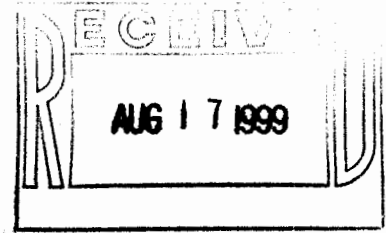




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STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
DOE OVERSIGHT DIVISION
761 EMORY VALLEY ROAD
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830-7072

August 11, 1999

Dr. Ines Triay, Manager
US Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
PO Box 3090
Carlsbad NM 88221

Dear Dr. Triay

I wish to thank you and Gary Riner for meeting with me and my staff to discuss Tennessee's transuranic waste processing and disposal issues. It is reassuring that an individual of your experience and expertise has been appointed to manage the Carlsbad Area Office. Tennessee will work with DOE to optimize the schedule of transuranic waste shipments to the WIPP. Tennessee is dedicated to assuring the transuranic processing and packaging facility planned for the Oak Ridge Reservation maximizes efficiencies in the waste characterization and certification.

Tennessee understands the difficulty DOE and the State of New Mexico are experiencing with the permitting for disposal of remote handled mixed transuranic waste. Tennessee strongly encourages DOE to provide New Mexico RCRA regulators with the data necessary for them to establish a waste acceptance criteria for remote handled mixed transuranic waste and properly permit WIPP to accept the material. DOE should also request "Interim Status" for WIPP to allow the facility to proceed with modifications necessary to accept remote handled mixed transuranic waste. These actions are critical for DOE Oak Ridge Operations to meet its commitment to Tennessee to begin shipments of transuranic waste to WIPP in 2002.

Tennessee is prepared to work with DOE, New Mexico, and other states considering shipping remote handled mixed transuranic waste to WIPP in developing a path forward that is acceptable to all involved.

If our offer of assistance proves beneficial, please contact me at (423) 481-0995.

Sincerely

Earl C. Leming, Director

xc: Justin Wilson
Mike Apple
Greg Lewis
Leah Dever
Peter Maggiore

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