

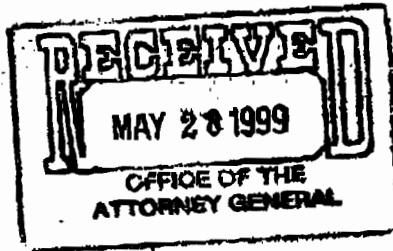
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Attorney General of New Mexico

PATRICIA A. MADRID
Attorney General

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Deputy Attorney General



May 25, 1999

The Honorable
Ken Salazar, Attorney General
Department of Law
1525 Sherman 7th Floor
Denver, CO 80203

Dear General Salazar:

First, let me apologize for not replying to your letter sooner. As you know you, as an attorney general, there is not enough time in the day to address all the matters we need to deal with.

I wanted to thank you for offering to assist me in addressing the pressing issues surrounding nuclear waste disposal in general and WIPP in particular. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to lend me the services of three of your senior attorneys, who have expertise in this area. It is my understanding that Dan Miller is currently working with one of my special assistant attorney general, Susan McMichael, regarding waste disposal at WIPP during its present interim status.

I also agree that we should form a multi-state working group on WIPP through the National Association of Attorneys General and would welcome your active participation in its formation and management. I too believe that by working together we can best address the concerns of both of our states as well as other western states that are directly impacted by the nuclear waste legacy of the cold war and the need to dispose of radioactive and hazardous materials as safely and soundly as humanly possible.

My office has been in contact with Lynn Ross of NAAG to explore the possibility of convening states that would be interested in forming a multi-state working group on WIPP during the summer NAAG meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Please let me know your thoughts on this and I will keep you posted on my office's communications with Lynn Ross.

