

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

*Booth  
Carlsbad  
WIPP file*

# DOENEWS:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DOE TO ENFORCE 'OFF LIMITS AREA' AROUND THE WIPP SITE

CARLSBAD, N.M., September 1, 1994 -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing an "off limits area" around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

"Essentially, the area includes a half-mile buffer zone around the WIPP facility," said J.R. Galle, DOE's manager of security at the WIPP.

The area will be marked clearly with warning signs for hunters and others who use the land for public access purposes as defined by the DOE and the Bureau of Land Management, an agency of the U.S. Department of Interior.

"The additional area was set aside by the DOE to ensure the public's safety and to be sure there is a sufficient buffer around the WIPP site," said Galle.

In 1992 the Land Withdrawal Act gave the DOI jurisdiction over 10,240 acres (16 square miles) in Eddy County to conduct WIPP-related activities. The research and development facility is located on a 1,454-acre tract within the 16-square mile withdrawal boundary.

Under federal law, unauthorized persons who enter the "off limits area" are subject to a fine of \$5,000 to \$100,000, depending on the severity of the violation.

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DOE To Enforce 'Off Limits  
Area' Around The WIPP Site

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Operated by the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office, the WIPP is a research and development facility designed to demonstrate the safe, permanent disposal of transuranic radioactive waste left from the production of nuclear weapons.

-DOE-

Contact: Patty L. Baratti-Sallani  
Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Area Office  
(505) 234-7313

Jerran L. White, Manager  
Technical Communications and  
Media Relations  
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division  
(505) 234-8658