



October 3, 2002

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Mr. Zappe,

This letter is to provide support for the Modification to Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant to allow Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Operations at WIPP.

Our area supports the permit modification for a number of reasons including the outstanding safety record at the WIPP site as well as our confidence in the safety of future operations.

The WIPP operation is of major benefit to our area and the addition of new operations will enhance those economic benefits.

Please accept this written testimony as the New Mexico Environment Department considers this important decision.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Berry, CED
Executive Director
EDC of Lea County

cc: Robert Wallach
Johnny Cope

P.O. Box 1376

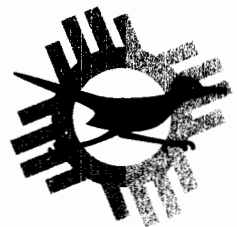
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