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