

Public outreach and involvement on the decision to conduct experiments at the WIPP

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites public comment on the draft *Environmental Assessment for Conducting Astrophysics and Other Basic Science Experiments at the WIPP Site*. This document examines potential environmental consequences of conducting scientific experiments at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

To facilitate public understanding of the proposed experiments and of the DOE's findings in the environmental assessment, the Carlsbad Field Office has scheduled two public meetings in New Mexico, one in Santa Fe and the other in Carlsbad. While the National Environmental Policy Act does not require a public meeting for an environmental assessment, it is encouraged. Dates, times, and locations are below.

The DOE is holding a 30-day comment period on the environmental assessment, from October 23 through November 22, 2000. The document and related fact sheets are available on the WIPP Home Page (www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us). Printed copies may be obtained upon request through the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP.

How to comment

Comments on the environmental assessment may be submitted by mail, phone, fax, or e-mail as shown below:

Mail:	Harold Johnson NEPA Compliance Officer Carlsbad Field Office U.S. Department of Energy P.O. Box 3090 Carlsbad, NM 88221
Recorded phone message:	1-800-336-WIPP (brief comments)
Fax:	(505) 234-7008
E-mail:	johnsoh@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us
Deadline to comment:	November 22, 2000

***Public
meeting
schedule***

The DOE will provide a brief overview of the proposed experiments, the environmental assessment, and its findings. The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to answering questions and hearing comments. Locations are as follows:

November 14 - Santa Fe
Holiday Inn
4048 Cerillos Road

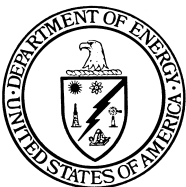
November 16 - Carlsbad
Skeen-Whitlock Building
4021 National Parks Highway

Each public meeting will have an afternoon session (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.) and an evening session (6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.)

***For more
information***

For more information about experiments at the WIPP, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477) to request related fact sheets or to be placed on the WIPP mailing list. Or you may review the full environmental assessment on the WIPP Home Page at www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us/library/ea/ea.htm. If you prefer, write to:

WIPP Information Center
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant