



Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221



Dr. Evert Beckner
Vice President
Organization No. 6000
Sandia National Laboratories
P. O. Box 5800
Albuquerque, NM 87185

Dear Dr. Beckner:

During recent weeks several discussions have been held with members of your staff regarding assumption of additional responsibility for Performance Assessment work related to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This additional responsibility would be for evaluation of the long-term performance of the WIPP transuranic waste disposal system to determine compliance with Containment Requirements, Individual Protection Requirements, and Groundwater Protection Requirements of EPA 40 CFR 191, Subpart B.

Appreciable sensitivity exists with this topic and the proposed transfer of responsibility from the WIPP Operating Contractor to SNL. Such a transfer should ensure the following:

1. A smooth transition of responsibility.
2. No significant increase in costs of performing the work.
3. Full compliance with the proposed schedule for completion of work during the demonstration phase of the project and prior to the decision of whether or not WIPP becomes a permanent repository.
4. Retention by the WIPP Operating Contractor of the responsibility of assuring compliance with Environmental Standards for Management and Storage, Subpart A, and Assurance Requirements, Subpart B, of 40 CFR 191.
5. Retention of a position at WIPP for the present Performance Assessment Facilitator to provide assurance that WPO requirements are fulfilled in performance assessment, and to act as an interface between SNL and the Operating Contractor for 40 CFR 191 compliance activities.

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6. Strong consideration by SNL for utilization of other IT personnel presently working on performance assessment.

Please respond to me by letter indicating your decision in regard to SNL accepting this responsibility for the WIPP Performance Assessment work in accordance with the above guidelines.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Krenz
Assistant Manager, Office for
Projects and Energy Programs

WIPP:RAC 86:1180

cc:
W.R. Cooper, DOE, WPO
W.D. Weart, SNL, AL
C. Garcia, ESHD, AL