



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

*Barbara,
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GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

April 13, 1995

(505) 827-3000

file WIPP

Ms. Hazel O'Leary, Secretary
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. O'Leary:

As the recently elected governor of New Mexico, I share many common interests with the US Department of Energy. These interests are Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Sandia National Laboratory (SNL), The Inhalation of Toxicologic Research Institute (ITRI), and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) which are located in New Mexico.

Mr. Mark Weidler, my appointee as cabinet secretary to the New Mexico Environment Department, is responsible for implementing environmental regulatory and non-regulatory programs related to DOE facilities in New Mexico. Mr. Weidler and I look forward to working with you on the myriad of issues facing these facilities.

Mr. Weidler and I plan to implement a close working relationship with you and your department. In keeping with this effort, I offer you a reasonable approach to dealing with your budget-driven activities related to enforcement and non-enforcement issues. I understand that DOE budget short falls may impact many activities including requirements mandated by the Federal Facility Compliance Act.

Mr. Weidler and I will not abdicate any of the regulatory or statutory authorities of the state of New Mexico. However, we will work with you in achieving compliance based on DOE site-specific situations to meet the basic requirements of law and regulations.

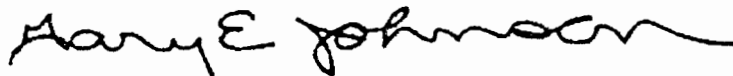
Mr. Weidler and I look forward to interactions with you and your staff. Should you wish to discuss any issues relative to your



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facilities in New Mexico, please contact me at (505) 827-3000. If you cannot reach me, please contact, or have your staff contact Mr. Weidler at (505) 827-2834 at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Johnson
Governor of New Mexico

GEJ:cj

cc: Pete Domenici
Jeff Bingaman
Steve Schiff
Bill Richardson
Joe Skeen
Tom Grumbly
Mark Weidler
Bruce Twining

bcc: John Thomasian, NGA
Edgar Thornton, Deputy Secretary, NMED
Ed Kelley, Director, WWMD, NMED
Larry Kirkman, LAO
Kathleen Carlson, KAO