



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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DOE Announces the Transfer of the WIPP Water Line to the City of Carlsbad

CARLSBAD, N.M., June 18, 2009—The U.S. Department of Energy announced today that the Carlsbad Field Office will transfer the DOE-owned Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) water line to the city of Carlsbad. The move will provide the city with an additional water supply while saving the Department of Energy thousands of dollars. DOE first installed the water line in 1984 to support the ongoing operations of the Department’s disposal facility. It now transports water from the city-owned Double Eagle Water System wells to the plant.

Under the finalized bill of sale, the city will take over complete responsibility for maintaining and repairing the pipeline in exchange for the water line. The city of Carlsbad also agrees to maintain WIPP’s existing priority water use and will supply WIPP with up to 6.6 million gallons of water a year.

The city will be able to tap into the waterline to extend water service to the city of Carlsbad itself, which is about 20 miles from the water line, and to serve local residential, mining and gas and oil development interests. The WIPP water supply pipeline is a vital link connecting the city to its water supply wells.

“This is a win-win situation for both the city and WIPP,” said Dave Moody, Manager for DOE’s Carlsbad Field Office. “This demonstrates the continued constructive relationship that exists between the city of Carlsbad and WIPP.”

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The water line is 31 miles long and consists of approximately 16 miles of 24-inch diameter concrete-coated steel pipe and 15 miles of 10-inch diameter cement pipe.

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 temporarily stored at 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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