

U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

DOENews

Media Contacts:

Dennis Hurtt
U.S. DOE Carlsbad Field Office
(505) 234-7327

Jessica L. Hogue
Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC
(505) 234-7227 (800) 493-9768
<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>

For Immediate Release

DOE to Host Swedish Scientists for Technical Workshop

CARLSBAD, N.M., May 08, 2001 – The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) will host a group of Swedish Scientists for a technical workshop tomorrow through Friday (May 9-11) at the Pecos River Village Conference Center in Carlsbad.

This is the first organized technical exchange between Sweden and CBFO. It involves representatives of SKB (the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company). The group will cover a broad range of repository siting issues experienced in the U.S. and Sweden over the past 25 years.

The workshop will provide a focused forum for open and detailed information exchanges on the siting of a deep geological repository for long-lived radioactive waste. The three-day gathering includes a tour of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and a meeting with Carlsbad Mayor Gary Perkowski and the Mayor's WIPP Task Force.

SKB is currently in the process of siting a repository for high-level nuclear waste in Sweden. The organization hopes to learn more about societal and political aspects of repository siting such as those encountered by CBFO prior to WIPP's opening. While no salt deposits exist in Sweden, the lessons learned in the process of opening and operating WIPP are likely transferable. SKB currently disposes of low-level radioactive waste in crystalline bedrock. The Swedish repository is located beneath the Baltic Sea.

-More-

-2-

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the nation's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste left from research and production of nuclear weapons.

Located in southeastern New Mexico, 26 miles east of Carlsbad, WIPP's facilities include disposal rooms excavated in an ancient, stable salt formation, 2,150 feet (almost one-half mile) underground. Waste disposal began at WIPP on March 26, 1999.

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

-30-

024DR0501