



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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96 AR
#36
MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 5, 1996

The Honorable Bill Richardson
House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Richardson:

This letter is supplemental to the letter dated September 6, 1996, responding to your inquiry in behalf of a constituent regarding the Triassic Park Waste Disposal Facility. I wanted to convey to you my personal observations regarding the facility.

As you know I am a Professional Geologist. The siting for Triassic Park is excellent because they have capitalized on a geologically unique site for the facility. The underlying formation is Triassic red shale hundreds of feet thick. Ground water is more than 700 feet below the ground surface. The regional Ogallala aquifer lies eastward and is elevated above the waste disposal facility.

The site is remote, being nearly 42 miles east of Roswell and about 30 miles northwest of Tatum, but accessible via U. S. Highway 380. There are no nearby major drainages, water courses, or water bodies.

New Mexico has no facility permitted to receive hazardous wastes. Presently, such wastes are shipped out of state, commonly to Utah and Texas. In fact there is a new facility in Texas, but abutting the New Mexico state line approximately six miles east of Eunice. This facility was permitted by Texas at a site overlying the regional Ogallala aquifer. The facility opened last year. We understand that much of the opposition to Triassic Park is being orchestrated by the ownership of the competing Texas facility.

Besides the economic benefit to New Mexico, having a safe in-state facility will allow several pollution prevention initiatives to proceed. We can collect and safely dispose of household hazardous wastes, industry will have a more accessible and affordable site to dispose of surplus hazardous materials that otherwise are retained or are illegally dumped in remote areas of the state.

Congressman Bill Richardson
Page 2 of 2
September 5, 1996

We can assure you and the citizens of New Mexico that we will not issue a permit unless the stringent standards for protection of the environment and human health are met by the facility design and engineering.

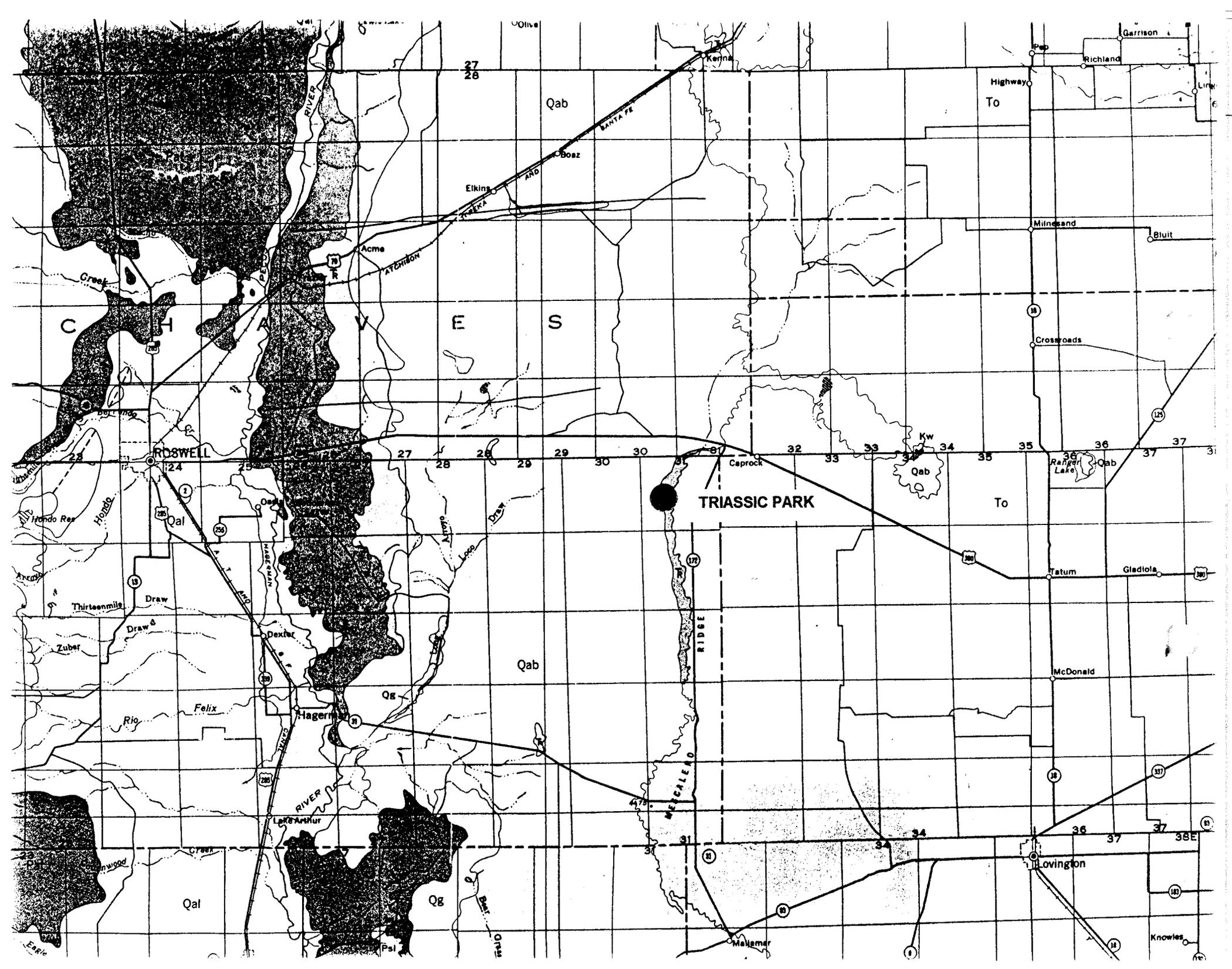
I have attached a copy of a portion of the geological map of New Mexico to show the location of the site. Tr is the abbreviation for Triassic shale.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Weidler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mark E. Weidler, P.G.
Secretary

CC: Congressman Joe Skeen, District 2



TRIASSIC PARK

ROSWELL

LOVINGTON

Qab

Qg

Qal

Qg

Qab

To

To

McDonald

Crossroads

Mitmesand

Highway

Knowles

Gladola

Bluit

Garrison

TRIASSIC PARK

MCCALLEN RIDGE

Caprock

Elkins

Obooz

Kerina

Hagerman

Lake Arthur

RIVER

RIVER

Val

Felix

Draw

Qal

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

Val

Rio

Draw

Qal

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

Val

Thirteenmile

Draw

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

Val

Zuber

Draw

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

Val

Malgmar

RIVER

Lake Arthur

Qal

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

Val

Acme

Val

Val

Val

Knowles

Gladola

Bluit

Garrison

TRIASSIC PARK

MCCALLEN RIDGE

Caprock

Elkins

Obooz

Kerina

Hagerman

Lake Arthur

RIVER

RIVER

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Felix

Draw

Qal

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

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Rio

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ROSWELL

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Thirteenmile

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Zuber

Draw

ROSWELL

Creek

Acme

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Malgmar

RIVER

Lake Arthur

Qal

ROSWELL

Creek

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