



# ★★★ For Your Information ★★★

November 1995

## CAO Stakeholder Newsletter to Make Debut in Next Few Weeks

The inaugural issue of a quarterly newsletter for WIPP stakeholders has gone to press and should reach mailboxes in the next few weeks. *TRU Progress*, a publication of DOE's Carlsbad Area Office, is committed to maintaining on-going dialogue with stakeholders. If you have not received your copy by the end of November, please call our Information Center, toll-free, at the number listed below.

## CAO Achieves Two Milestones in October

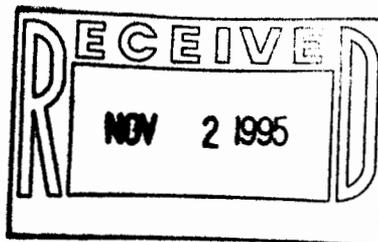
The Carlsbad Area Office achieved two WIPP milestones in October. It completed the *WIPP Sealing Systems Design Report*, which outlines the use of salt, clay, and other materials to seal access shafts at the WIPP after the facility is closed. The CAO also has completed the *Remote-Handled System Assessment*, which describes the approach and new technology for managing remote-handled transuranic waste. For more information on these documents, please call the Information Center.

## WIPP Disposal Decision Now October 1997

The Secretary of Energy's decision to operate the WIPP as a disposal facility for transuranic waste has been moved forward -- from January 1, 1998 to October 31, 1997. The schedule change responds to an in-depth review of processes and activities associated with the submittal of the Compliance Certification Application to the EPA. Process improvements and conducting parallel activities accelerated the final Compliance Certification Application submittal by two months.

The change in the decision date means that waste operations could begin as early as April 1998. For a copy of the Disposal Decision Plan, call the WIPP Information Center at 800-336-WIPP (800-336-9477).

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



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New Mexico Environment Department  
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Santa Fe, NM 87502



# CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE

## Upcoming 1995-1996 Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

November 1995						
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April 1996						
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### November

**30 Thursday**

**National Transuranic Waste Program  
Annual Update Meeting, Marriott  
Riverwalk Hotel, 711 East Riverwalk,  
San Antonio, TX**

### December

**29 Friday**

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

### Spring 1996

**Public Hearings on draft WIPP  
. SEIS-II**

### Summer 1996

**Public Hearings on RCRA Part B  
Permit Application**

### September

★ *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

May 1996						
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September 1996						
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