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

Mr. Steve Zappe Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau New Mexico Environment Department 525 Camino de Los Marquez Suits 4 Santa Fe, NM 87502
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE

Upcoming 1995-1996 Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

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