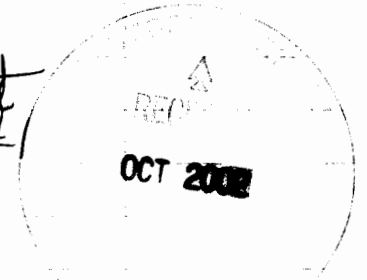


ENTERED
Oct. 8, 2002

TO: Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. #1
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505



Dear Steve:

I am writing you this letter to express my profound concern regarding the proposed "modifications" to the "WIPP" hazardous waste permit. I read the article by Christina Boyle in October 5th, 2002 New Mexican which left me in a state of shock. I was involved, as a concerned citizen, in the original WIPP proposals at the New Mexico State Legislature in the mid-1970's. Our well informed group of citizens expressed a number of concerns,



as well as realistic alternatives,
to the use of salt beds for the
storage of "low level transuranic
waste." Throughout the process
we were informed that salt beds
were safe, in fact, the DOE felt
that the Carlsbad area salt beds
were the best possible choice for
the storage of "low level trans-
uranic waste";

Throughout the lengthy
process that followed those original
hearings, the Federal Government
assured the citizens of New
Mexico that this was a safe, secure,
and responsible process for the
internment of "low level transuranic waste".

When the State of New Mexico required the standards of our protection & inspection, we were exposed to a form of extortion by the Federal Government which effectively refused our portion of Federal highway funding -

Enough!

Now I see a very similar pattern of untruths and leverage being applied again by DOE and Westinghouse to "modify" the WIPP permit to include extremely radioactive waste as well as plutonium pits for the same Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

New Mexico State Fire Marshall
George Chavez is quoted as saying
"they (WIPP Trucks) are not up to date."
Scott Fields, Dept of Public Safety
is quoted "the state feels any
deficiency is too many."

But Anne Clark, coordinator
for the WIPP Task Force, appointed by
Gary Johnson states, "It was WIPP's
mission all along to transport a
percentage of remote-handled waste."

Please remember that this
was intended to be a "Pilot"
Project, yet we have never seen
or heard any contingency plan
for removal or adjustment, only
the transparent progression by the

DOE & Westinghouse to use these Salt beds for an unending depository of all levels of radioactive waste without first demonstrating a valid commitment to observing their current agreements with your department.

Please, Steve Zappe, don't fail the citizens of New Mexico by allowing any of these proposed modifications - we deserve a say in our future, as well as the next 25,000 years of New Mexico's future! At least give the people of New Mexico a chance to review and

vote on these very serious proposals. Let us all be a part of these decisions so that democracy may continue to exist... demand from these modifications a clear picture of their motives as well as our guaranteed protection. Until then... reject it all.

Thank you —

Patrick Beasley
1470 BISHOPS LODGE Road
Santa Fe, N.M. 87506

505-983-8082

P.S. State Fire Marshal George Chavez is quoted as saying: "...As a state, we feel WIPP has been out of compliance for a long time." Need I say more?