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# DOENews

**For Immediate Release**

## **George T. Basabilvazo Named Assistant Manager For Development and Research at Carlsbad Field Office**

**CARLSBAD, N.M., October 4, 2000** – George T. Basabilvazo has been named Assistant Manager for Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office.

"I am delighted to have George in this position," said Dr. Inés Triay, Manager of the Carlsbad Field Office. "He has the experience to ensure that we move forward in developing new technologies to dispose of waste in an environmentally safe manner."

Basabilvazo will manage, develop and implement program activities that focus on economic development, technology transfer, international programs and the deployment of new technology for transuranic waste characterization, transportation and disposal.

Before accepting this position, Basabilvazo was the performance assessment manager for the Carlsbad Area Office. He has worked at WIPP for five years.

Prior to his work at WIPP, Basabilvazo was a hydro-geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, specializing in environmental remediation programs, hydro modeling and surface and ground water activities along the New Mexico and Texas border with Mexico.

Basabilvazo earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in geology from New Mexico State University. He and his wife, Yvonne, live in Carlsbad with their two children.

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WIPP, a cornerstone of the DOE's cleanup effort, is designed to permanently dispose of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste.

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 underground. Waste disposal operations began at WIPP March 26, 1999.

Transuranic waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, residues and other disposable items contaminated with trace amounts of radioactive elements, including plutonium.

For more information about WIPP, call 1-800-336-9477, or visit the WIPP Web site at <http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>.