



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

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MAY 15 1995

MAY 16 1995

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Mark Weidler, Secretary
 New Mexico Environment Department
 Harold Runnels Building
 1190 St. Francis Drive
 Santa Fe, NM 87502

ENTERED

Dear Mr. Weidler:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to provide funding for the operation of the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center (CEMRC) by New Mexico State University. In accordance with DOE policy, I am notifying you that an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-1081) will be prepared for this proposal and that the State of New Mexico will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the EA prior to any DOE decision. A brief description of the proposed project is provided below.

Under the proposed action, New Mexico State University would construct and operate the CEMRC adjacent to the New Mexico State University campus at Carlsbad. The CEMRC would conduct independent monitoring, characterization, and study of humans, other biological organisms, and environmental media (e.g., air, soil, water), for chemical and radiological contamination, and strive to develop improved methods for gathering, processing and disseminating environmental data. The CEMRC would provide independent monitoring of impacts due to activities at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), although its activities would not be focused exclusively on WIPP or other DOE sites in New Mexico.

The main environmental impacts of the proposed action are expected to result from the construction of the CEMRC facility and the use of relatively small quantities of chemicals and radioisotopes in the laboratory analysis of samples.

If you have any questions concerning this proposal, please contact Harold Johnson, the Carlsbad Area Office NEPA Compliance Officer at (505) 234-7349.

George E. Dials
 George E. Dials
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