

August 31, 2000

Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2044A Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87502



Dear Mr. Zappe,

After reading the article in the ABQ Journal on August 1st 2000, *DOE Wants Shift In WIPP Process*, please know that I vehemently protest this proposed action. This action would negatively effect New Mexico and the lives of generations of New Mexicans. How reckless of the DOE to think that we would accept such a risk. Do they think we would not notice? Is it because New Mexico rates lowest in national statistics in so many categories? Do they really think they could take advantage of us in this manner?

This action is unacceptable. If, "the agency has to send inspection equipment from site-to-site around the country, even though those sites have only small amounts of waste," ... then they have the system in place to appropriately process the waste and, therefore, they should not compromise this process at the expense of New Mexicans. To assume we would not object to the rigid standards that would normally be enforced by federal policy does not accurately reflect the spirit of New Mexicans. We care about our children and we care about our environment. The risk DOE proposes is not one that we are willing to accept. I personally will not sit back as we are insensitively passed by with a decision that puts New Mexico at the bottom of the wrung environmentally.

The article further states, "... thousands of drums that contain material banned at WIPP would be permanently store above ground at the dump ..." This is not what we agreed upon in initial negotiations. Please protect our environment and speak up for New Mexico, its people, and its children.

Sincerely,

Roberta A. Ahlness

Roberta Ann Ahlness
700 Cobean
Roswell, NM 88201

000847

