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State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
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MARK E. WEIDLER  
SECRETARY

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

June 27, 1996

Mr. George Dials, Manager  
Carlsbad Area Office  
Department of Energy  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

Mr. Joe Epstein, General Manager  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Dear Messrs. Dials and Epstein:

**RE: Completeness of RCRA Part B Application Revision 6  
EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE/WIPP 91-005, Revision 6) submitted by the Department of Energy (DOE) and Westinghouse (WID) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) on April 12, 1996, with subsequent updates submitted May 29, 1996 and editorial page changes submitted June 3, 1996. The application seeks a permit for the management of transuranic mixed waste in portions of the Waste Handling Building and the adjacent parking lot, and the ultimate disposal of this waste into an underground miscellaneous unit.

NMED has reviewed this permit application for completeness and determined that it meets the requirements for RCRA applications identified in the State's Hazardous Waste Management regulations (20 NMAC 4.1, Subpart IX, §270 Subpart B, effective November 1, 1995). The Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau (HRMB) will begin development of the draft permit later this month. This draft permit, consisting of waste management and corrective action modules, will rely on all relevant information contained in the administrative record, which include the Part B permit application, the RCRA Facility Investigation (RFA), and other documents.

This determination does not preclude HRMB from requesting additional information during the development of the draft permit, but only as necessary to clarify, modify or supplement previously submitted material. Requests for additional information will not render the application incomplete.

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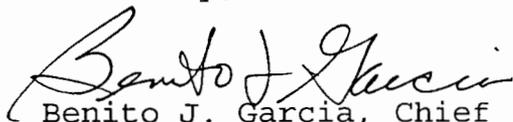


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HRMB identified a misconception in your May 29 letter, which stated, "I understand that once the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) begins drafting the permit, any future changes will be required to go through the formal process of a permit modification." DOE/WID may provide written comments on the NMED draft permit and include suggested revisions or additional information during the public comment period. This information would be considered, along with all other comments received during the public comment period, when the Secretary issues a final permit decision.

Thank you for your cooperation in this permitting process. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Steve Zappe of my staff at (505) 827-1561.

Sincerely,



Benito J. Garcia, Chief  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

cc: Ed Kelley, NMED  
Barbara Hoditschek, HRMB  
Steve Zappe, HRMB  
Susan McMichael, NMED OGC  
David Neleigh, EPA Region 6  
Matt Hale, EPA OSW  
Connie Walker, A.T. Kearney  
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