

Bento

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 6
External Affairs (6X)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

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WIPP FILE

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February 9, 1995

PRESS RELEASE

Following is a regional development which may interest you. If you need more information on this subject call David Bary at (214) 665-2200.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct hearings in New Mexico on its proposed criteria to explain how EPA will certify compliance or non-compliance with its Radioactive Waste Standards for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The WIPP, located near Carlsbad, New Mexico, and under development by the Department of Energy (DOE), is a potential geologic disposal facility for transuranic radioactive waste generated from the production of nuclear weapons. Congress authorized the development of the WIPP in 1979 for the purpose of providing a research and development facility to demonstrate the safe disposal of defense waste.

Hearings are scheduled for March 21st in Carlsbad, New Mexico at the Quality Inn, 3706 National Parks Highway, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; March 22nd in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second Street, NW, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; March 23rd in Santa Fe, New Mexico at the High Mesa Inn, 3347 Cerillos Road, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and on March 24th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the High Mesa Inn in Santa Fe.

Those who wish to testify at one of the hearings are asked to telephone Kelly Rose or Ed Lyons of AST, Inc. at (301) 670-8344 or fax their request directly to AST at (301) 670-4099 to their attention. When registering by phone or fax, the following information will be required: Name, address, organizational affiliation (only if testifying as spokesperson or official representative for the company), desired date, hearing location, times available to testify, and a daytime telephone number. Registration must be made by March 14th in order to be guaranteed an opportunity to testify. Those not registered on or before March 14th may register at the door and will be scheduled to testify if time permits.

Individual speakers will be allocated five minutes and individuals testifying as the official representative or spokesperson on behalf of groups or organizations will be allocated ten minutes for an oral presentation exclusive of any time consumed by questions from the government panel and answers to their questions.

Copies of the proposed criteria can be obtained by calling the EPA WIPP Information Line at 1-800-331-WIPP. Information on the proposed rule is also available for review at the following EPA WIPP docket locations in New Mexico: In Carlsbad at the Municipal Library; in Albuquerque at the Government Publications Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico; and in Santa Fe at the Fogelson Library, College of Santa Fe.

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