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For Immediate Release

Empty WIPP truck overturns

CARLSBAD, N.M., December 27, 2005 – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office reports that a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) truck carrying three empty TRUPACT-II shipping containers overturned on Interstate 15 near Blackfoot, Idaho, at approximately 5:30 a.m. (MST). No other vehicles were involved in the accident, which was investigated by the Idaho State Police. The driver was cited for inattentive driving. Neither member of the two-person driving team sustained serious injuries, but were transported to a Pocatello, Idaho clinic for evaluation and released.

The truck was en route to the Idaho National Laboratory from the WIPP site in New Mexico at the time of the accident.

TRUPACT-II shipping containers are specially designed to transport defense-related transuranic radioactive waste to WIPP and are certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Recovery operations for the truck, trailer and TRUPACT-IIs have been completed. The Interstate was briefly closed by Idaho State Police due to the accident.

WIPP, a cornerstone of DOE's cleanup effort, is the world's first repository for the permanent disposal of defense-related waste left from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Operational since March 1999, WIPP has received more than 4,100 waste

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shipments, safely disposing more than 34,100 cubic meters of transuranic waste in the repository located nearly one-half mile underground.

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