



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

One file WIPP
Barbara

DEC 06 1995

**RECEIVED
 DEC 11 1995**

Mr. Benito Garcia
 New Mexico Environment Department
 Hazardous & Radioactive Material Bureau
 P.O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The purpose of this letter is to request the New Mexico Environment Department to have further discussions with the Carlsbad Area Office and Westinghouse's Waste Isolation Division regarding the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit application. These meetings are proposed to occur until January 16, 1995.

Due to the number of items contained in your previous requests for information on our Part B application (dated November 2, 16, and 30, 1995), we believe additional meetings are required to better understand and address these issues prior to the issuance of the Notice of Deficiency (NOD). By allowing us to have these discussions between now and mid-January, we are more confident that the majority of your concerns will be adequately addressed prior to the NOD.

We intend to provide draft responses to your requests for information and redline/strikeout versions of the text on the deliverable dates. These responses will be discussed on the meeting dates proposed below:

Deliverables	Date	Meetings	Date
Chapters A & B	December 4, 1995		
Chapters I & L	December 8, 1995		
Chapters D & E	December 14, 1995	Chapters A,B,I, & L	December 14, 1995
Chapters F & H	December 20, 1995		
Chapters C & G	December 26, 1995	Chapters C,D,E,F,G,H	January 8-9, 1996

We also anticipate delivering the final response to your concerns and revised text for all chapters by January 17, 1996. This final submittal will reflect changes made as a result of meetings held to discuss these draft responses. DOE and WID understand this request impacts your current schedule and may result in a minor delay in the issuance of the draft permit. However, spending additional time up front will yield a better application from which the draft permit will be developed.



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Benito Garcia

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Craig Snider from my staff will be coordinating with your response to this letter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (505) 234-7486.

Sincerely,



Michael H. McFadden
Assistant Manager
Office of Regulatory Compliance