

1.1 EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION

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During 1979--the first year of the construction phase--direct employment due to the construction of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant above ground will result in just over 400 additional construction jobs. While the above-ground construction phase is being completed, the below-ground operation--very similar to potash mining operation--will also be occurring which will employ just less than 200 individuals. The nature of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant requires an additional 19 individuals because of equipment sophistication and construction preciseness in the area for engineering and inspection. Therefore, a total of approximately 619 individuals will be directly employed during the first year of construction in 1979.

During the approximate three-year period following 1979, until May 1983,* an average of 529 individuals will be employed in the above-ground construction phase, and 193 workers will be employed in the below-ground operation phase. The inspection and engineering crew will remain at approximately 19. Therefore, an average employment of 741 individuals will be directly attributable to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant during the years of 1980, 1981, and 1982. Approximately 56 percent of the direct employment during the construction phase will be individuals not now residing in the area; the remaining 44 percent is assumed to be drawn from the labor force in Eddy County, with a few coming from the Lea County area.

Indirect job impact associated with the first-year construction of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant is estimated to be 1,172 jobs. From 1980 through the end of 1982, it is expected that an annual average of slightly over 1,400

*Phase-down is assumed during the first 4 months of 1983; thus the average of 529 employees may not be met.