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Board on Radioactive Waste Management National Research Council

November 14, 2002

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 Optimizing the Characterization and Transportation of TRU Waste for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, thank you for providing an update on New Mexico Environment Department's view on WIPP contact-handled waste characterization requirements during the first committee meeting on October 28 and 29. We appreciate your time and willingness to provide the committee with your input on the study.

As we progress in our task, we will keep you informed of new developments and might call on you again for your insight. During the following months, the committee will be gathering further information on the characterization of transuranic waste. The next meeting will take place on January 27-29, 2003; the location is yet to be determined. The final report is scheduled to for release in January 2004.

Sincerely,

Barbara Pastina
Study Director

cc: file
Susan Wiltshire, Chair

