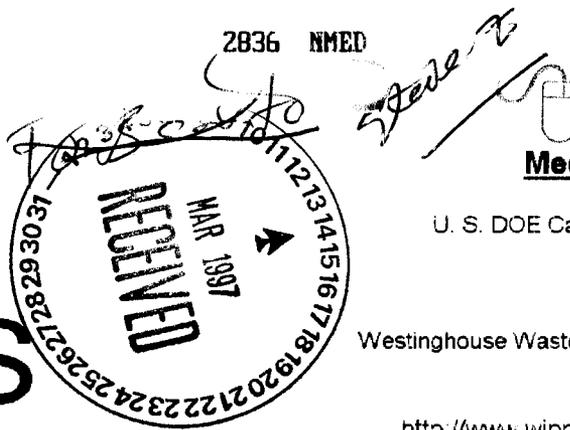


U. S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221



ENTERED

Media Contacts

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

Dan Balduini
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division
(505) 234-7515
1-800-493-9768
<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>

DOENEWS

For Immediate Release

DOE's Carlsbad Area Office Reaches "2,000-Mark" In Technology Transfer Program

CARLSBAD, N.M., March 12, 1997 – More than 2,000 companies, universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations have used the Internet System on their computers to obtain, at no cost, taxpayer-funded technology developed through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Area Office. The Carlsbad Area Office administers the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and the National Transuranic Waste Program.

"It took us some 17 months to reach the 1,000-mark, and most of those transfers came after we revamped the program in January of 1995," said Patti Crockett, Technology Administrative Specialist with the Carlsbad Area Office. "Our increased knowledge and aggressive use of the Internet, coupled with an expanded product line, enabled us to reach the milestone of 2,000 transfers in less than nine months."

The Carlsbad Area Office Technology Transfer Program is managed by the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division, the management and operating contractor for the DOE at the WIPP.

The program is designed to promote economic development and competitiveness in the private sector, improve the quality of organizational operations, enhance education and training, and ensure maximum return on taxpayer investment. The technology, which consists mainly of training materials, technical manuals, and managerial tools developed at the Carlsbad Area Office, is available at no cost to organizations for nonexclusive commercialization or internal use.

-More-



-2-

Among the diverse organizations in the United States taking advantage of the program are: Gateway 2000; Bass Pro Shops, Inc.; 3M Corporation; Cedar-Sinai Medical Center; Vassar College; Lifetime Television Network; the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; the Internal Revenue Service; and the U.S. Postal Service.

Based on a statistical model created from a 1996 survey, the Carlsbad Area Office estimates that every dollar spent on technology transfer results in a savings or cost avoidance of nearly \$2,000 to users of the technology, plus \$25 in commercial sales in the private sector. Additionally, the survey indicates that every \$1,000 spent on the program results in one new or saved job for the participating organizations.

Anyone wanting information on Carlsbad Area Office technology transfer opportunities may call Bill Keeley at (505) 234-7594, or reach him through the Internet at keeley@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us.

The WIPP is designed to permanently dispose of transuranic radioactive 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 2,150 feet (almost half a mile) underground. Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, and other such items contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

The National Transuranic Waste Program administers nationwide generation/storage site programs for characterizing, transporting, packaging, storing, and disposing of transuranic waste. Defense-generated transuranic waste is temporarily stored at more than 30 small and large sites nationwide.

-30-

041DR0397