

*A. Bearzi / File*



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GOVERNOR

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November 21, 2000

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Harold Johnson  
NEPA Compliance Officer  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Dear Mr. Johnson:

**RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR CONDUCTING ASTROPHYSICAL AND OTHER BASIC SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS AT THE WIPP SITE (DOE/EA-1340); OCTOBER 2000**

This transmits New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) staff comments concerning the above-referenced Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA). Please note that the following comments on air quality are in addition to those forwarded to your agency by Steve Holmes\Steve Zappe of our Hazardous Waste Bureau in their Interoffice Memorandum dated November 20, 2000.

Section 4.9 of the DEA addresses impacts on air quality; however, these impacts are not quantified. A table of the expected emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and PM10 should be included so that the reviewers may come to their own conclusions of whether these emissions are negligible. In addition, the DEA should address the impacts of the fugitive emissions that are quantified in the document as "negligible" for the same reasons. During construction of any additional facilities at the WIPP site, care should be taken to minimize emissions of fugitive dust.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this document. Please let me know if you have any other questions on the above.

Sincerely,

Gedi Cibas, Ph.D.  
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator

NMED File No. 1412ER

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