

## **News Release**

## **Senator Pete V. Domenici**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### DOMENICI: ABQ COMPANY WINS GRANT FOR WIPP-RELATED WORK

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today reported that an Albuquerque company has been awarded a five-year, \$25 million contract for waste characterization work associated with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

The Department of Energy has obligated \$25 million over the next five years for Mobil Characterization Services of Albuquerque to provide "TRU Mixed Waste" characterization services at various DOE sites and preparation of shipments bound for WIPP.

"I'm pleased to see that a New Mexico firm will be involved with providing critical services related to shipments for WIPP," Domenici said. "The characterization of the transuranic waste scheduled for delivery to WIPP is important as this facility continues to meet its role in our nation's effort to deal with nuclear waste."

Domenici is chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee that provides funding for DOE and its programs like WIPP. Following the Independence Day recess next week, Domenici's subcommittee is scheduled to begin work on the FY2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.

In early May, Senate appropriators agreed to provide the Energy and Water Development subcommittee with nearly \$22.5 billion for DOE, the nuclear weapons complex, WIPP and federal water projects in FY2001. This is \$1.27 billion more than the current funding. It is from this allocation that Domenici's subcommittee will approve funding for WIPP next year. As part of his budget requests, the president requested \$194.5 million for WIPP operations in 2001, an increase of \$13.1 million over 2000 funding levels.

Domenici said his goal is to produce the 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill well before the Oct. 1 start of the federal fiscal year.

