



CCNS
Concerned Citizens for

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To	<i>Kathy Sauer</i>	From
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Dept.		Phone #
Fax #		Fax #

March 8, 1994

Beate
Barbara -
WIPP - file

To: Judy Espinosa, Secretary
 New Mexico Environment Department

From: Margret Carde, Director
 Nuclear Waste Program

I am sorry to miss your two phone calls. March 31 is fine with me. However, I am concerned that this stakeholders meeting with George Dials about DOE's request to modify the WIPP hazardous waste permit will make no progress beyond the vague statements of the last meeting unless DOE comes with more information. We believe that the meeting would be best served if NMED sends a letter, as it did for the last meeting, stating what subjects the Department expects to discuss. CCNS would appreciate it if NMED could ask Mr. Dials to bring legal counsel and be prepared to respond to the following questions:

1. What are DOE's legal and practical concerns about giving up its claims for interim status at WIPP?
2. What activities for which interim status is required does DOE anticipate at WIPP between now and final RCRA permitting? DOE must disclose specific plans for surface and subsurface modifications as well as activities or modifications planned for Panels 1 and 2.
3. What are DOE's concerns about claims that others may seek to cause closure of the WIPP site? How does DOE propose to resolve these concerns?

This meeting will not resolve whether WIPP has interim status, nor can it address a settlement of this issue. However, CCNS believes that if this preliminary meeting is to be fruitful in advancing a future resolution, DOE must be forthcoming with specific information. Unless NMED takes a firm stand prior to the meeting about the need for the above information, DOE could well stonewall and rendering the meeting pointless.

Please call me to discuss this further.

cc: Kathleen Sisneros.

