

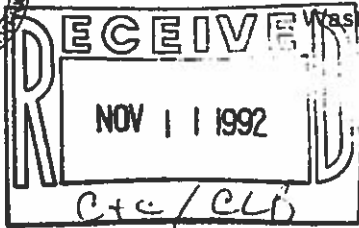
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**Department of Energy**

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



NOV 11 1992

Mr. Benito J. Garcia  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez  
P. O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The purpose of this letter is to formally request that we be allowed to change from Room 3 to Room 4 of Panel 1 as a hazardous waste management unit in the underground in our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application. This topic has been discussed with Ms. Susan Collins of your staff.

During the ongoing technical review of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) RCRA permit application, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) asked the Department of Energy (DOE) to revise the application to list the specific areas within the facility where hazardous waste may be managed during the Test Phase. In its submittal of the revision to Chapter B of the application, the DOE specified the Waste Handling Building and Rooms 1 and 3 of Panel 1 in the underground mine as hazardous waste management units. It has recently come to our attention that Room 4 should have been specified instead of Room 3.

Although either of the rooms are suitable and useable for the Test Phase, rooms closer to the center of Panel 1 (i.e., Room 4) tend to require less routine maintenance. Our original selection only considered proximity to Room 1. Subsequent discussions with geotechnical and waste handling personnel have determined that the reduced maintenance requirements of Room 4 are more significant than proximity. Therefore, since either room is acceptable from other perspectives, Room 4 is a better choice.

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Benito J. Garcia

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If you have any questions or require additional information,  
please contact me at (505) 887-8143.

Sincerely,

*James A. Mewhinney*

James A. Mewhinney  
Program Manager  
Environment, Safety and Health

cc:

  
S. Collins, NMED  
B. Kehrman, WID  
D. Mercer, WPSO

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