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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

(505) 827-3000

March 6, 1998

Mr. Thos Myers  
P.O. Box 3319  
Taos, New Mexico 86571

Dear Mr. Myers:

Thank you for your e-mail dated February 3, 1998, urging me to oppose the opening of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). As you may be aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is currently proposing to approve the opening of WIPP for transuranic waste based upon their scientific review of the long-term performance of the repository. Likewise, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is preparing a draft permit for WIPP allowing disposal of transuranic mixed waste. Both of these agencies are primarily concerned with protection of human health and the environment, and will not approve the disposal of transuranic waste at WIPP unless it meets stringent standards.

NMED can notify you when the draft permit is available for public review and comment if you provide them with your mailing address. If you have any further questions on this issue, please contact Mr. Benito J. Garcia of my staff at (505) 827-1557.

Sincerely,

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

Gary E. Johnson  
Governor

GEJ:SOZ:soz

cc: Mark E. Weidler, Secretary, NMED  
Benito J. Garcia, Bureau Chief, HRMB

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