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Mr. Dudley Henderson
 Mine Superintendent
 Duval Corporation
 P.O. Box 511
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

Dear Mr. Henderson:

On behalf of Phillip Justus, Malcolm Knapp and myself of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Robert Schneider of the Geologic Survey, let me express our thanks for the tour of the Duval Mine which we were given by John Davenport with the help of Adon Venegas.

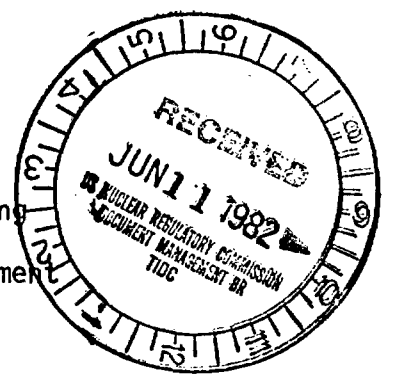
To aid our regulation of deep geologic repositories for nuclear wastes, we seek any opportunity to get on-site information. We found the tour very valuable and we are pleased with the understanding gained of bedded salt formations.

The Duval Company's willingness to permit a tour, particularly to fit our schedule, is very much appreciated. Your staff are to be commended for their patience and courtesy in showing us the mine and for their thoughtful answers to our questions.

Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bell, Chief
 High-Level Waste Licensing
 Management Branch
 Division of Waste Management



cc: John Hunt, Resident Manager
 John Davenport
 Adon Venegas

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