



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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DOE CARLSBAD FIELD OFFICE OPENS LOCAL RECOVERY ACT OFFICE

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 25, 2009 – The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) recently opened a local office to support the CBFO Recovery Act Project. The office - located at 315 N. Canal - will be staffed by CBFO and contractor personnel dedicated to managing CBFO Recovery Act Project activities. In order to meet the Recovery Act’s commitment to transparency and accountability, the office staff will also track and report funding and spending by the Carlsbad office and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Carlsbad Field Office and WIPP – located outside Carlsbad - received \$172 million to support cleanup activities across the country by accelerating waste shipment readiness to WIPP. Approximately \$138 million – 80 percent of the funding – is now available to the site for their Recovery Act work, which will include projects to increase the reliability of the waste processing facilities at WIPP. The site has until September 2011 to use the funds.

“Our Recovery Act funding is designed to stimulate the local Carlsbad economy, while supporting cleanup efforts around the country,” said CBFO Recovery Act Federal Project Director, Casey Gadbury. “The Carlsbad Recovery Act office will help support the local area, saving jobs that would have been lost and bringing new jobs to New Mexico.

WIPP also depends on local vendors to support its projects, which means work for local companies.”

The Recovery Act has also provided funds to other sites across DOE's Environmental Management complex that will go toward preparing TRU waste for shipment to WIPP.

Additional information on the ARRA funding or on DOE's Office of Environmental Management can be found at www.em.doe.gov. Additional information about the Carlsbad Field Office and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant can be obtained at www.wipp.energy.gov.

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is a U.S. Department of Energy facility designed to safely isolate defense-related transuranic waste from people and the environment. Waste stored at TRU waste sites around the country is shipped to WIPP and permanently disposed in rooms mined out of an ancient salt formation 2,150 feet below the surface. WIPP, which began waste disposal operations in 1999, is located 26 miles outside of Carlsbad, N.M.

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