





## TO THE POINT

-- by Rick Jacobi, General Manager

Commissioner Wayne West recently called me to express his concern that the Authority is not doing enough to train the Sierra Blanca emergency medical and fire fighting volunteers to respond to accidents involving radioactive material. He also wanted to know if we had plans to respond to emergencies at the proposed low-level radioactive waste facility. Good questions.

Before we can obtain a license to operate the facility, we must satisfy the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission that we have made arrangements to deal with any major accident that can occur. This plan must include cooperation with the local government.

The Authority has developed an emergency plan that includes cooperation with and training of local emergency crews. Written plans have been made for cooperation with the Sierra Blanca sheriff's office, the volunteer fire department, the emergency medical service, and the local office of the Department of Public Safety and the Culberson County Hospital in Van Horn. Manny Lujan, the Hudspeth County Emergency Coordinator, has prepared a Hudspeth County emergency plan that addresses internal coordination among all governmental offices countywide. Every conceivable type of emergency is described in the Authority's written emergency plan. Once a year, while the facility is operating, the Authority and the county will have an emergency exercise to make sure the plan is still valid and workable.

About a year before the facility begins operating, the Authority will offer to all local emergency response personnel training on how to deal with emergencies involving radioactive material. Continuing training will be required as long as the facility is open and receiving waste shipments.

If you have questions about the emergency plan, or if you want to look at a copy of it, please contact Beth, Joe or Lindsey at our field office (915-369-3391) on the Faskin Ranch.

## Medical Clinic Re-Opens

Sierra Blanca's medical clinic has resumed operation with business hours on Monday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Dr. Victor Barahona who also has a clinic in Fabens, is serving as the resident physician. The Sierra Blanca Community Development Corporation was instrumental in recruiting Dr. Barahona to staff the clinic. ☺

## WIP To Hold Meeting

Women In Progress (WIP) will hold another meeting with the Texas A&M Housing and Urban Development Department on Monday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

WIP is asking the public to join them in their efforts to bring a resource center to the community. Public involvement is needed to aid in determining community needs. For more information please contact Rosa Sullivan at (915) 369-3081.

## Site Area and Earthquakes

*(continued from page 1)*

Like most mountainous areas in the western United States, the valley in which the low-level radioactive waste site is located is underlain by fault lines. Most of these, including the one nearest to the site, have been inactive for at least 750,000 years and possibly as long as 12,000,000 years.

Nonetheless, to be cautious, the low-level radioactive waste facility is designed to withstand an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 occurring directly beneath the site, or one of magnitude 7.0 occurring within 6 miles of the site.

The facility design includes putting the solid waste in massive 10 inch thick, steel reinforced, concrete canisters, placing them 40 feet deep in the earth, and filling the space around the canisters with crushed rock. The canisters are then covered with an engineered trench cap which is also designed to withstand an earthquake.

Should an earthquake occur, the canisters will be protected from the shaking much like cups packed in a box filled with Styrofoam nuggets. ☺



## APRIL 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Medical Clinic Open 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM  WIP / A&M Public Meeting 6:00 PM (School Cafe.)	2	3  Beta Sigma Phi Mtg. 7:00 PM	4	5  Medical Clinic Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	6
7	8 Medical Clinic Open 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM  Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00 AM	9  Working Group Mtg. 7:00 PM (Courthouse)	10  Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00 PM	11	12  Medical Clinic Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	13
14	15  Medical Clinic Open 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	16  Water Board Meeting 5:00 PM (School)	17  Beta Sigma Phi Mtg. 7:00 PM	18	19  Medical Clinic Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	20
21	22  Medical Clinic Open 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM  Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00AM	23	24  Chamber of Commerce Meeting 6:00 PM	25	26  Medical Clinic Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	27  Beta Sigma Phi Founders Day
28	29  Medical Clinic Open 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	30				

### April Working Group Meeting

The next working group meeting will be held at the Hudspeth County courthouse on Tuesday, April 9, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Authority General Manager Rick Jacobi will discuss a proposed roadway construction project for Sierra Blanca. Bobby Steeds, Rural Area Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation will be available to answer questions.

*Neighbor To Neighbor* is published monthly by the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (the Authority). The Authority is the State agency responsible for siting, constructing, operating and eventually closing a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility for the State. The Authority is headquartered in Austin, Texas and also has a field office in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Please feel free to visit or contact the Authority at the following addresses and phone/fax numbers:

**ATTN: P.I. Officer**  
**TLLRWDA**  
**7701 N. Lamar, Ste. 300**  
**Austin, TX 78752**  
**Phone: (512) 451-5292**  
**Fax: (512) 451-5296**

**TLLRWDA**  
**I-10 E., Mile Marker 112**  
**P.O. Box 361**  
**Sierra Blanca, TX 79851**  
**Phone: (915) 369-3391**  
**Fax: (915) 369-3181**



**TELL US ABOUT IT...** 

We are working hard to provide you with the most up-to-date and accurate information pertaining to our project. Please feel free to comment, ask questions and/or make suggestions:

**Comments/Comentario :**

Form with 15 horizontal lines for writing comments, enclosed in a blue double-line border.

Name/Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_



**Mail To/Envíe á:**

ATTN: Editor  
TLLRWDA  
7701 N. Lamar, #300  
Austin, TX 78752

**COMPARTA SU COMENTARIO...** 

Deseamos ofrecerle la información mas precisa y reciente tocante a nuestro proyecto. Por favor envíenos su comentario perteneciente al proyecto y/o a este boletín de noticias.



**Texas Low-Level Radioactive  
Waste Disposal Authority  
P.O. Box 361  
Sierra Blanca, TX 79851**

Bulk Rate  
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Sierra Blanca, TX

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