



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

October 16, 1998

Mr. Kevin M. Ward, Esq.
Harding, Shultz and Downs
One Tabor Center Suite 1950
Denver, Colorado 80202-3357

Dear Mr. Ward:

Thank you for your letter dated October 8, 1998 regarding the permitting process associated with the WIPP facility. I will address your concerns in the order listed in your letter.

- 1) I have decided to interview candidates for the position of Hearing Officer based upon the original 1997 request for proposals (RFP). I would like to select a Hearing Officer using the 1997 RFP without having to issue a new RFP.
- 2) I appreciate your comments with respect to the potential length of the public hearing. The New Mexico Environment Department's timeline clearly states that the estimated length of the public hearing is subject to contingencies.
- 3) I will note your preference for a hearing location in my decision making process.

I sincerely appreciate your bringing the positions of your clients to my attention.

Sincerely,

Peter Maggiore

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Maggiore".

Secretary

cc: Don Hancock
Margaret Carde
Susan McMichael ✓

