



Carlsbad Area Office MONTHLY CALENDAR

Milestones and Involvement Opportunities
June 1998

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June 1998

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July 1998

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August 1998

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June 1998

June 8 -- Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

June 15 -- Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

June 17 -- Anticipated opening of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (see below)

June 27 -- WIPPTRAX, Functional WIPP Emergency Response Exercise, Raton, New Mexico. For more information, contact John Shea at (505) 476-9628.

June 29 -- Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

July 1998

July 16-18 -- State Emergency Medical Services Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information contact Ralph Davis, Department of Health, (505) 476-7000 ext. 123.

July 31 -- Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico



Anticipated opening date set

Energy Secretary Federico Peña notified Congress on May 13, 1998 that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is prepared to receive transuranic waste for permanent disposal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency placed a notice of its certification of the WIPP in the Federal Register on May 19, 1998. Based on these actions, the U.S. Department of Energy expects to open the WIPP for waste receipt on June 17.

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For more information:

WIPP Information Center
1-800-336-WIPP
(1-800-336-9477)
infocntr@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us

New Mexico Environment Departmen **3-DIGIT
Benito Garcia Bureau Chief
2044 Galisteo St PO Box 26110
Santa Fe NM 87505-2100
|||||||

**National Transuranic Waste
Program Home Page**

<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>



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★ ★ ★ **For Your Information** ★ ★ ★
June 1998

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant achieves major milestones

Opening day for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is approaching rapidly with the achievement of key milestones during the month of May. The milestones below have allowed the Carlsbad Area Office to set the opening date of the WIPP for June 17.

- ✓ **May 8** - The Carlsbad Area Office certified the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory's program to characterize, certify, and ship transuranic waste to the WIPP. This certification must be reviewed and confirmed by the Environmental Protection Agency before certification is complete.
- ✓ **May 13** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its final rule certifying the WIPP can isolate transuranic waste for at least 10,000 years.
- ✓ **May 13** - Energy Secretary Federico Peña notified Congress that the WIPP is ready to open.
- ✓ **May 15** - The New Mexico Environment Department issued a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit for the WIPP. This permit, when finalized, will allow the WIPP to receive transuranic waste that has been contaminated by hazardous chemicals.

More information about these milestones and about the opening of the WIPP may be found on the Internet at www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us or by calling the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477).