

## News & views about working at LLNL & LANL Labs

### Continued Debate of Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) Tax Question for Triad National Security LLC

Triad National Security LLC stated recently that they can and may become a 501(c) 3 corporation in the future. This is a big concern for the state because of New Mexico's law exempting non-profit organizations from paying gross receipts tax. [Link here to read more.](#)

### Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Receives First Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Shipment Since 2014

In March of 1999, the WIPP facility began operations as the world's first repository licensed to safely and permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste. Unfortunately, after a string of safety incidents, the last being a truck fire and a leaking drum of radioactive waste, the facility closed down February 2014. After many missteps in reopening the facility and a higher cost to clean-up, operations resumed in early 2017. LANL recently reported they just completed their first shipment of waste to WIPP since its reopening. [Link here to read more.](#)

### Valley Fever on the Rise in California

[Coccidioidomycosis also known as Valley fever](#) is a respiratory disease caused by a fungus which lives as microscopic spores in soil. It is endemic throughout California's Central Valley including San Joaquin County where Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) Site 300 is located. [2017 had the highest annual number of new valley fever cases](#) recorded in California. LLNL workers working at Site 300 are at risk for contracting Valley Fever. In the past, the Lab has paid for annual testing of Site 300 employees for exposure to the fungus. Recently, the Lab has changed its policy and taken away testing Site 300 employees. Now it is up to the individual employee to go through their healthcare provider to be screened for Valley Fever. Let us know what you think and if you are aware of any other TAKE AWAYS at LLNL (email [spse@spse.org](mailto:spse@spse.org)) or at LANL (email [lanl@upte-cwa.org](mailto:lanl@upte-cwa.org)).

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