. Information from Carrier Reviews will be shared between WGA and corresponding SRGs. The Co-Lead States will analyze the Carrier Reviews from each region and will prepare an overview for inclusion in the WGA WIPP Biennial Review.

DOE-CBFO will invite host states to be present for the annual *Surveillance of Carriers* review. DOE will share their *Surveillance* reports on the carriers with the SRGs for dissemination to their member states. For the West, these *Surveillance* reports will be analyzed by the Co-Lead States.

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<b><i>Documents included in Guide</i></b>		
<i>Model Safety Elements in the WIPP Transportation Contract and Corresponding Carrier Management Plan, New Mexico, Revised January 1996.</i>	NM	Final
<i>Independent Contract Carrier Review Program Database, April 2010. (Please contact Colorado to obtain a blank copy of the database)</i>	CO	In Process
<i>Independent Contract Carrier Review Program Instructions, April 2010.</i>	CO	In Process
<i>Compliance Audit/Review Summary, March 2010.</i>	CO	Draft
<i>Independent Contract Carrier Review Program Inspector Overview, March 2010.</i>	CO	Draft
<i>Letter from DOE-CBFO to WGA regarding the WIPP carrier selection process. June 2008</i>	DOE	Final