



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
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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

February 7, 2002

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

Dear Dr. Triay:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) proceeding on Department authority, pursuant to NMSA 74-4-4.3, conducted an evaluation inspection of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) southeast of Carlsbad, NM on January 3, 2002.

At issue was the concern regarding WIPP's compliance with item (b) of the "Schedule for Completion" specified in NMED's September 24, 2001 Denial of Temporary Authorization Request (attached). 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 reviewed waste characterization batch data reports and WWIS records. Along with the inspection and document review, discussions with operations personnel led the HWB to determine that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has met the requirements specified in the "Schedule of Completion".

It was a great pleasure to visit your facility and work with your staff to resolve any issues. Thank you for your staffs 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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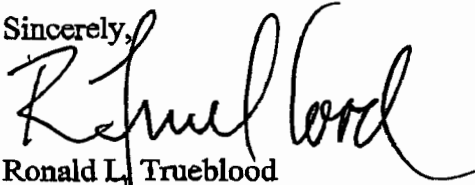
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The Hazardous Waste Bureau can be reached via landline by dialing (505) 428-2500 or by fax at (505) 428-2567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Trueblood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

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

cc: Steve Zappe, HWB Permitting

Debby Brinkerhoff, Program Manager, HWB-CTA