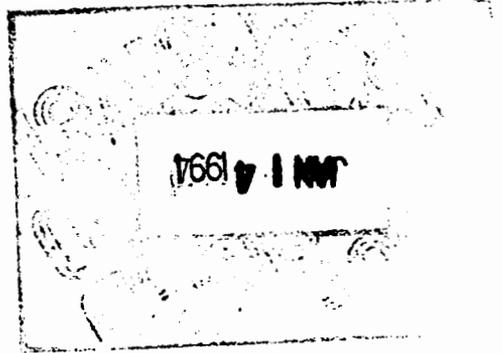




Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Project Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Kathy

JAN 13 1994



Ms. Judith M. Espinosa, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

As you are aware, the Department of Energy (DOE) cancelled the proposed alcove and bin tests at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The Carlsbad Area Office intends to accelerate efforts towards completing compliance requirements, including obtaining a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B permit. No storage or disposal of hazardous mixed-waste at WIPP will occur unless authorized by a Part B permit.

DOE recognizes that the current RCRA Part B permit application for WIPP requires revision in light of the October 1993 decision to abandon waste tests at WIPP. Accordingly, we request the opportunity to revise the RCRA Part B permit application to accurately reflect the current programmatic direction regarding the WIPP. We welcome full public participation in the review of our revised permit application.

During the permit revision process, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and DOE could continue to discuss resolution of complex issues such as waste characterization. DOE could provide NMED with funding to cover NMED's costs associated with such continuing discussions during the revision of the permit application.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please call me at (505) 234-7300.

Sincerely,

George E. Dials
George E. Dials, Manager
Carlsbad Area Office

940103



Ms. Judith M. Espinosa

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JAN 13 1994

cc:

C&C File

J. Lytle, EM-30

R. Wise, CAO

B. Honker, Chief, Hazardous Waste (RCRA) Permits Branch

C. Cox, WID

J. Harvill, WTAC