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Dr. Robert H. Neill, Director
Environmental Evaluation Group
P.O. Box 968
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Dear Dr. Neill:

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 1983, inviting me to participate in a two-day meeting on "WIPP Site Suitability for Radioactive Waste Disposal," to be held May 12-13, 1983, at Carlsbad, NM, under the sponsorship of the State of New Mexico's Environmental Evaluation Group (EEG).

As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has no regulatory or licensing responsibility for WIPP. Therefore, I am sorry to say that we cannot participate in the meeting or evaluate the EEG analysis of WIPP geotechnical issues and site suitability.

However, we do have a continuing interest in application of the information and experience gained at WIPP to other salt areas now under study by DOE for disposal of commercial high-level waste. For example, we are interested in the issues identified by the EEG staff, in the collection, quality and assessment of site data used in the process of studying the issues, and the EEG analysis and conclusions regarding the issues.

May I request that a member of the staff attend the EEG meeting as an observer. Also, I would appreciate your sending me a copy of the EEG draft report that summarizes the EEG position concerning the site and its suitability as a waste repository.

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Thank you for inviting us to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely,

Philip Justus for
 Hubert J. Miller, Chief
 High-Level Waste Technical
 Development Branch
 Division of Waste Management

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