FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WIPP TRUCK DRIVER WINS STATE COMPETITION

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 29, 1994 -- For the second straight year, a driver from Dawn Enterprises, Inc., the Farmington-based trucking company contracted to haul some radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), has captured first place in the recent New Mexico Professional Truck Driving Championships.

Mark Anderson, a 41-year-old Albuquerque native who has been employed by Dawn for five years, was the individual winner in the tractor-trailer flat bed division and the overall champion of the annual event. John Chisum of Hobbs, also a Dawn driver, won the state professional truck driving championship last year.

The annual competition, which drew 41 participants, was sponsored by the New Mexico Motor Carrier Association, an affiliate of the American Trucking Association. Judges for the two-day event included representatives from the New Mexico Transportation Department and safety professionals.

To be eligible, a driver must be a New Mexico resident without any accidents for at least one year. The contest involves a 50 question written test on U.S. Department of Transportation regulations and an oral interview. The driving portion of the competition requires that drivers discover several pre-established defects in their tractor-trailer before taking on a difficult driving course involving six major obstacles.

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All drivers for Dawn must pass strict traffic safety and emergency response examinations, and maintain clean driving records to be recertified each year. Employment as a driver for the WIPP requires a minimum of 100,000 miles and two years of uninterrupted professional truck driving experience with a citation-free driving record.

The WIPP is a research and development facility operated by the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Area Office. Located 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, it is designed to demonstrate the safe handling, transportation and permanent disposal of some radioactive waste left from the production of nuclear weapons. Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Waste Isolation Division is the management and operating contractor for the WIPP.