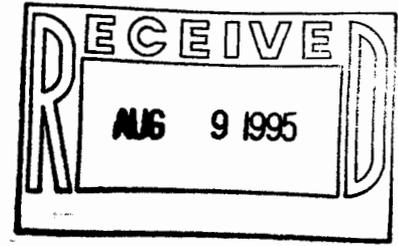




**Department of Energy**  
Carlsbad Area Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221



JUL 28 1995

Dear Stakeholder:

The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) will prepare a second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS-II) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). We are fulfilling a commitment the Department of Energy made in 1990 after it completed the first SEIS, to prepare this second environmental study prior to the start of defense-generated transuranic waste disposal operations.

This second supplement will update the analyses contained in the 1980 WIPP Environmental Impact Statement and the first SEIS, taking into account information and changed circumstances since the first supplement. In general, this study will evaluate the environmental impacts of waste characterization, treatment, and certification; packaging and transportation; site operations and waste emplacement; and long-term performance of the repository. Examples of new information and changed circumstances that might affect environmental impacts include:

- Passage of legislation withdrawing the WIPP site for use as a waste disposal site;
- Additional information from the WIPP experimental program;
- New information from the Department of Energy's complex-wide Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

The CAO is actively seeking stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the WIPP SEIS-II document. These involvement opportunities will include participation in interactive scoping meetings and briefings during the document preparation process, and public hearings upon completion of the Draft WIPP SEIS-II document.

The purpose of the scoping process is to assure that all appropriate topics to be analyzed in the SEIS-II have been identified. Stakeholders can play a vital role in this process. Scoping meetings will be held September 7 in Carlsbad, NM; September 12 in Albuquerque, NM; September 14 in Santa Fe, NM; September 19 in Golden, CO; and September 20 in Boise, ID. Interested parties may present suggestions on the scope or ask questions at the scoping meetings or in writing during the scoping period, currently planned to start with publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register in August and run through September.

If you would like to receive additional information about the WIPP SEIS-II, please contact the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477).

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wise  
NEPA Document Manager

Enclosure



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# DOE To Prepare Second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for WIPP

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Disposal Phase

## *What's up at WIPP?*

## *Why is the document needed?*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office plans to develop its second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

This second supplement (referred to as SEIS-II) will reexamine environmental impacts in light of any new information and changed circumstances gathered since the first supplement was published in 1990. The updated document will evaluate potential impacts of waste characterization, treatment, and certification; packaging and transportation; site operations and waste emplacement; and long-term performance of the repository. Examples of new information or changed circumstances include:

- Data from programmatic environmental impact statements prepared at the DOE headquarters level;
- Inclusion of waste at sites where small quantities of transuranic waste are generated;
- Changes in the volume of waste since the estimates in 1990;
- Legislative changes since 1990, such as the Land Withdrawal Act of 1992, plus any changes that may be enacted by the current Congress;
- Changes in the waste acceptance criteria since 1990; and
- Changes in the planned routes for truck transportation.

## *What is the Proposed Action?*

Under the proposed action, the DOE would continue with the phased development of the WIPP by beginning the disposal of transuranic waste at the facility. Compliance activities would continue until the WIPP obtains necessary regulatory approvals needed to begin receiving waste.



***What are the alternatives?***

Under one alternative to the proposed action, the DOE will consider no action -- or continued management of transuranic waste at the generator facilities of the proposed action and dismantlement of the WIPP facility. Other sub-alternatives to be considered include 1) the impacts of waste treatments more extensive than current WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria, and 2) transportation alternatives, including rail common carrier service and dedicated rail service.

***Why should the public get involved?***

CAO will actively solicit and support stakeholder involvement in preparation of the WIPP SEIS-II document. This involvement will include an interactive scoping effort and briefings during the document preparation process; public hearings upon completion of the draft WIPP SEIS-II document; and thorough consideration of comments and incorporation of those comments as appropriate in the final SEIS-II.

The purpose of the scoping process, which will begin in August and end on September 30, 1995, is to ensure that all appropriate topics to be considered in SEIS-II have been identified. Citizens, public officials, community leaders, and tribal representatives can play a vital role in this process. Scoping meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

- Carlsbad, New Mexico, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. September 7 at the Holiday Inn.
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. September 12 at the Holiday Inn, Pyramid.
- Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. September 14 at the High Mesa Inn.
- Golden, Colorado, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. September 19 at the Denver Marriott West in Golden.
- Boise, Idaho, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. September 20 at the Red Lion Inn, Riverside.

***How can you get involved or get more information?***

To make comments at one of the scoping meetings, to be placed on the mailing list, or to receive further information about WIPP and SEIS-II, call the WIPP Information Center, toll-free, at 1-800-336-WIPP (800-336-9477). If you prefer to write, contact:

**Ms. Patty Baratti-Sallani  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Area Office  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221**

# CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE

## Upcoming 1995-1996 Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

January 1995						
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### July

31 Monday

- ★ *Milestone: Draft Compliance Certification Application (DCCA) Part II Submittal to Environmental Protection Agency. DCCA will be available in the WIPP Reading Rooms.*

### August

Early August

Notice of Intent to prepare a second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

### September

7 Thursday

SEIS-II meetings, Carlsbad, NM, Holiday Inn, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.

12 Tuesday

SEIS-II meetings, Albuquerque, NM, Holiday Inn, Pyramid, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.

14 Thursday

SEIS-II meeting, Santa Fe, NM, High Mesa Inn, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.

19 Tuesday

SEIS-II meeting, Golden Co, Denver Marriott West, 7-10 p.m.

20 Wednesday

SEIS-II meeting, Boise, ID, Red Lion Inn, Riverside, 7-10 p.m.

29 Friday

- ★ *Milestone: Final Models to Performance Assessment for Complementary Cumulative Distribution Function*

30 Saturday

Last day to mail comments on SEIS-II

### October

31 Tuesday

- ★ *Milestone: Complete Remote-Handled Study*
- ★ *Milestone: Publish Sealing Systems Design*

### December

29 Friday

- ★ *Milestone: Provide Supplemental Inventory Data to Performance Assessment on Waste Characterization Plan*

### January 1996

- ★ *Milestone: Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval of Remote-Handled Safety Analysis Report for Packaging*

- ★ *Milestones (in italics) are key dates shown on the Disposal Decision Plan*

For additional information, call Patty Baratti-Sallani (505) 234-7313

July 1995						
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**★★★ For Your Information ★★★**

**Update on WIPP  
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS-II)**

WIPP SEIS-II scoping meeting dates have been set. The SEIS-II will examine DOE's proposed action to continue phased development of the WIPP by beginning the disposal phase of transuranic waste operations at the facility. It will also consider a no-action alternative that consists of continued management of transuranic waste at the generator facilities and dismantlement of the WIPP facility.

We urge your participation in determining the scope of the SEIS-II, including issues to be addressed, alternatives and environmental impacts. Scoping meetings will be held:

- September 7, 1995, Carlsbad, New Mexico, Holiday Inn, 2-5 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.
- September 12, 1995, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Holiday Inn Pyramid, 2-5 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.
- September 14, 1995, Santa Fe, New Mexico, High Mesa Inn, 2-5 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.
- September 19, 1995, Golden, Colorado, Denver Marriott West, 7-10 p.m.
- September 20, 1995, Boise, Idaho, Red Lion Inn Riverside, 7-10 p.m.

Written, oral and faxed comments will be accepted until September 30, 1995. Direct them to Harold Johnson, NEPA Compliance Officer, Attn: Scoping Comments, MS 535, U.S. DOE, P.O. Box 3090, Carlsbad, NM 88221. Telephone comments to: 1-800-336-9477 or fax to 1-505-224-8030.

U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Area Office  
P.O. Box 3090  
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