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Westinghouse News

For Immediate Release

**Westinghouse Earns Top Award
From Quality New Mexico**

CARLSBAD, N.M., January 11, 2000 – The Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division led a group of three Carlsbad organizations recognized by Quality New Mexico as a recipient of the highest honor in the 1999 New Mexico Quality Awards program.

Westinghouse was one of only two organizations statewide to garner the coveted Quality New Mexico Zia Award. Los Alamos National Bank was the other Zia winner.

“I congratulate the leaders and employees of the Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division and Los Alamos National Bank for receiving the state’s highest award for quality achievement,” said New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, who attended the awards presentation. “The fact that your organizations are recipients of only the third and fourth Zia awards in the six-year history of the state program attests to the high level of excellence you have achieved.”

Quality New Mexico also recognized other Carlsbad organizations — Century 21 for winning in the “Roadrunner” category, and New Mexico State University-Carlsbad and Phil Carrel Chevrolet-Buick, who won “Piñon” awards.

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The New Mexico Quality Awards, administered by the Quality New Mexico organization, recognize outstanding performance, excellence and quality achievement. The “Zia” is the highest level of recognition for companies that submit an award application to Quality New Mexico. The awards assessment process and criteria are based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

“This is a tremendous showing for Westinghouse and its employees,” said Joe Epstein, General Manager of the Waste Isolation Division. “We are committed to a quality culture. This award clearly illustrates that commitment.

“The honors that went to Carlsbad businesses and organizations are notable,” said Epstein. “The Quality Carlsbad organization is clearly instilling the quality culture in southeastern New Mexico.”

Forty-five New Mexico organizations and businesses were honored at the 1999 New Mexico Quality Awards program.

Fourteen organizations received “Roadrunner” recognition, a mid-level award that recognizes organizations for significant progress in applying quality management practices and principles in their operations. Westinghouse had received the Roadrunner award the previous four years.

“Piñon” recognition, awarded for demonstrating serious commitment to using quality concepts and principles, went to 31 organizations.

Since 1985, Westinghouse’s Waste Isolation Division has been the management and operating contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.