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Hobbs Teachers Awarded Excellence-in-Teaching Mini Grants

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 3, 2013 – Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP) recently selected 13 Hobbs elementary school teachers as the recipients of Excellence-in-Teaching Mini Grants. The \$500 education grants specifically target elementary school teachers who play an important role in developing an early, and hopefully long-lasting, interest in science, mathematics and technology among young students.

This year's recipients in Hobbs include Michelle Aker, Eva Astorga, Bertha Perez, Marsha Campbell, Lee Morin and Lisa Romine of Sanger Elementary School; Kristie Santos, Staci Lewis and Katie House of Mills Elementary School; Judith Jaquez, Christina Enriquez and Adela Prieto of Jefferson Elementary School; and Allison Wright of Coronado Elementary School.

"Elementary teachers are integral to preparing young students for a future in the science, mathematics and technology career fields," said NWP President and Project Manager Farok Sharif. "As an engineering and technology-based company, NWP wants to do its part in giving back to the communities where our employees live and work."

Elementary school educators in Hobbs and other communities were invited to submit applications for the program. Teachers typically use the grant monies to purchase supplies to enhance their lessons. In the past six years, NWP and its predecessor company – Washington TRU Solutions – have awarded more than \$22,000 in mini grants to schools in Lea and Eddy counties.

NWP is the management and operating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located west of Hobbs. WIPP, the nation's first permanent geologic repository for defense transuranic nuclear waste, began disposal operations in 1999. NWP is a URS-led partnership with Babcock & Wilcox and AREVA.