July 9, 1998

The Honorable Gary E. Johnson  
Governor  
State of New Mexico  
Capital Building 4th Floor  
Santa Fe, NM 87503  
(505) 827-3000

Dear Governor Johnson:

The Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory Citizens Advisory Board (INEEL CAB) is currently reviewing the draft Hazardous Waste Storage and Disposal permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) prepared by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau. We plan to submit our comments on the draft permit to NMED by the close of the public comment period on August 14, 1998.

We are interested in the permit as it will be critical to the Department of Energy (DOE)'s ability to meet the terms and conditions for shipment of transuranic mixed waste presently stored at the INEEL to WIPP in compliance with an enforceable agreement signed by the State of Idaho, the DOE, and the U.S. Navy.

We would very much like to receive a presentation on the draft permit at the INEEL CAB's meeting scheduled for July 21 and 22 in Idaho Falls, Idaho. As we are an advisory group comprised of citizens and the permit is very technical and quite lengthy, a presentation that could explain the permit, its contents and requirements, and its rationale would be much appreciated. We received a presentation from DOE-Carlsbad at our May meeting, but understand that the draft permit differs substantially from what DOE had expected. We would be willing to pay travel expenses for a presenter if that would enable you to honor our request.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Our facilitator, Wendy Green Lowe, will call the NMED RCRA Permits Program Manager, Robert S. Dinwiddie, shortly to determine if such a presentation will be possible on such short notice and to help in the arrangements.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Charles M. Rice

cc: John Wilcynski, DOE-ID  
Robert S. (Stu) Dinwiddie, Manager  
Linda Milam, EM Budget/Compliance Committee Chair