

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCES, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESOURCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

ENTERED

BOARD ON  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT  
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17 February 1995

Office Location:  
Milton Harris Building  
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Committee

FROM: Bob Andrews 

SUBJECT: Investigation of Key Issues

At the WIPP Committee special meeting of 9-10 February, we developed a list of key technical issues related to the determination of whether the WIPP complies with disposal standards. To investigate these issues, Chairman Charles Fairhurst suggested the establishment of small groups of members to gather information and prepare reports for the Committee at its next meeting, 27-28 April, in Albuquerque. It will probably be necessary for each group to meet with DOE, DOE contractor, EPA, state, or other personnel in New Mexico or Washington, DC, as part of the information gathering. The Committee's Project Assistant, Dennis DuPree, is prepared to help with travel arrangements. Although each group has at least one member who knows the appropriate contacts for information on each issue, Charles can help you if needed.

Charles has suggested the following issues and appropriate ad hoc investigating groups (the first-listed name would act as coordinator):

**Source Term/Solution Problems** (radioactive and hazardous materials, including colloids) -- *Rod Ewing, Sue Clark, Konnie Krauskopf*

**Hydrology and Other Physical and Chemical Properties of the Salado, Culebra, and Other Stratigraphic Units** (plus gas pressure effects) -- *Lenny Konikow, Charles Fairhurst*

**Engineered Barriers** (including pathways from the repository, plugs and seals, room stability and closure, rock mechanics) -- *Charles Fairhurst, Della Roy*

**Compliance Issues** (including level of confidence/degree of proof, human intrusion, waste characterization, EPA proposed rule 40 CFR Part 194) -- *Tom Zordan, Chris Whipple*

**Performance Assessment and Expert Judgment** (including adequacy of scenario components, peer review) -- *John Garrick, Chris Whipple*

**Engineered Alternatives/Waste Treatment** (including gas generation) -- *Howard Adler, Tex Blomeke, David Waite*

If you recognize topics that have been omitted or have any concerns about the suggested assignments, please contact Charles.

