

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
P. O. BOX 3090
CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO 88221

Handwritten:
8/23/94
Kendall
Barbara
WIPP file

DOENEWS:

NOTICE OF CORRECTION September 1, 1994

A U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office press release entitled "Joint Audit Calls for Staffing Reductions at the WIPP," August 26, 1994, incorrectly stated the recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) following a joint DOE/OIG audit of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

The report issued on August 22, 1994, recommended a 25 percent reduction in staffing levels of the DOE's contractor, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Waste Isolation Division. DOE officials said that a 25 percent reduction would make it difficult to achieve established programmatic goals including a 1998 disposal decision.

DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Thomas Grumbly, did not agree with the OIG's suggestion, saying instead that he would immediately schedule an 11 percent reduction, to be achieved through attrition by June 30, 1995, and a 15 percent or more reduction will be targeted for September 30, 1995.

Reduction will be from the staffing level of 777, which was the Westinghouse employment level when the audit began. The September 1995 staffing level is targeted at 662. Westinghouse currently employs 740 employees at WIPP. Annual attrition rates at the government facility average about 6 to 7 percent.

-DOE-

Contact: **Patty L. Baratti-Sallani**
Public Affairs Officer
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office

(505) 234-7313

Jerran L. White
Technical Communications and
Media Relations
Westinghouse Waste Isolation
Division

(505) 234-8658

