



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Telephone (505) 428-2500
Fax (505) 428-2567
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

November 19, 2001

Dr. Ines Triay
Manager
Carlsbad field Office
U.S. Dept. of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221



Re: Letter of Compliance NM#4890139088

Dear Dr. Triay:

The New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”) Hazardous Waste Bureau (“HWB”) proceeding on informed public concern and Department authority, pursuant to NMSA 74-4-4.3, conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (“CEI”) of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) southeast of Carlsbad, NM on August 10, 2001.

At issue was the concern that WIPP’s container storage limits, pursuant to Module III.A.1.b of their permit, may have been reached in a short time. HWB inspectors, acting on behalf of the Secretary, made a physical inspection of the above ground portion of the facility including all drum handling and storage areas, reviewed all relevant shipping documents and material handling schedules, reviewed facility waste tracking protocols and records, and facility contingency protocols. Along with the inspection and document review, discussions with operations personnel led the HWB to determine that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has the contingencies in place to command current waste storage issues and are therefore in compliance.

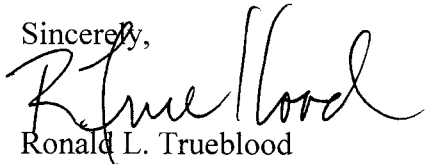
It was a great pleasure to visit your facility and work with your staff to resolve any compliance issues as they relate to Module III.A.1.b of your current permit. Thank you for your prompt response to our inquiries. If we can be of service to you in the future please do not hesitate to call on us.



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The Hazardous Waste Bureau can be reached via landline by dialing (505)-428-2500 or by fax at (505)-428-2567.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Trueblood
Environmental Specialist
Compliance and Technical Assistance Program
NMED-Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: Pete Maggiore
Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
James Bearzi
Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
Steve Zappe
Program Manager, HWB Permitting
Debby Brinkerhoff
Program Manager, HWB CTA