DOENEWS:
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MEDIA ADVISORY

INTERACTIVE WIPP STAKEHOLDER FORUM SCHEDULED SEPT. 26-27

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office will host the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Stakeholder Forum, Sept. 26-27, in Albuquerque. Media representatives are welcome to attend the meeting, designed to give attendees the opportunity to present perspectives and ask questions about WIPP-related issues.

Stakeholder involvement is part of DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary's openness initiative, and critical to events leading to a 1998 WIPP disposal decision. Members of the media may attend the entire meeting, to be held at Howard Johnson's Plaza Hotel, 6000 Pan American Freeway N.E., or only the media briefing at 3:15 p.m., Sept. 27.

During the meeting, various groups, including Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping, Snake River Alliance and the Southwest Research and Information Center will give presentations based on their points of view. After each presentation, a brief question-and-answer session is planned.

The two-day WIPP Forum will culminate with the media briefing that highlights, through a question-and-answer session, the views of stakeholders, regulators and the DOE.

Copies of the Forum agenda can be obtained by calling Jerran L. White, manager of Technical Communications and Media Relations for the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division, at (505) 234-8658. Please confirm your participation in the Stakeholder Forum by 4 p.m., Sept. 23.

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