



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503
August 28, 1998

State 30
file
WIPP

GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

(505) 827-3000

The Honorable Bill Richardson, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
James E. Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585



Dear Secretary Richardson:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Your appointment comes as welcome news to me and the citizens of New Mexico due to your ties to our state and knowledge of DOE activities and facilities in this state.

As you are aware, the DOE historically has been a major economic and political player in New Mexico and continues to be an important factor in the lives of many of its citizens. Many citizens in the state depend on DOE and its contractors for their livelihood.

The legacy of DOE in New Mexico has waste-associated problems with it as well. From reading your statement on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department, it is the beginning of a new era for the state of New Mexico and all citizens of the United States. I believe that the state and DOE must work in concert to achieve legacy waste clean up at Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories and proceed expeditiously while meeting regulatory requirements to open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

I would like to cordially invite you to visit with me and Mr. Peter Maggiore, my appointee as Secretary to our Environment Department, to discuss DOE issues in New Mexico as soon as your schedule permits. Specifically a discussion of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) issues should be a cornerstone for discussion.

Once again my commendations on your confirmation and I am looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Gary E. Johnson
Governor of New Mexico

GEJ/PM

980869



cc: Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Pete Domenici
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Joe Skeen
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 21515

Bill Redmond
U.S. House of Representatives
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 21515

Heather Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 21515