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### **For Immediate Release**

## Department of Energy Announces Selection of Transportation Contractors at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

**Carlsbad, N.M., August 21, 2000** -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the selection of Tri-State Motor Transit Co. (TSMT) and CAST Transportation, Inc. (CAST) to transport radioactive transuranic waste from DOE generator sites throughout the United States to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, NM.

Following a request for proposals issued on January 14, 2000, DOE determined that TSMT and CAST submitted the most advantageous offer to the government to transport transuranic waste to WIPP.

TSMT, based in Joplin, MO, is a nationwide carrier with experience hauling hazardous and radiological shipments for DOE. CAST, based in Henderson, CO, is the current carrier under contract to Westinghouse, DOE's management and operating contractor for WIPP. The contract period is for five years. *The guaranteed value of the TSMT contract is approximately \$10.2 million, with the potential to earn up to approximately \$29 million. The guaranteed value of the CAST contract is approximately \$8.8 million, with the potential to earn up to approximately \$16 million.*

Under the contracts, TSMT and CAST will perform functions in addition to transportation of transuranic waste to WIPP. They will support emergency response training exercises and public outreach events, and fabricate and maintain trailers specific to the transportation of contact- and remote-handled waste.

WIPP, a cornerstone of the DOE's cleanup effort, is designed to permanently dispose of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons.

Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, project facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation 2,150 feet (almost one-half mile) 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 radioactive elements, mostly plutonium.

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