March 2000

More information: Sue Johns (505) 234-7230

March 8 -- WIPP Exhibit, Energy Communities Alliance, Washington, DC.
More information: Sue Johns (505) 234-7230

April 2000

April 5 -- WIPP Exhibit, Waste-Management Education and Research Consortium, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
More information: Sue Johns (505) 234-7230

April 10 -- WIPP Exhibit, National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference, Reno, Nevada.
More information: Sue Johns (505) 234-7230

April 27 -- 70th WIPP Quarterly Review, Skeen-Whitlock Building, 4021 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico.
More information: Patricia Kilgore (505) 234-7302

Note: Interest in WIPP tours is high. Citizens interested in touring the WIPP are encouraged to call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477) four weeks in advance to make tour arrangements.
For more information:

WIPP Information Center
1-800-336-WIPP
(1-800-336-9477)
infocntr@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us

WIPP Home Page
www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us

★★★ For Your Information ★★★
March 2000

CAO unveils full-scale model of transportation cask for remote-handled waste

The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) unveiled a full-scale model of its newest waste transportation cask, the RH-72B, last week. The CAO will use the model for a variety of activities, including procedure development, waste-handling instruction, and public outreach activities. Westinghouse Engineered Products Department in Carlsbad, New Mexico built the model.

The RH-72B is a large, horizontal, stainless steel cylinder approximately 12 feet long and 31/2 feet in diameter, weighing about 37,000 pounds empty. When completed, the RH-72B will be able to transport one canister containing three 55-gallon drums. A large impact limiter, similar to a shock absorber, covers each end of the container to protect the unit in the event of an accident. An outer thermal shield will protect the container and its contents from potential fire damage.

Once the Nuclear Regulatory Commission certifies the cask, it will be used to ship remote-handled (RH) transuranic radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Plant (WIPP). RH wastes, which will make up about three percent of WIPP shipments, emit penetrating gamma radiation. The RH-72B will provide heavy shielding of this radiation. Shipments of RH wastes are expected to begin in 2002, primarily from transuranic waste sites in Washington, Idaho, New Mexico, and Tennessee.