



# Attorney General of New Mexico

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Mr. Steve Zappe  
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Dear Steve:

This responds to your request for topic suggestions for the forthcoming quarterly meeting.

1. In light of changes in the schedule for the issuance of the NOD for the HWA permit application, the outline of future events in that NMED permit process is clearly called for. I assume we would have such a discussion as a matter of course, but thought I should mention it.

2. Another item that needs discussion is the DOE-CAO budget for FY96 and FY97. Now that budget legislation has been passed, DOE must carve up the total, and how much WIPP will get is not yet known to me. I would like a report on that and on whether WIPP can attain all of its objectives within the funding provided.

3. An important further question is the FY 97 budget: what is the trend vis-a vis FY96, and what effect will the changes have?

4. By January we should have the next edition of the Baseline Inventory Report. A report should be provided by DOE on the new BIR and on the plans to generate a fourth edition.

5. The WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria are in revision, with a new version expected out by February. DOE should report on the nature of the proposed changes and their impact on, e.g., the HWA permit.

6. There should be a report and an opportunity for questions on the Engineered Alternatives report.

7. There should be a report and an opportunity for questions on the Sealing Systems Design Report.

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8. The final compliance criteria, 40 CFR Part 194, are now in the hands of the OMB, and DOE should report to the quarterly meeting on the additional changes it has requested and the probable time frame for issuance of the final product.

9. It has become known that DOE is conducting "roof beam removals" in E-140 drift. DOE should report on the geotechnical observations which led to this work, the nature of the work being done, and the other locations which may require such work.

10. DOE contemplates policy statements redefining "defense waste" and "remote-handled waste." DOE should explain the purpose and effect of these changes.

11. There should be a report on the planned future technical exchanges with EPA.

As WIPP moves towards a compliance demonstration, there are several issues of current concern. The representatives of the State are entitled to a full report on all of these topics, and if it takes longer than DOE had hoped to spend, it will still be an appropriate use of our time.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Best regards,



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