

Carlsbad Area Office MONTHLY CALENDAR

Milestones and Involvement Opportunities
August 1998

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September 1998							
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	October 1998							
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

August 1998

August 3 -- Radioactive & Hazardous Materials Committee meeting, State Capitol Building, Room 317, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 10 a.m. For more information, contact Ms. Jonelle Mason at (505) 986-4600.

August 12-13 -- U.S.-Mexico Border Region Hazardous Waste Forum, Carlsbad, New Mexico. Pre-forum activities start at 6 p.m., August 11. For more information, contact Christy Bourgeois at (505) 887-3340.

August 14 -- *Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

August 14 -- End of comment period on the New Mexico Environment Department's draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit for the WIPP. Please send comments to:

Dr. Robert S. Dinwiddie
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

August 26 -- WIPPTREX, Full-Scale Exercise, Laramie, Wyoming, 11 a.m. For more information, contact Scott Ramsey at (307) 777-4100.

September 1998

September 11 -- Public Tour Day at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

September 11-27 -- WIPP Exhibit, New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

September 13-18 -- WIPP Exhibit, Spectrum '98, Denver, Colorado.

September 14-17 -- New Mexico Emergency Management Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information, contact James Leach at (505) 473-7253.



* This tour is currently full. In the event that cancellations occur, interested persons shou'
Information Center. 980801

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

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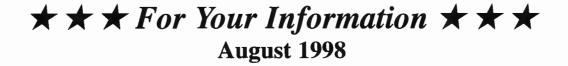


For more information:

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

National Transuranic Waste Program Home Page http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us New Mexico Environment Departmen **3-DIGIT Leroy Marquez Bureau Manager PO Box 26110 1190 St. Fra Santa Fe NM 87502-0110





Update on WIPP Legal Challenges

Three lawsuits were filed on July 17 against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its decision to certify the Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The lawsuits, filed by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office, three environmental groups, and a private individual, ask the court to declare the EPA's WIPP certification process improper.

This legal action follows an earlier motion requesting that Judge John Garrett Penn of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Circuit rule on the validity of an injunction he imposed in 1992 delaying opening of the WIPP. As we reported in the July 1998 calendar, the Attorney General believes the injunction is still in effect. The DOE disagrees.

Meanwhile, the New Mexico Environment Department has questioned the documentation of the contents of the first drums of waste to be shipped to the WIPP from the Los Alamos National Laboratory. At issue is whether they contain any hazardous waste that is regulated by the state. The DOE has agreed to test the waste to verify the drums' contents.

When ruling on the 1992 injunction, Judge Penn is expected to consider this waste characterization issue. The injunction ruling has been postponed until waste verification efforts are complete.