



STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SANTA FE

87503



TONEY ANAYA
GOVERNOR

October 17, 1986

FN 1029

Dr. Robert Amai
School of Science & Technology
New Mexico Highlands University
Las Vegas, NM 87701

Dear Dr. Amai:

Several months ago, members of my staff presented a plan to create a twelve-member Public Advisory Committee on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Project. In the press of other business, we set the proposal aside for later consideration and are only now reviewing it. However, we have had advisory task forces in the past which have made substantial contributions to policy decisions, and I favor, in principle, the idea of creating such a committee to obtain informed public views and recommendations regarding specific aspects of the operation of this federal nuclear waste repository.

As a first step, I would like to obtain views on this proposal from persons who are already acquainted with and interested in the WIPP project, as well as others whose proven record of public service, though not related to this issue, would be valuable in determining how such a committee might be helpful to the next Administration in its deliberations and decisions regarding WIPP. Attached is a copy of a proposed plan of operations for such a Committee which may serve as a basis upon which additional ideas and suggestions can be built.

I am asking that you and the other persons named on the attached list meet with members of my staff to consider the creation of the proposed committee and advise me on its potential value. I am confident that your guidance, along with that of the others I have asked to serve on this temporary group, will be invaluable in helping me decide how to proceed.

We plan to hold this meeting on October 30, 1986 in Room 341 of the State Capitol, beginning at 10:00 a.m. I regret that we are unable to pay either per diem or travel expenses and hope this will not place too much hardship upon you. Please call Sally Rodgers at 827-3000 or Jack M. Mobley at 827-0556 to indicate whether you will be able to attend. Either Sally or Jack can supply any additional background information you may wish to have regarding WIPP or the original proposals.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Toney Anaya
Governor

Attachments: List
WIPP Policy Advisory Committee function statement

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INVITEES

1. Eddie Lyon - Carlsbad Department of Development
2. Doug Brookins, UNM Geology Professor
3. Southwest Research - Don Hancock
4. C.A.R.D. - Janet Greenwald
5. Jack Skinner, Former State Legislator
6. Ann Rodgers - UNM Law Professor
7. Tom Buhl-LANL - Health Physicist
8. Robert Amai, Ph.D., Chemist - Highlands University
9. John Hightower, Reporter - Pulitzer Prize Winner
10. Lora Shields, M.D., Member, Radiation Technical Advisory Council
11. June Catron - League of Women Voters
12. Rena Schwentzel, Ph.D., Educator
13. Gilbert Sanchez - Governor, San Ildefonso
14. Robert Hawk, Chairman, Legislative Radioactive Materials
Committee

WIPP POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to its duties and powers contained in the Radioactive Materials Act, 74-4A-1 through 74-4A-19NMSA 1978, the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force establishes the Policy Advisory Committee on the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Project whose purpose will be to recommend issues, policies, further research needs, and other items related to the WIPP project. The Committee will make recommendations in reports that will be submitted to the Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall consist of twelve members from diverse geographical locations in New Mexico who will represent a broad spectrum of backgrounds and experience. Membership should be selected from the New Mexico academic community, public interest groups, industry, the scientific community and other appropriate sources. No member shall be an employee of the Department of Energy or of a contractor associated with the planning, construction, or operation of the WIPP facility. The Chairperson and members, upon the advice of the Task Force, will be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor.

3. FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE

(a) The Committee will conduct public meetings around the state, as budgeting constraints permit.

(b) Particular topics to be covered by the meetings will be at the discretion of the Committee, but a suggested list of areas of concern follows: TRUPACT design, Congressional land withdrawal issues, transportation routes, state land acquisition, waste retrievability, geology and hydrology, site suitability and

characterization, RH-TRU and High Level Waste cask design and testing, proposed experimental programs, waste certification and acceptance, environmental monitoring, state on-and-off-site control of shipments, increasing public participation, emergency response, the WIPP mission and other subjects directly related to the WIPP project.

(c) The Committee may prepare for the meetings by reviewing relevant documentation provided by the Task Force or by members of the public who have indicated a desire to present information at a meeting, and other appropriate sources.

(d) The Committee shall provide public notice 30 days in advance of each meeting by publishing such notice in a newspaper of statewide circulation and in the most widely circulated newspaper in the city where each meeting is to be conducted, and by providing such notice to any individual or group who has indicated an interest in receiving such notice.

(e) The Committee may solicit testimony from persons qualified in an area on which the Committee wishes to hear testimony.

(f) Within 120 days of the conclusion of each meeting, the Committee shall prepare a summary of the issues raised during that meeting and make recommendations to the Task Force. As appropriate, the recommendations should contain minority views of committee members to assure a comprehensive summary of the issues. The reports will be public records and shall be made available on request.

(g) The Committee Chairperson shall keep the Task Force Chairperson informed of any issues that the committee believes requires immediate attention of the State agencies reviewing WIPP.

4. REIMBURSEMENT

Each Committee member shall be reimbursed for mileage and per diem expenses in accord with Section 9-1-9 NMSA 1978 and the State rules and regulations governing such reimbursement.

5. STAFFING

Appropriate staff support for Committee activities shall be provided by the Environmental Evaluation Group of the Environmental Improvement Division.