



ENTERED

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

STATE CAPITOL  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

March 13, 1997

(505) 827-3000

The Honorable Joe Skeen  
United States House of Representatives  
2367 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Skeen:

Your letter of March 6, 1997, urges our timely issuance of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit for the hazardous portion of the mixed wastes destined for disposal in the WIPP geological repository. As you know, I strongly support the timely opening of the WIPP. The state has been working diligently to develop a Part B permit that complies with all applicable requirements. The permit must withstand intense public and legal scrutiny, and an improperly developed permit might result in litigation and further delay in opening the WIPP. It is possible that this litigation could push a final determination into the next administration.

You have my assurance that we continue our support of the WIPP and will continue working to ensure its timely opening while at the same time protecting the public health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary E. Johnson".

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

GEJ:MEW:ea

9703-0527

970306

