

U.S. Department of Energy  
 Carlsbad Area Office  
 Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
 P.O. Box 3090  
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

# DOENEWS

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## **Media Contacts:**

Dennis Hurtt  
 U. S. DOE Carlsbad Area Office  
 (505) 234-7327

Dee Armstrong  
 Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division  
 (505) 234-8226  
 1-800-493-9768

### **For Immediate Release**

## **Department of Energy Publishes Citizens' Guide To WIPP Compliance Certification Application**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., December 9** -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has published a user-friendly guide to the 24,000-page Compliance Certification Application it submitted last month to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Free copies of the 36-page booklet, titled *Citizens' Guide to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Compliance Certification Application to the EPA*, are available through the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Information Center at 1-800-336-9477.

The guide discusses the problem of temporary transuranic radioactive waste storage at more than 20 locations across the country; presents the WIPP as a viable solution to the problem; and summarizes the regulation and oversight of the WIPP. Other topics include:

- Protection of people and the environment.
- Compliance with safe drinking water standards.
- Quality assurance.
- Isolation of radioactive waste for 10,000 years.
- Citizen involvement in the WIPP certification process.

Completion and submission of the 20-volume Compliance Certification Application is a major milestone for the DOE in its efforts to begin disposal of transuranic radioactive waste at the WIPP.

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**Department of Energy Publishes Citizens' Guide  
To WIPP Compliance Certification Application**

The WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of transuranic waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Located in Southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation 2,150 feet (almost half a mile) underground. Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, and other disposable items contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

The WIPP is scheduled to open for waste receipt in November 1997.