



Feb 10 1994



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Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

AUG 10 1994

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Barbara
penite please attend
to the meeting
you me + Steve

*pls keep track
+ let me know
when these meetings
are coming up -
you me + Steve*

Ms. Kathleen Sisneros
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Bldg.
P.O. Box 26110
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Sisneros:

The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) has developed a tool for identifying sets of activities such as experiments, modeling, engineering design, and waste acceptance criteria that will lead to a demonstration of compliance with applicable environmental regulations for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This approach is referred to as the System Prioritization Method (SPM). The SPM is designed to:

- Address regulator and stakeholder concerns early and throughout the process of regulatory compliance
- Lead to a scientifically sound Performance Assessment (PA) used in demonstrating regulatory compliance
- Use taxpayer dollars in an efficient manner

The SPM is an interactive process that uses existing PA codes in the same fashion as before but also assesses cost and schedule to prepare a decision matrix of different activity sets leading to regulatory compliance. The CAO will use this matrix to decide which sets of activities will lead to an effective and cost-efficient demonstration of regulatory compliance.

Because your input is vital to the success of WIPP, we invite you to attend briefings on the SPM over the next several months. These briefings are designed to outline the components of the SPM and to give you an opportunity to provide comments on the process.

The **first** of this series of meetings will be held in Carlsbad, New Mexico, at the Municipal Library Annex, located at 101 S. Halagueno. We will notify you of the future meeting locations as they are established. For all meetings, the first day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last all day; the second day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will end at 2:30 p.m. The following is a schedule for the series of SPM meetings.



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<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Topics</u>
August 30-31	● Performance Assessment Methodology
✓ September 28-29 ●	Repository Scenario Development
	● Salado Fluid Flow
✓ October 27-28	● Rock Mechanics
	● Disposal Room Modeling
	● Repository Sealing
✓ December 1-2	● Radionuclide Source Term
	● Hazardous Constituents
	● Gas Generation
✓ January 9	● Non-Salado Fluid Flow

The technical experts responsible for each SPM topic are preparing position papers detailing the PA technical bases used in the SPM. Two weeks prior to each meeting, we will send you the applicable position papers for your review. Please submit any questions or comments regarding the individual position papers to the CAO Regulatory Compliance Manager, Dr. James Mewhinney, prior to each meeting. This will allow adequate time for the technical experts to prepare responses to your questions or comments. These experts will be present at the SPM meetings to address your questions.

We realize that your participation will require a substantial investment of time and effort; the CAO appreciates and values these contributions. If you have any questions, please contact the CAO External Affairs Manager, Ms. Patty Sallani at (505) 234-7313 or Dr. Mewhinney at (505) 237-7480.

Sincerely,



George E. Dials
Manager