



**Department of Energy**

Carlsbad Area Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

NOV 13 1995

To: [unclear]  
[unclear]  
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[unclear]

Mr. Mark Weidler, Secretary  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Weidler:

The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Area Office is pleased to announce that the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID), management and operating contractor for the Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, has received the DOE's 1995 *Energy Quality Achievement Award* (a copy of the press released is attached). Achievement of this level of excellence validates our pledge to the public to manage and operate the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in a safe, environmentally sound, and cost-effective manner.

Twenty-nine Department of Energy-directed organizations vied for this honor nationwide, four New Mexico-based groups, including WID, received recognition. New Mexico businesses, federal, state, and private industry groups are taking Total Quality practices from ideology to reality, as evidenced by the creation of Quality New Mexico. We are proud to join them as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

*George E. Dials*

George E. Dials  
Manager

Attachment



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
P. O. BOX 3090  
CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO 88221

# DOENEWS:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DOE PRESENTS ENERGY QUALITY AWARD TO WIPP CONTRACTOR

CARLSBAD, N.M., Nov. 8 -- The U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office today honored the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID) for winning the highest award given in the first annual DOE Quality Awards Program. The Energy Quality Award was presented to WID General Manager Joe Epstein by Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary on October 24, during ceremonies at DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C. The WID is the management and operating contractor for the DOE at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

In today's local ceremony at the WIPP, Carlsbad Area Office Manager George Dials cited the WID's achievement as yet another example of how the quality culture promoted by the DOE has taken hold at the WIPP. Earlier this year, the WID received top honors from Westinghouse corporate headquarters by winning the Westinghouse Chairman's Performance Leadership Award.

"Today, I am recognizing Westinghouse and its employees for continuous attention to quality performance," said Dials. "This is the level of performance that is expected and required to move the WIPP program forward in our efforts to open this nation's first radioactive waste repository."

Dials addressed the gathering of WID personnel, saying that the Energy Quality Award is not an end in itself. "Winning this award is merely an indicator that you have what it takes to excel at a task," he told the group. "I have challenged myself and made a personal commitment to get the WIPP open and operating. I want each and every one of you take that same challenge and renew your commitment to this project."

WID General Manager Joe Epstein and employees representing each of the WID departments accepted the award on behalf of all the employees. "We have received several awards in the total quality arena, but the Energy Quality Award ranks the highest because it comes from our customer -- the DOE," Epstein said.

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The WID was one of two winners in the Achievement category, the highest level awarded this year in the DOE Quality Award Program. The DOE's Albuquerque Operations Office was the other recipient of an Achievement Award. Two other New Mexico-based DOE operations were honored in the competition as well. Sandia National Laboratories received an Energy Accomplishment Award, and Los Alamos National Laboratory won an Energy Quality Champion Award. The program is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige and President's Quality Award programs. A total of 29 DOE organizations submitted applications for the 1995 awards.

"It is interesting, but not a coincidence, that four of the nine winning organizations are based in New Mexico," Epstein noted. "Total quality management has been at the core of the Westinghouse culture for many years, but the state of New Mexico has also embraced the quality improvement concepts in recent years through the creation of Quality New Mexico."

The DOE and Westinghouse support the Quality New Mexico Organization through participation in workshops, promotional activities, and awards competitions. Quality New Mexico was created in 1993 to promote and develop a statewide focus on quality practices to ensure New Mexico's achievement of world-class excellence in business, education, and government.

The WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Administered by the DOE's Carlsbad Area Office, the WIPP is located 26 miles east of Carlsbad. Project facilities include excavated rooms 2,150 feet below the earth's surface in an ancient, stable salt formation.

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