



The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 1, 1997

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SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

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The Honorable Gary Johnson
Governor of New Mexico
State Capitol Building
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Governor Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Energy has issued the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. We appreciate your support for this important program.

Issuance of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is an important step in the process of opening the Plant. Next, a Record of Decision will be issued in November 1997, which will document the Department's decision regarding use of the Plant.

Two other major milestones remain. First, the Environmental Protection Agency must certify that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant meets the disposal standards for transuranic waste identified in the Code of Federal Regulations. Second, the Environment Department of the State of New Mexico must approve the permit application under that State's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act procedures so that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant can accept mixed transuranic waste.

The Department is printing the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. As soon as printing is complete, we will forward a copy to your office. If you have any further questions, please contact me or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Gary Falle, Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Federico Peña

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