

Mr. Steve Zappe  
NMED  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive  
Bldg.E  
Santa Fe, NM 87505



ENTERED

Sept. 10, 01

Dear Mr. Zappe,

Thank you and the NMED for taking these comments on the proposed Centralized Waste Confirmation Facility and for the time extension.

It seems to me that unless the contents of the drums coming to WIPP are known and approved, that the safety standards for transportation will be violated.

I believe that there is a dissenting independent opinion re: the reliability of the tests that had been done to establish transportation safety. In any event, surely our state should consider these permits in a broad way and find a way to not undermine the strongest protective transportation rules. Please see to it that the division of responsibilities (for ex. transportation as a separate issue from radioactive and hazardous wastes, etc.) should not get in the way of the larger concern for the good of all with regard to transporting these dangerous substances through our environment.

If the containers which are not characterized arrive at this proposed above ground Confirmation Storage, I believe that undeniable human nature will develop a tendency to put into WIPP unsafe items. I am afraid that this plan will lead to less safe deposits at WIPP because they are already at WIPP, because it will sometimes seem too dangerous to separate items, that there will be a natural tendency to overlook things and simply if the entire management of prohibited items takes place at WIPP.



**Please take under consideration that there is an independent scientific dissenting opinion regarding the suitability of the geology of the WIPP site. With this factor figured in you should not allow for anything less than the kind of situation and pressure that would give us the likelihood of what goes into WIPP actually adhering to the highest possible safety standards.**

**To not follow the most conservative, safe standards possible - in other words full and careful identification of items coming to WIPP- in order to settle for a business as usual type, profit saving convenience for the corporations involved, under the guise of the beautiful sounding "help us clean up our generation sites" slogan- is not acceptable.**

**I think I can speak for a huge wide cross section of the people of New Mexico by saying that we are counting on the state government to be a good watch dog for holding to the safest, most stringent standards concerning the auditing of these radioactive and hazardous materials . Please always keep in mind that these materials really are overwhelmingly long lasting, and devastatingly dangerous materials.**

**Thank you,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara C. Stevens", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Barbara C. Stevens  
p.o. box 815  
Chimayo, NM 87522**