

STATEMENT OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

1.0 STUDY AREA

The proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will be physically located within Eddy County. However, the impact anticipated from that plant will primarily affect both Eddy and Lea Counties. All of the following socioeconomic analysis will be limited to this primarily impacted area, Eddy and Lea Counties. The following analysis will cover the existing conditions, the expected impact and change during the construction phase, and expected impact and change during the operation phase.

Given the proximity of the plant to Carlsbad, it is expected that Carlsbad will receive 88 percent of the direct impact from the plant, both in terms of incomes and employment generated. Of those indirect impacts, i.e. those individuals and dollars connected with secondary and tertiary industries, approximately 80 percent will go to Carlsbad, 10 percent will leak off into the surrounding area inside Eddy County, and the remaining 10 percent will spread to Lea County.