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For Immediate Release

Ava Holland Joins DOE Carlsbad Field Office As Quality Assurance Manager

CARLSBAD, N.M., February 12, 2002 – The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office today announced the appointment of Ava Holland as Manager of Quality Assurance.

Holland is responsible for DOE’s Quality Assurance Program as required to comply with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant’s (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. In this role, she provides oversight to ensure the safe characterization, transportation and disposal of transuranic waste at WIPP. The Carlsbad Field Office administers the WIPP program.

Prior to accepting this position, Holland served three years as a senior quality assurance specialist for Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC, the management and operating contractor for DOE at WIPP. Previously, she spent four years with the Carlsbad Technical Assistance Contractor. Additionally, she worked in quality assurance for 12 years at other DOE facilities and in the nuclear power industry.

“Ava is a welcome addition to our team,” said Dr. Inés Triay, Manager of the Carlsbad Field Office. “Her extensive background in quality assurance will serve us well as we move forward in helping DOE fulfill its cleanup mission.”

Holland holds a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colo., and has performed graduate work in statistics at the University of Northern Colorado. She has been a certified lead auditor since 1986.

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

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 (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 <http://www.wipp.ws>.