



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

February 1, 2001-

 **ENTERED**



Mr. Peter Maggiore, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Maggiore:

The U. S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office, has completed its *Environmental Assessment for Conducting Astrophysics and Other Basic Science Experiments at the WIPP Site*. The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) has been revised to respond to public comments, including those submitted by your staff, see Appendix A of the EA.

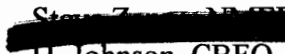
Based on that Environmental Assessment, DOE has concluded that no environmental impact statement is required for the proposal and has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Final EA and FONSI are enclosed for your information.

For more information about DOE's NEPA Compliance process, please contact Harold Johnson at (505) 234-7349.

Sincerely,

Dr. Inés R. Triay
Manager

Enclosures

cc: Gedi Cibas, NMED

H. Johnson, CBFO

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