

35 Years of WIPP



WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

“At the end of the day it must be the science that will lead us to the best decision that will be in the best interest of this community and of our nation.”



**Governor Susana
Martinez addresses
the BRC in Carlsbad,
January 2011**

Today's Editorial

AEC: Getting All The Facts

Newsweek (August 20) sums up the Atomic Energy Commission's growing problems with nuclear waste — or, more specifically, what to do with it.

Reviewing the AEC's ill-fated plans to dispose of toxic wastes in an abandoned salt mine beneath Lyons, Kansas, the magazine relates:

“Now AEC's interest has shifted to a deep underground salt dome near Carlsbad, N.M. But, anticipating local opposition, some AEC contractors are also studying the possibility of burying the wastes even farther afield, on the ocean bottoms or under the Antarctic icecap.”

“Anticipating local opposition” is the key phrase.

At this point, the AEC is simply studying the geological aspects of the Carlsbad area. Anticipated is a slow, step-by-step process to make sure nothing is put into the ground that will come back to haunt us a 100 years hence.

And, yet, ever since the AEC's initial announcement, there have been some who have been unequivocally opposed to the project.

One has to wonder how anyone can oppose something they know nothing about. “Local opposition” is rather absurd until all the facts are in.

“One has to wonder how anyone can oppose something they know nothing about. ”Local opposition” is rather absurd until all the facts are in.”

Bob Forrest Still High On High Level Waste

By Curtis C. Wynne
Staff Writer

New Mexico may yet be in the running for a site characterization study for a high level nuclear waste repository, said Mayor Bob Forrest.

Speaking before a delegation of state legislators and cabinet members this morning, Forrest referred to a U.S. House committee vote this week which approved a bill to delay any major decisions on HLW disposal for at least 18 months.

"This opens the door for New Mexico to come back into the picture," the mayor told a breakfast gathering of more than 50 elected and appointed state officials and local businessmen.

Forrest emphasized safety issues while noting an economic benefit to be realized if a study showed the nation's commercially generated high-level radioactive waste could be safely stored in underground salt beds in southeastern New Mexico.

"All we're asking," he said, "... is to let us let them come in here and do a site characterization study. If it would work, it would sure be a

life-saver for southeast New Mexico."

Some 2,000 jobs at such a site and an additional \$100 million income paid to the state were cited as part of the benefits Forrest sees.

The legislation, drafted by Chairman Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., calls for the appointment of a three-member independent commission to review the Energy Department's controversial site selections to date, and report back to Congress in a year.

It also calls for a "special negotiator" to attempt to work out voluntary siting agreements with states or Indian tribes, both for permanent nuclear waste repositories as well as an interim cooling and packaging facility known as an MRS — for monitored retrievable storage.

This summer, a group of civic leaders in Eddy, Lea and Chaves counties sought help from Gov. Garrey Carruthers in relaying the message that while three other states were resisting federal efforts to study sites for a depository, southeastern New Mexico is willing to be considered for such a study.

But the New Mexico Congressional delegation offered a cool reception to the idea, claiming it was too late and that there would be too much tendency to tie the HLW to a separate federal

project already in the area, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

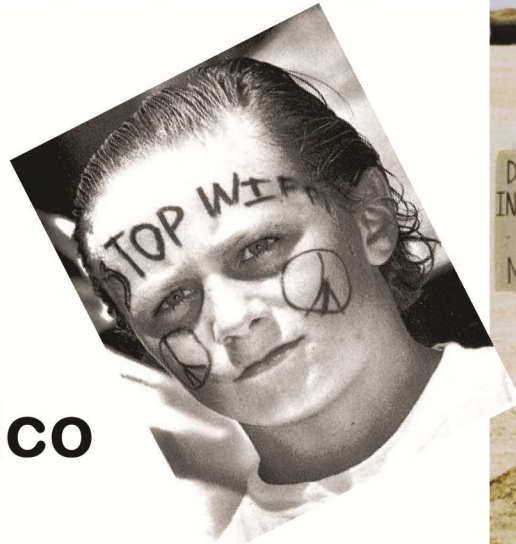
The governor then dropped his support for the study idea.

WIPP is scheduled to begin accepting transuranic wastes from the nation's defense plants next year. Congress, the U.S. Energy Department and the state of New Mexico have insisted that WIPP not be considered for HLW storage.

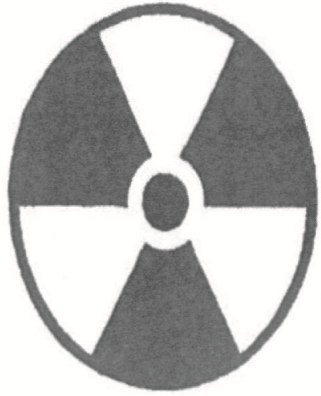
Since the multibillion-dollar high-level waste program began in 1982, the Energy Department has tabbed three western states, Washington, Texas and Nevada, as candidate sites for the first repository, and it has picked Tennessee for the MRS. All have vehemently protested the department's decisions. Several eastern states are equally unhappy at the prospect of being tabbed as the site for a second repository.

Udall's bill would impose an 18-month moratorium on sinking exploratory shafts at the three western sites — the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington, Yucca Mountain in Nevada, and Deaf Smith County in Texas — and on any major work on an MRS. It also would force the department to scuttle a preliminary list of eastern sites and begin anew the search for a second repository.

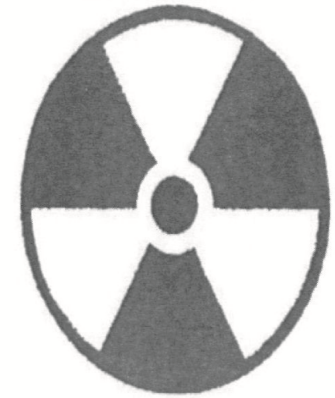




1980's
Santa Fe
New Mexico

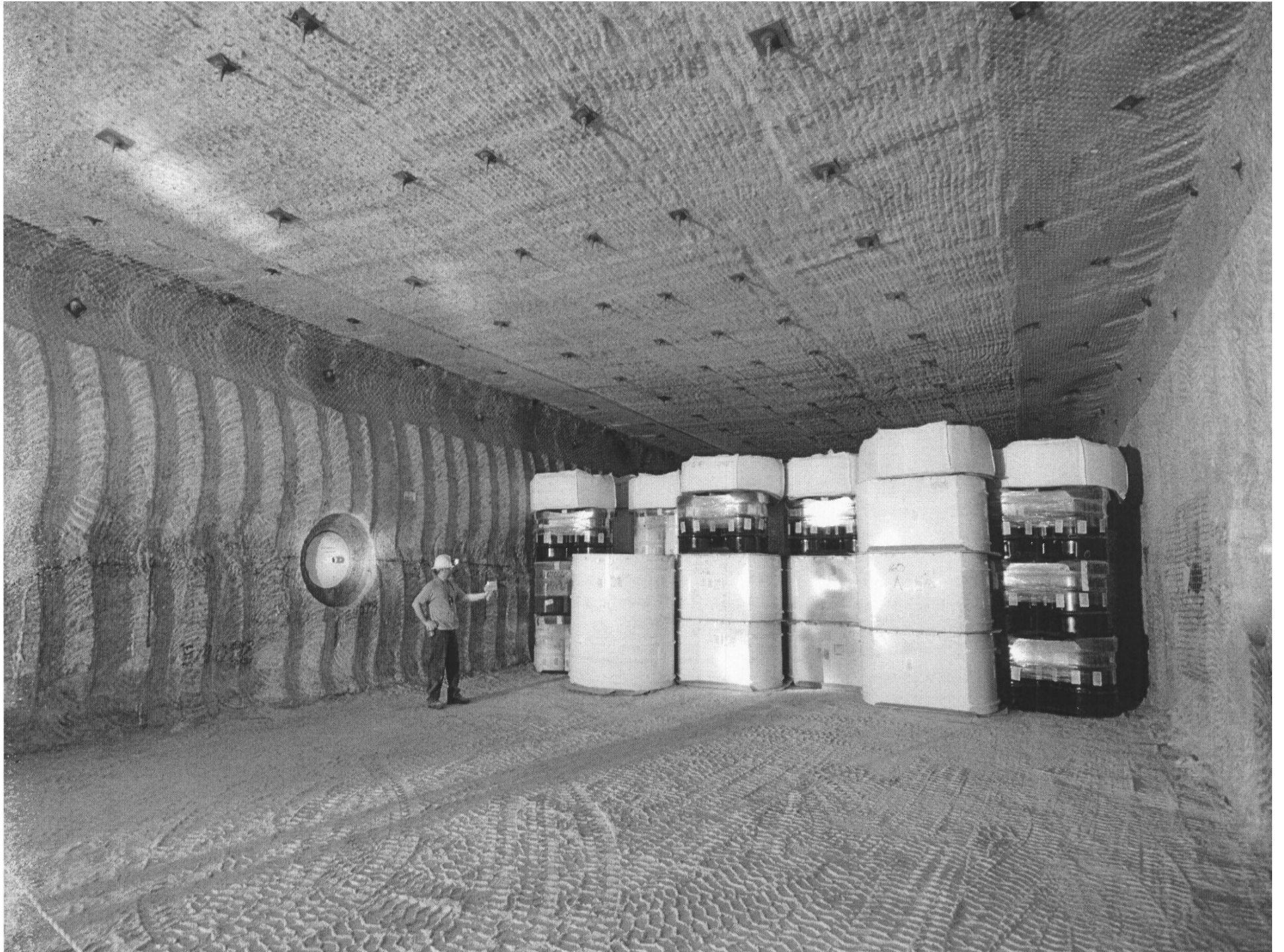


**ANOTHER
BUSINESS**



AGAINST WIPP

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety





BH 95
DATE DRILLED 09/11/11
DEPTH 71.2'
DIA. 18" 5/8

BH
005

3 MAIN REASONS A BUSINESS IS SUCCESSFUL

- ✘ Location, Location, Location

3 MAIN REASONS A NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITY IS SUCCESSFUL

- ✘ Safe-Site, Safe-Site, Safe-Site

This roof fall demonstrates the DOE's confidence in collecting underground data at the WIPP, the safety measures in place and the appropriateness of a decision to choose salt as the disposal medium fo



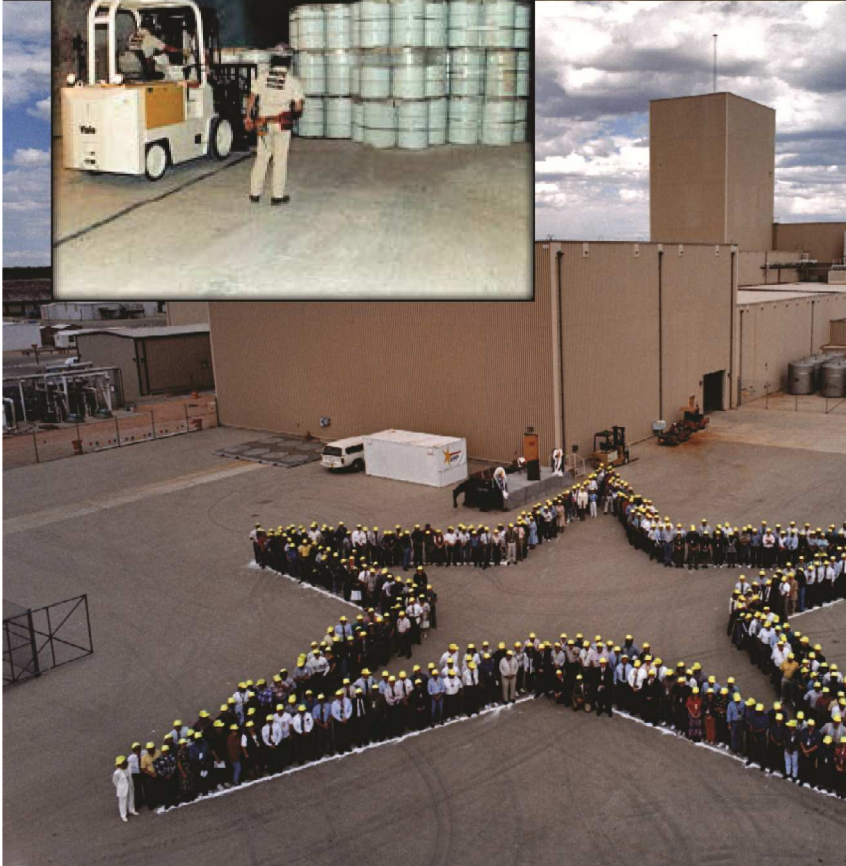












12 Years
>20 million miles
>10,000 shipments

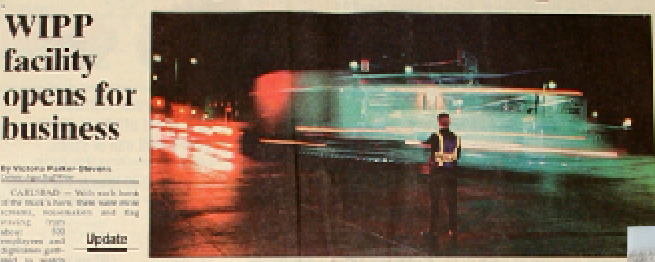
CARLSBAD CURRENT-ARGUS

99 cents (newsstand) 26 cents (home-delivered) 10 Pages FRIDAY March 26, 1999 Serving Escondido County, San Diego

THIS IS NOT A DRILL WIPP gets 1st shipment

Good afternoon, Escondido County... Complete overview of the first shipment of radioactive waste to the WIPP site in western Idaho.

Waste Cycle... A look at how the waste isolation facility will be managed... Waste cycle... The waste cycle... The waste cycle...



Carlsbad greets WIPP truck with open arms

Carlsbad, Calif. — With work hours at the truck's side, state and local officials, businessmen and city officials... The truck and its cargo were greeted by a large crowd of people... The truck and its cargo were greeted by a large crowd of people...

Protesters a rarity inside Eddy County's borders... It may be rare to see a large group of protesters... The truck and its cargo were greeted by a large crowd of people...



The truck carrying the WIPP's first shipment of radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant... The truck carrying the WIPP's first shipment of radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant...

DAILY BRIEFING C3 • COMICS C4 Jan. 2007 METRO & NM ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL Thursday, January 25, 2007

High-Level Waste Rolls In

WIPP takes its first shipment of dangerously radioactive nuclear material for disposal... The shipment from Idaho, which arrived Tuesday evening in a lead-lined steel shipping container...

The Department of Energy lifted the veil of secrecy Wednesday from the first shipment of a new type of more highly radioactive waste to a nuclear waste disposal site in New Mexico... The Energy Department won final approval last week for the shipment...

Instant Family N.M. Marine In Iraq 2 Months Santa Ana Man Enlisted in 2005 and Jennie Sanchez of Santa Ana Pueblo... Instant Family... N.M. Marine In Iraq 2 Months... Santa Ana Man Enlisted in 2005 and Jennie Sanchez of Santa Ana Pueblo...



**Richardson
Watch**

Jon Stewart takes a stab at the governor C3

ABQjournal.com



METRO & NM



ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

Thursday, January 25, 2007



COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The first shipment of a new type of more highly radioactive waste arrives Tuesday at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

High-Level Waste Rolls In

• WIPP takes its first shipment of dangerously radioactive nuclear material for disposal

By JOHN FLECK
Journal Staff Writer

The Department of Energy lifted the veil of secrecy Wednesday from the first shipment of a new type of more highly radioactive waste to a nuclear waste disposal site in

New Mexico.

The shipment from Idaho, which arrived Tuesday evening in a lead-lined steel shipping container, was a major milestone for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the nation's only deep underground burial site for dangerously radioactive waste.

The Energy Department won final approval last week for the shipment, but would not say when the first truck would roll, citing security concerns.

Assistant Energy Secretary James Rispoli, in a statement issued Wednesday morning,

called the milestone "particularly significant to DOE" as it cleans up nuclear waste around the country.

WIPP, a 2,150-foot-deep salt mine near Carlsbad built for the disposal of plutonium-contaminated nuclear weapons waste, has been open since March 1999.

To date, all the waste buried at WIPP has been contaminated with only modest traces of radiation — dangerous if it leaks out in the long term, but posing little direct threat to workers handling the waste drums as they are unloaded and stacked

in underground disposal rooms.

The new waste is much more radioactive — shipped in shielded containers rather than ordinary drums to protect workers.

The shipment from Idaho contains radioactive cesium and strontium, according to Casey Gadbury, who coordinates waste logistics at WIPP. Those radiation sources are potentially dangerous to workers not protected by shielding.

According to Gadbury

WIPP on PAGE C3

Instant Family



N.M. Marine In Iraq 2 Months

Santa Ana Man Enlisted in 2005

and Jennie Sanchez of Santa Ana Pueblo, Emilias Sanchez was single and did not have children. About 2005

Radioactivity

1



3

Commercial LLW

5



Contact Handled TRU Waste

7



Remote Handled TRU Waste

8



Vitrified Defense HLW

9



Spent Nuclear Fuel

Accomplishments – 2010

Safety

- More than 5 million hours worked without a lost time injury
- Recertified at the Star level in DOE's Voluntary Protection Program (maintained since 1994)
- Lowest injury rate in WIPP history set last 10 consecutive years



As WIPP proves safe, should role expand?

By | The New Mexican

4/4/2009

As officials at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in Southern New Mexico celebrate 10 years of operation, much is being made of its safety record in disposing of low-level nuclear refuse — things like laboratory clothing and gloves, and gravel scraped from where barrels of that waste were stored.

And the record has been a good one, give or take a dozen or so non-threatening delivery-truck mishaps and a couple of misdirected deliveries; more than 7,000 loads have been carried there — from Los Alamos National Laboratory, from the now-closed Rocky Flats weapons plant and from nuclear installations coast to coast.

The painstakingly careful work of WIPP goes on, while the mayor of Carlsbad, 26 miles to the west, wants to make more of the project: With Nevada trying to stop the Yucca Mountain repository for high-level waste 90 miles from Las Vegas, Carlsbad's Mayor Bob Forrest is wondering aloud: Why not hand the Yucca Mountain mission to WIPP?

Those are fighting words for many New Mexicans, especially those in our neck of the woods; activists here fight WIPP tooth and nail. Their efforts gained Congress' promise that the project would store only lightly radiated waste.

That's great, except that the really hot stuff — spent fuel rods from nuclear power plants, and more highly radioactive byproducts of the nuclear-weapon manufacturing process — is sitting around in temporary storage; a barely contained menace.

WIPP, dug from the vast and deep-underground salt basin sprawling from New Mexico to Kansas, is a relatively stable place where far more dangerous stuff than contaminated lab gloves could go: Earthquakes are almost unknown, and very little water flows through the salt. Above ground, it's pretty flat country; tough for terrorists to go undetected.

So we, too, wonder: Could a nearby addition to WIPP hold material too radioactive to safely recycle, while Yucca Mountain becomes the site for potentially reusable mid-level waste — retrievable when the United States recovers from its terrorist paranoia and comes up with a security system allowing us to recycle and reuse them? In Europe, they're already doing it — and it makes more sense than stripping away southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Utah for more uranium.

The scientists of LANL and our other national laboratories someday might find ways not only to neutralize the most dangerous nuclear material, but also to reuse both the power-plant fuel rods and our stockpiled hydrogen bombs as safety-improved energy supplies.

Until then, there's got to be safer, more secure storage for such dangerous stuff — the potentially recyclable highest-level waste stored at Yucca Mountain, the non-recyclable material, high- and low-level, disposed of at WIPP. WIPP already has many of the facilities needed for handling and disposing of higher-level waste.

This would involve a long political process. Challenges raised by likely opponents, many of them valid, would have to be met. And maybe by then, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the Nevadaan leading the Yucca Mountain opposition, will be out of power.

In the meantime, Energy Secretary Steven Chu is putting together a blue-ribbon panel to look into such things as recycling possibilities, while the department develops a long-term energy strategy that could include nuclear power. Whether WIPP would be part of that strategy, storing other kinds of waste, scientists there don't want to speculate.

But the plant's 10-year record at least presents an alternative that's preferable to leaving nuclear waste unsecured.

“But the plant’s 10-year record at least presents an alternative that’s preferable to leaving nuclear waste unsecured.”

Albuquerque Journal Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Carlsbad Takes Aim at Yucca Mountain Job

After two decades of planning for a repository for spent nuclear fuel, Yucca Mountain, the designated site, was abruptly removed from the picture by President Obama's new administration. There are several ways of looking at this development. The physical science tilted against the site once deemed the most appropriate for waste from nuclear power plants. The political science — a Democratic administration reinforcing Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada — tilted against a site in Reid's state. Or Obama is tilted against nuclear power and intent on tying another 20-year knot in the waste stream.

Into the breach steps Bob Forrest, mayor of a town that embraces nuclear waste. Carlsbad is home to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the only federal repository for radioactive waste. Forrest said he plans to go after Yucca's former mission. Make no mistake, it is a different job than WIPP's, which entails burying transuranic waste from weapons programs in deep, geologically stable salt beds. Fuel rods from power plants have a much higher level of radioactivity and generate far more heat than the typical drum of plutonium-contaminated junk eligible for disposal at WIPP. But the area has salt beyond the WIPP site. In fact, the beds extend clear to Kansas, so other communities could follow Carlsbad's lead and compete for the site.

Just because Reid's Las Vegas base is throwing a NIMBY fit doesn't mean that some less-glitzy town doesn't see a future in a necessary industry. And, if Forrest's bid kicks off that kind of race, it would also smoke out Obama's true stance on nuclear power.

**“Just because Reid’s
Las Vegas base is
throwing a NIMBY fit
doesn’t mean that
some less-glitzy town
doesn’t see a future in
a necessary industry.
And, if Forrest’s bid
kicks off that kind of
race, it would also
smoke out Obama’s
true stance on nuclear
power.”**

We Have A Solution for the Nuclear Power Waste

3 Nuclear Myths:

1. The U.S. doesn't have a suitable place for disposing of waste from reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.
2. No community in the U.S. supports disposing commercial nuclear waste in locations nearby.
3. Therefore, nuclear power is not a viable way for our country to address our pressing energy needs.

Reality:

- For almost 10 years, the U.S. has been safely disposing intermediate level nuclear waste in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) repository located 1/2 mile underground near Carlsbad, NM.
- This waste is safe from floods, fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and terrorist attacks. The salt is encapsulating the waste and will isolate it from the biosphere forever.
- The vast majority of Carlsbad citizens support not only current nuclear waste disposal at WIPP, but also the concept of disposing of waste from reprocessing commercial spent fuel.



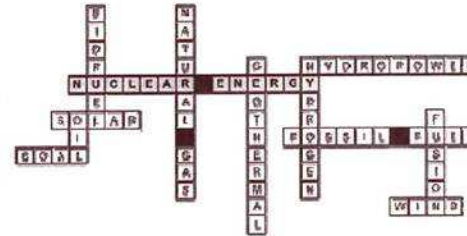
More than 300,000 drum equivalents of intermediate-level nuclear waste from defense activity have been safely emplaced in the WIPP underground repository

The Carlsbad Solution:

- As demonstrated by WIPP, the ancient salt formation near Carlsbad, New Mexico is an ideal location for safely disposing of waste from reprocessing commercial spent fuel



Ask about our 1,000,000-year warranty

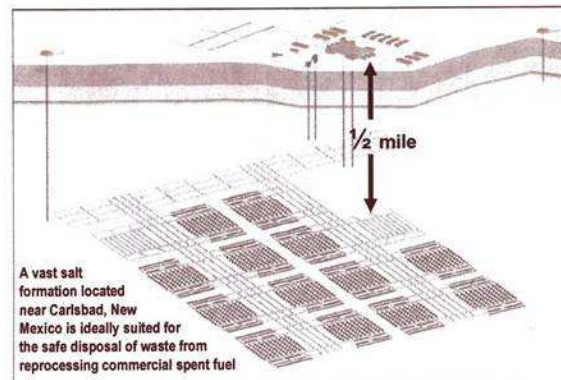


A suitable disposal site for radioactive waste from reprocessing makes nuclear energy a viable alternative for meeting our nation's pressing energy needs



Carlsbad's nearby salt beds formed in an era before dinosaurs, and stretch for 100's of miles. The same natural geologic barriers that preserved the salt intact for more than 250 million years, safely isolate the waste from the environment just as well.

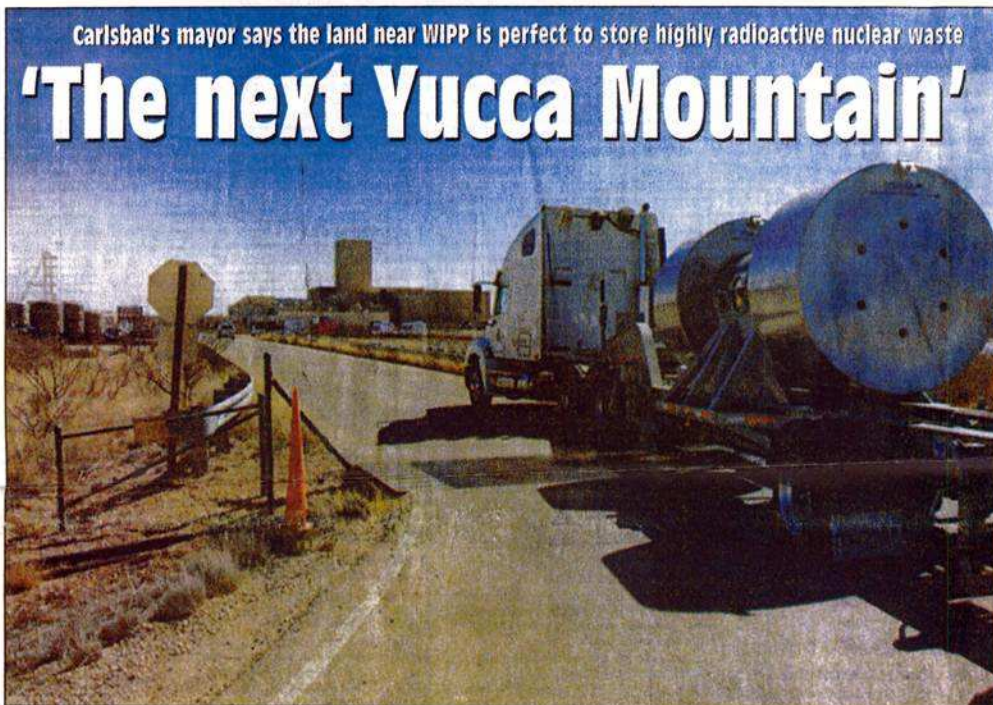
For more information, please contact:
 The City of Carlsbad
 Mayor Bob Forrest
 101 N. Halagueno
 Carlsbad, NM 88220
 (575) 887-3798
mayorbobforrest@cityofcarlsbadnm.com



A vast salt formation located near Carlsbad, New Mexico is ideally suited for the safe disposal of waste from reprocessing commercial spent fuel

News-Sun

JAL EUNICE HOBBS LOVINGTON TATUM SEMINOLE DENVER CITY



This Feb. 27 photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office shows the arrival of remote-handled transuranic waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. AP PHOTO

'The community's ready, the timing couldn't be better'

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Longtime Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest recalls the days when no one wanted to take the federal government's radioactive waste except his southern New Mexico community.

Ten years after it opened, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, commonly known as WIPP, remains the government's only radioactive waste dump.

But now, Forrest says, the climate for all things nuclear has changed, and communities across the nation are fighting for projects.

Forrest himself believes the vast, 250 million-year-old salt beds that house WIPP east of his community of about 25,000 could store high-level nuclear waste such as that once destined for the Yucca Mountain project the Obama administration is apparently abandoning.

Such a repository would be separate from WIPP, he said.

WIPP, excavated 2,150 feet below the surface of the desert, is designed for so-called transuranic waste generated by the nation's defense work — such

SEE YUCCA, Page 3



An historic marker is seen as the cooling towers of Three Mile Island's Unit 1 Nuclear Power Plant pour steam into the sky in Middletown, Pa.

Global warming giving nuclear power new support

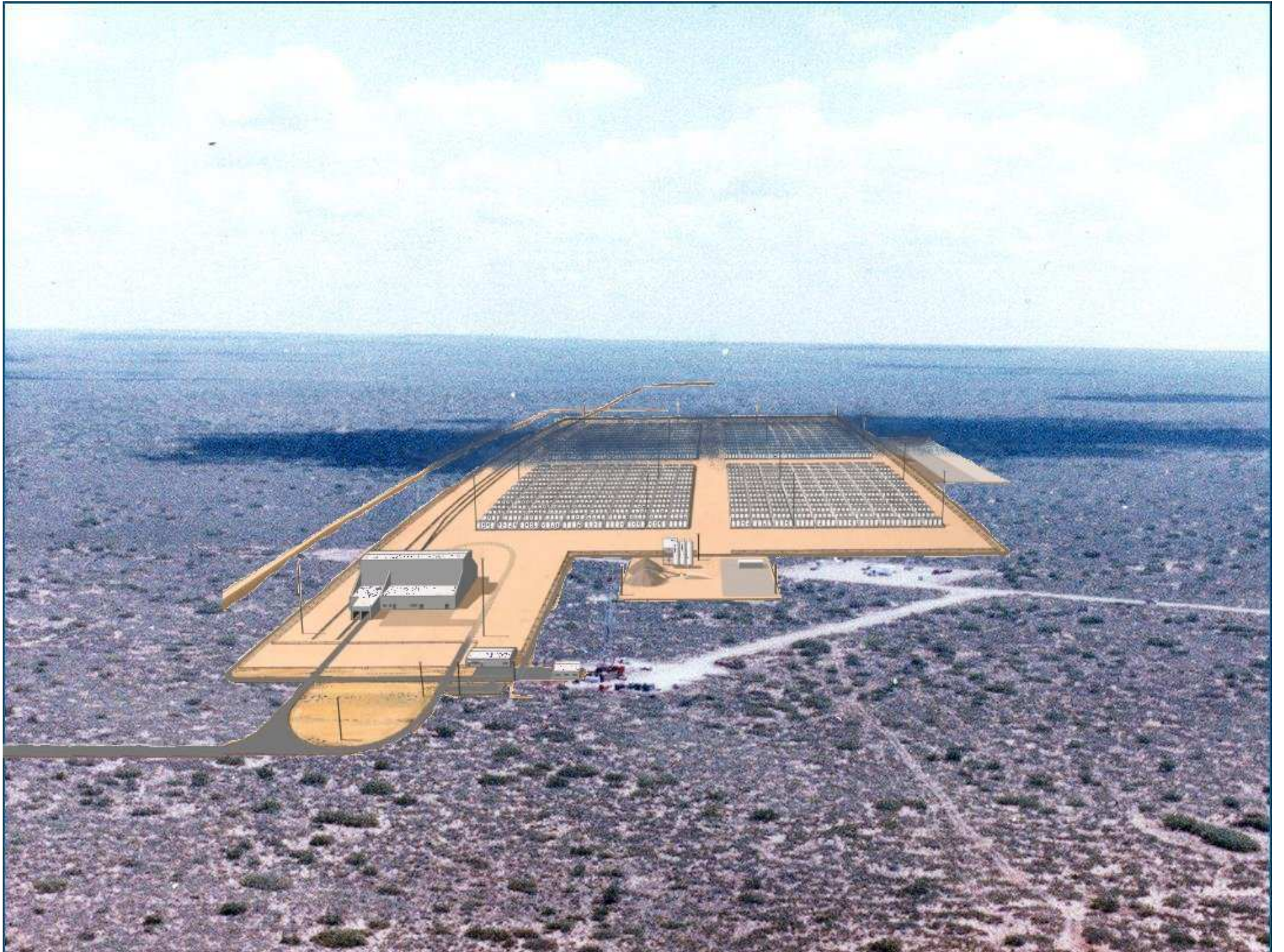
MIDDLETOWN, Pa. (AP) — The nation's worst nuclear power plant accident was unfolding on Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island when an industry economist took the rostrum at a nearby business luncheon.

It did not go well.

Those in the standing-room-only crowd listened to economist Doug Biden's thoughts about cheap, reliable nuclear power, but Biden could not calm their nerves or answer their pointed questions: Should they join the tens of thousands of people fleeing south-central Pennsylvania? Should they let their children drink local milk?

Three decades later, fears of an atomic

SEE NUCLEAR, Page 3



SUCCESSSES AT WIPP

- ✘ Cleaned up 21 Sites
- ✘ Accelerated WIPP Mission by 10 Years
- ✘ Saved DOE over \$3 Billion Dollars
- ✘ 13 Million Miles of Loaded Waste Transport
- ✘ DOE's Best Supporter
- ✘ Changed NIMBY Mindset
- ✘ DOE's Most Successful Project



ROCKY FLATS

ROCKY FLATS

1989



2006





**CARLSBAD
ENVIRONMENTAL
MONITORING &
RESEARCH CENTER**



LIGHT HALL





THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

Santa Fe Northern New Mexico

Friday, September 1, 1989

The West's Oldest Newspaper



**How
ARE
we
doing?**

You be the judge
... turn to Page C-1

35¢

Idaho closes borders to nuclear waste

Staff and Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — Fulfilling a vow he made in February, Gov. Cecil Andrus has closed Idaho's borders to shipments of radioactive waste from the government's only plutonium processing plant, a move that could force the plant to halt production early next year.

It is the second time in 10 months that Andrus has banned disposal of radioactive waste produced by the Rocky Flats Plant, 15 miles northwest of Denver, at a

temporary dump near Idaho Falls.

When the federal government agreed in February to clean up the Idaho disposal site, Andrus partially lifted his first ban, which applied to radioactive waste from all nuclear weapons plants, and said the state would accept a limited amount of waste from the Colorado plant until Sept. 1.

Secretary of Energy James Watkins has said he will not challenge Andrus' authority to close the border.

Andrus acted after the Energy Depart-

ment failed to open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad as scheduled.

New Mexico Gov. Garrey Carruthers said Thursday he is unwilling to accept radioactive waste on a temporary basis and opposes opening WIPP until the Energy Department fulfills its legal agreements with the state.

"Our borders are already closed and will remain so until the agreement is met," Carruthers said.

The agreement, which was signed nearly

10 years ago, calls for money to improve New Mexico roads that lead to the WIPP site, as well as bypasses.

Some road improvements have been made but money to build the bypasses has been neither approved by Congress nor received by the state.

Without WIPP, the federal atomic waste dump at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory remained the only place where the Rocky Flats Plant could ship its plutonium wastes.

Barred from the Idaho site, Rocky Flats must now store its own waste.

If wastes contaminated with plutonium exceed 1,600 cubic yards, Rocky Flats must halt production under an agreement between Colorado and the Energy Department.

Patrick Etchart, a spokesman for Rockwell International Corp., which operates Rocky Flats for the government, said Thursday that 500 cubic yards of plutonium wastes were stored at the plant.

Hungary, Bonn plan E. German mass escape

The Associated Press



Police arrest 530 in Medellin in curfew sweep

The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — A bomb strapped to a bicycle blew up at a

Colombia's Security Council decided Thursday to keep the names of judges handling drug cases a secret.

September 1, 1989

Carlsbad has changed NIMBY

- WIPP -1
- LES – 2
- GNEP – 18-70M
- AREVA - 200



BENEFITS FROM WIPP

- ✘ City has \$850k Budget for Economic Development
- ✘ \$1 Billion Spent on Construction of WIPP
- ✘ 1,000 Workers During Construction
- ✘ \$300 Million for State Highways
- ✘ 10 Years of Funding from DOE Waiting to Get Open

BENEFITS FROM WIPP

- ✘ \$100 Million for Highways and Bypasses in Carlsbad Area
- ✘ \$200 Million per Year for Operations Each Year for 30 Years
- ✘ 2 National Labs – 120 Jobs
- ✘ 1,000 people Employed at Site for Past 20 Years
- ✘ \$100 Million for Infrastructure and Special Projects for City

BENEFITS FROM WIPP

- ✘ \$32 Million Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring Center
- ✘ WIPP Records Center Established
- ✘ Center of Excellence
- ✘ EPD TRU-pac Manufacturing Center – 110 obs
- ✘ Location of LES Enrichment Facility in SE NM
- ✘ Carlsbad Sports Complex
- ✘ Carlsbad Field Office Established

7 POSITIVE POINTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER

- ✘ Middle East Crisis
- ✘ Oil Reached \$70 per Barrel
- ✘ Global Warming/Climate Change
- ✘ One of the Wheels at Yucca Mountain Needs to Come off
- ✘ Fire on an Oil Rig in Gulf of Mexico
- ✘ Fukushima Disaster
- ✘ Appointment of Blue Ribbon Commission



Stock Picks To Beat The Rush



Where You Might Not Shop In 2012



Top-Earning Grammy Winners



AdVo
Walki

Nuke Us: The Town That Wants America's Worst Atomic Waste



Carlsbad residents (including former mayor Bob Forrest, center, in grey sweater) show their support for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

There's a secure solution to America's nuclear waste problem: bury it under Carlsbad, New Mexico. The locals are ready — if only Washington would get out of the way.



WIPP's Best Salesman





National
Nuclear Fuel Cycle
 Summit


Carlsbad, New Mexico April 2-5, 2012

www.NuclearFuelCycleSummit.org

What else can Carlsbad do for
 the Nuclear Industry?

The Sky's the Limit

America's Nuclear Corridor: Carlsbad, NM






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 Nuclear Reactor
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 Site

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 NATIONAL LABORATORY

Sandia
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Solving the Nation's Nuclear Problems