



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS & NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

copy to → Steve Steese John

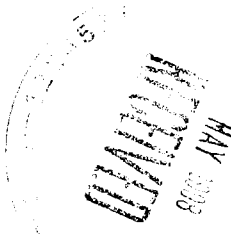
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Jennifer A. Salisbury
CABINET SECRETARY

May 11, 1998

To Ben

Mr. George Dials, Manager
Carlsbad Area Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Santa Fe, New Mexico 88221



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N.M. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Dials: *George*

This is to thank you for participating in the recent meeting of the New Mexico Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force [74-4A-6 New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978], held on April 13 in Los Alamos. Your presentation on the status of the WIPP Project was focused and informative, covering all subject areas identified in my invitation letter.

In particular, we were extremely pleased with the presentations by DOE-CAO and LANL representatives on the WIPP waste characterization and certification process. After hearing those detailed technical presentations and having my questions addressed satisfactorily, I am confident that the characterization/certification process now in place has resulted in the identification of selected non-mixed transuranic waste streams at LANL (*i.e.*, legacy debris waste from TA-55-43 and -45) for transport and disposal at WIPP. The tour of key LANL facilities used in this process was especially enlightening, providing the opportunity for Task Force representatives to see firsthand precisely how the waste is being characterized and certified. The continuing involvement of both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and our own New Mexico Environment Department in the process only increases my confidence that it will be done right.

Again, thank you for your assistance in making our Task Force meeting a successful and productive one.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Jennifer A. Salisbury
Cabinet Secretary and Chair
N.M. Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force

c: Task Force Cabinet Secretaries
Ed Kelley, Ph.D., New Mexico Environment Department

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