

**University of New Mexico
Institute for Public Policy**

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advancing the science
of survey research.*

September 4, 1996

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Steve Zappe
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Dear Steve Zappe,

I would like to invite you to take part in one or more of the focus groups we will be holding on the WIPP oversight and regulatory process. We are conducting these focus groups as part of a research contract from the Environmental Protection Agency, via the National Safety Council. The focus groups are trial-runs for more ambitious public meetings we will be holding in December and January. The focus groups will take place on Sept. 14 (Albuquerque), Sept. 28 (Santa Fe), and Sept. 29 (Roswell). I am inviting you to take part in the Sept. 14 or 28 focus groups.

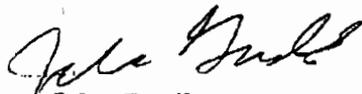
If you agree to participate, you will not be a part of the focus group, per se. Rather, you will be speaking with ten randomly selected focus group participants for roughly 25 minutes between 12:45pm and 2:40pm. I will introduce you to the group. You will make a brief presentation (1-5 minutes) about your role in the WIPP process and your general views on the process, then the group will ask you questions for 20 minutes. As is appropriate, you can speak with the focus group as a private citizen or as an official representative of your department. In all likelihood, focus group participants will ask you questions about the mechanics of the WIPP oversight and regulatory process and NM state government's role therein. You may also get questions about WIPP and its safety.

The focus group participants will have similar 25 minute sessions with three other representatives--a Sandia/WIPP scientist, an environmental activist, and an EPA representative. The speaking order is not yet determined, but in the interest of fairness, no representative will have the advantage of watching Q&A sessions prior to their own.

You are also invited to watch first two hours of the focus group from 10am to 11:45am, and you may wish to watch the final group deliberations, which should last from 2:45pm to 3:30pm. We will provide lunch and refreshments, and you can watch the focus groups on a monitor in a room adjoining the focus group room.

I hope you or one of your colleagues will be able to participate in these unusual and exciting focus groups.

Sincerely,


John Gastil

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Facsimile Message/Cover Sheet

Date: September 4, 1996
To: Steve Zappe
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From: John Gastil, Research Manager

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I have attached the letter we discussed on the phone.