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DOENews

For Immediate Release

Statement of Vernon Daub, Acting Manager of DOE's Carlsbad Field Office, Regarding New Mexico Environment Department's Issuance of a Draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for WIPP

Carlsbad, New Mexico, November 23, 2005 – “The draft hazardous waste facility permit issued today by the New Mexico Environment Department is a significant step toward fulfilling the mission of WIPP. We very much appreciate the focused, hard work by the NMED staff and senior management. DOE looks forward to participating in the process NMED has established to finalize the draft permit. The proposed changes will improve waste management practices and efficiencies and continue to protect the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment.”

-DOE-

WIPP is the world's first underground repository certified to dispose of transuranic radioactive waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons and is a cornerstone of the Department of Energy's Environmental Management cleanup program. It is located in a salt formation 2,150 feet below ground and is 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, N.M.

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