

ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THE WIPP CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

1.0 GENERAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The construction phase for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is expected to begin in 1979 and end about May of 1983. During that time, substantial increases in the number of construction workers within the labor market area are expected. In addition to these construction workers, a below-ground construction phase--similar to a mining operation--will also take place concurrently with the above-ground construction phase.

As a result of the construction and mining-type activities, those industries serving the population (generally secondary and tertiary industries) and those industries which service other businesses (basically, some manufacturing, service and wholesale operations) will also experience substantial increases in activity (i.e., dollar volume and need for additional employees).

The location of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is within Eddy County; however, the socioeconomic analysis assumes that the primary impact will be spread over two counties--Eddy and Lea Counties. The survey of existing patterns indicates the following: approximately 88 percent of the direct impact connected with the plant will go to the City of Carlsbad; 11 percent of the impact will go to areas within Eddy County, but outside of Carlsbad; and approximately 1 percent of the impact will go to Lea County.

In terms of indirect impact, 80 percent was allocated to Carlsbad, 10 percent was allocated to areas outside of Carlsbad within Eddy County, and the remaining 10 percent was assumed to spread into the Lea County area. The