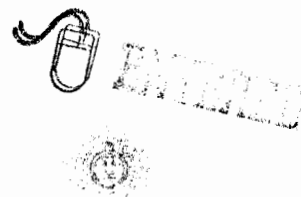


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Board on Radioactive Waste Management

February 7, 2002

Mr. Steve Zappe  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Mr. ~~Zappe~~: *Steve*

On behalf of the National Research Council's Committee on the Characterization of Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, thank you for participating to our meeting on February 4, 2002. The committee was greatly appreciative of your willingness to engage in forthright discussions and to answer its many questions. The information you provided is, as usual, extremely helpful in the committee's final deliberations.

As we progress in our task, we will keep you informed of new developments and might call on you again for your insight. The committee will probably meet only in closed sessions until the end of the study. As soon as the Department of Energy sends us a new draft of the characterization plan for remote-handled transuranic waste, the committee will begin work on its final report. This report is scheduled for release this spring. You can find the committee's interim report and other information about this study on our Web site <http://nationalacademies.org/brwm> (click on "Current Projects").

Sincerely,

Barbara Pastina  
Study Director

cc: file  
Eula Bingham, Chair

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