

Ms. Judy Espinosa, Secretary
State of New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Secretary Espinosa:

I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you on November 18, 1992 to discuss implementation of the legislative Land Withdrawal Bill regarding the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Project. As I stated in the meeting, I regret that it was necessary to issue the November 17, 1992 letter reflecting the State of New Mexico's disappointment regarding the Department of Energy's (DOE) participation in the recent New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) public meetings regarding the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B permit application for WIPP. As we discussed, Mr. Arlen Hunt of the WIPP Project Site Office (WPSO) has project lead for coordinating the Part B permit with the State of New Mexico. In recent discussions with Mr. Hunt it was relayed to me that the approach of having two technical representatives from the WIPP Project at the hearings was discussed between Mr. Hunt and Ms. Sisneros of your office, prior to the public meetings. I regret that, apparently there was some miscommunication and suggest that, in the future, you and I discuss DOE participation at NMED activities.

As I have stated, DOE is committed to open discussion with the public and the State of New Mexico and we look forward to a good constructive working relationship with the State. As we proceed through the permitting process and you begin to receive comments on the Part B permit, I will be glad to provide the necessary support to assure that we have a good, thorough, accurate written response to comments.



CONCURRENCES	
RTG. SYMBOL	WPIO:mg
INITIALS/SIG.	<i>JM</i> Matthews
DATE	11/23/92
RTG. SYMBOL	WPIO
INITIALS/SIG.	<i>JA</i> Arthur
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Secretary Espinosa

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cc:

K. Sisneros, NMED

A. Hunt, WPSO

T. Loughead, WPIO