

# THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*



Board on Radioactive Waste Management

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February 6, 2003

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 Transuranic Waste for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, thank you for providing New Mexico Environment Department's responses and comments to the committee's questionnaire during the second committee meeting on January 27 and 28. We are grateful for your time and willingness to provide the committee with your input.

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 March 3-4, 2003 in the proximity of the Savannah River Site. The meeting agenda is forthcoming. The final report is scheduled for release in January 2004.

Sincerely,

Barbara Pastina  
Study Director

cc: file  
Susan Wiltshire, Chair

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