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7007 WYOMING BOULEVARD, N.E.  
SUITE F-2  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109  
(505) 828-1003  
FAX (505) 828-1062

November 2, 1998

Mr. Dennis Hurtt  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Area Office  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Dear Mr. Hurtt:

It is important to accurately report the information presented at the EEG quarterly meetings. We were puzzled by your statement in the October 27, 1998 Carlsbad Current Argus. For the record, Mr. Kent Hunter of the DOE Carlsbad Area Office did not describe any plans to resume mining at the EEG quarterly on July 30, 1998. Mr. Hunter has concurred with our observation. Also incorrect is your statement that the meeting was attended by the members of the Governor's Radioactive and Hazardous Waste Task Force. The members of the Task Force are Cabinet Secretaries. There were no Cabinet Secretaries at the meeting.

The initiation of mining towards Panel 2 was announced on the front page of the October issue of the Westinghouse TRU News. On October 8, 1998, at a meeting at the DOE/CAO offices in Carlsbad, I asked DOE/CAO staff about mining towards Panel 2. They declined to discuss the subject. Hence, my letter of October 13, 1998 requested a presentation by DOE/CAO on the subject for the October 29, 1998 quarterly meeting. Yesterday was the first time in which DOE/CAO discussed the issue with EEG and the discussion did not include any description of mining of Panel 2.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Neill  
Director



Mr. Dennis Hurtt  
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RHN:MKS:pf

cc: M. McFadden, DOE/CAO  
K. Hunter, DOE/CAO  
C. Wentz, NMEMNRD  
B. Garcia, NMED ✓  
L. Lovejoy, NMAG