



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*  
*2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1*  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303*  
*Telephone (505) 428-2500*  
*Fax (505) 428-2567*  
*www.nmenv.state.nm.us*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 17, 2004

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed is the public notice from the New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) announcing its intent to approve a Class 3 modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**). This modification would allow the construction and use of additional underground panels for disposal of transuranic waste. The public notice announces the availability of the WIPP draft permit for public comment. In addition, it states that NMED will consider any requests for public hearing and determine whether a public hearing will be held to consider further public comment.

All written public comment on the revised draft permit must be received no later than 5:00 PM November 1, 2004. Please refer to the public notice for procedures for submittal of written public comment and requests for a public hearing.

NMED has also developed a fact sheet that sets forth the significant factual, legal, and policy questions considered in developing the draft permit. This fact sheet is available on the NMED WIPP Information Page at <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/>>, or may be obtained by writing to Mr. Steve Zappe at the address listed in the letterhead above, or calling Mr. Zappe at (505) 428-2517.

If you have any questions, or if there are any corrections necessary to your address, please contact Mr. Zappe of my staff at (505) 428-2517.

Sincerely,

John E. Kieling  
Manager  
Permits Management Program

Enclosure