



New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe



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COMMITTEES:

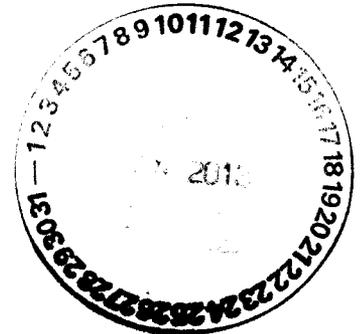
- MEMBER:
- Education
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SENATOR GAY G. KERNAN

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June 7, 2013

Ms. Trais Kliphuis
NM Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Dear Ms. Kliphuis:

I am writing to you regarding a request from the U.S. Department of Energy to lift the prohibition on Hanford TRU tank waste coming to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. I support DOE's request, as a recent study demonstrates that the chemical compatibility issues that were once thought might exist have been shown conclusively to be nonissues.

The tank waste prohibition was added to the WIPP permit in 2004 as a Class 2 modification. From a fairness standpoint, the exclusion should be dealt with and backed out using the same process. The modification is straightforward, and there are no technical issues, and so I see no justification for turning this into a Class 3 process and adding additional hearings and expense to the taxpayers.

Thank you for registering my comments.

Sincerely,

Gay G. Kernan
District 42

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