

was 35 percent higher than the fiscal year 1993 appropriations. Solar and renewables at \$327 million for 1994 was up by 30 percent. Partly the increase was attributable to new requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, which called for new energy efficiency standards and authorized enhanced research programs and new demonstration/commercialization programs. Beyond this, however, the administration committed itself to an "aggressive" program of research and development, with the largest funding increases going to technology transfer and commercialization, advanced materials, industrial wastes and materials processing, electric hybrid and alternative-fueled vehicles, and advanced building systems technologies. Despite the sizeable funding increases, some environmentalists called for much greater expenditures for energy efficiency and renewables. In November, Representative Philip Sharp (D-IN) introduced a resolution in Congress calling for a \$1 billion shift in the Department's budget from "conventional energy and other programs" to energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Critics also expressed dismay with the administration's delay in appointing an assistant secretary

for energy efficiency and renewable energy. Not until late fall did the administration fill the position with Christine A. Ervin, formerly director of the Oregon Energy Department. At her confirmation hearing, Ervin promised to "quickly find out [the] barriers and obstacles" to designing "responsive programs," and she stressed the need "for brokering the kind of creative partnerships President Clinton and Secretary O'Leary are committed to expand at the federal level."<sup>268</sup>

## ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

With meteoric annual funding increases, environmental management headed by the Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management had emerged as the Department of Energy's largest single program area. Charged with cleaning up the Nation's nuclear weapons complex, environmental management comprised fully one-third of the Department's budget. The environmental restoration program made up one-fifth of the world's remediation activity. Extraordinary program growth, however, had created significant managerial problems.



Secretary O'Leary tours the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad, NM, 2,150 feet beneath the surface. She is escorted by Manager George Dials.

Source: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant