



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS
& NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Jennifer A. Salisbury
CABINET SECRETARY

May 13, 1998

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



Dear Mr. Dials:

On behalf of the State of New Mexico and its Radioactive Waste Consultation Task Force [74-4A-6 New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978], I am formally requesting access to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Waste Information System (WWIS). Specifically, the State is seeking two separate accounts by which to access WWIS: one for the Task Force and one for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

The WWIS, a computerized database management system, will be used by DOE to gather, store, and process information pertaining to transuranic (TRU) waste destined for disposal at WIPP. As such, it is the primary mechanism available to the State for quickly and easily accessing information on the characterization, certification and emplacement of WIPP waste. Moreover, I have recently been informed that NMED will require access to the WWIS as a condition of the draft permit for disposal of TRU mixed waste at the WIPP repository. Consequently, I am requesting NMED be provided preliminary access to the WWIS before shipment of any non-mixed TRU waste to WIPP in order to facilitate their independent evaluation of the waste characterization and certification information provided in the WWIS used to support DOE's waste determinations. WWIS access for the Task Force can then be provided subsequent to that for NMED.

Please contact Chris Wentz of my staff at 505/827-5950 to work out any details associated with meeting our stated requirements. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

c: Governor Gary E. Johnson
Mark Weidler, NMED Cabinet Secretary

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