



Department of Energy
 Albuquerque Field Office
 P.O. Box 5400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400

MAR 2 1993

To Our Interested Associates:

When asked about the U.S. Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Program, I am pleased to tell people of the progress we have made in 1992 and the activities we have underway to address the issues and challenges before us. The first WIPP Annual Report, which I am enclosing, is a synopsis of our activities of 1992. The highlights include the following:

- The WIPP Land Withdrawal Act became effective on October 30, 1992. This act transferred responsibilities for the land surrounding the WIPP site to DOE and designates the Environmental Protection Agency as the certifying agency for the disposal decision.
- We have continued the critical non-radioactive experiments at WIPP and other facilities nationwide, including the recent initiation of limited radioactive tests at Los Alamos National Laboratory. The WIPP underground remains ready to support Test Phase activities with radioactive waste.
- The EPA will evaluate and approve the WIPP Test Phase Plan before any radioactive waste experiments can proceed at WIPP. This approval must be made according to a formal rule-making process, which will begin in the near future.
- The WIPP Public Outreach Program sponsored several tours of the WIPP facility including a visit by Secretary of Energy, Admiral Watkins along with the Governors of New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada and Idaho.

The key activities mentioned above are just a few of the activities highlighted in the WIPP Annual Report. Please read the enclosed report and contact us with any questions, suggestions, or recommendations you may have to make this report more beneficial in future years. You can reach Tracy Loughead of my staff at (505) 845-5977 or me at (505) 845-5985. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

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Sincerely,

W. John Arthur, III
 Project Director
 WIPP Project Integration Office

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ADD: Joe Holonick

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