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Board on Radioactive Waste Management

October 10, 2001

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Mr. Zappe: *Steve*

On behalf of the National Research Council's Committee on the Characterization of Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, thank you for your participation in the committee meeting on October 4, 2001. We appreciate your time and willingness to provide your input in this study. The information you provided has been, and will be used, in the committee's final deliberations.

As we progress in our task, we will keep you informed of new developments and might call on you again for your insight. The committee might meet again in open sessions early next year to visit the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and to complete its formal information gathering. I will keep you informed of future open meetings. You can also find information on the committee's activities on our Web site <http://nationalacademies.org/brwm> (click on "Current Projects"). During the following weeks, the committee will be developing recommendations for its interim report concerning the Department of Energy's proposed characterization plan for remote-handled transuranic waste. The interim report should be available in November 2001, while the final report is scheduled for release during the summer 2002.

Sincerely,

Barbara Pastina
Study Director

cc: file
Eula Bingham, Chair

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