



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
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MARK E. WEIDLER
SECRETARY

EDGAR T. THORNTON, III
DEPUTY SECRETARY

November 21, 1996

Ms. Rachel Livermore
68 Taylor Avenue
Nichols, NY 13812-9751

Dear Ms. Livermore:

Your letter received by the Governor's Office October 19, 1996, has been referred to the New Mexico Environment Department for response.

New Mexico does not implement any radioactive waste disposal programs but does implement regulatory programs which govern the disposal of such wastes on non-federal lands within the state's boundaries. The regulations are administered through the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) under the authority of the Radiation Control Act and for mixed radioactive hazardous wastes under the authority of the Hazardous Waste Act.

There are currently no licensed or permitted commercial radioactive or mixed waste disposal facilities in New Mexico. The Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) has applied for a mixed transuranic waste disposal permit in Carlsbad which is currently under review by NMED. There are also certain allowances under Radiation Protection Regulations for disposal of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) and for very small concentrations of tritium and carbon-14 under specific conditions. These activities, in very broad terms, offer you the current activities in New Mexico relative to your request.

Should you wish to acquire more specific information on these topics, please contact Mr. Steve Zappe for information on WIPP at 505-827-1558 or Mr. William Floyd for information on NORM, tritium or carbon-14 disposal regulations at 505-827-1564.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Weidler".

Mark E. Weidler, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department

MEW:BJG:cj

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