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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 27, 2006

Dear Interested Person:

This is a notice announcing a public hearing concerning the draft Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (draft permit) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**). On November 23, 2005, the New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) issued a public notice on the draft permit to solicit public comment and requests for public hearing by January 23, 2006. The public comment period was subsequently extended until 5:00 PM, February 22, 2006.

The public hearing will begin on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 in Carlsbad, New Mexico and will continue there through Wednesday, April 5. The hearing will reconvene Thursday evening and all day Friday, April 6-7, 2006 in Santa Fe. If necessary, the hearing will return to Carlsbad on Monday, April 10, 2006 and continue there until all persons have been afforded an adequate opportunity to present comment. The public comment period is automatically extended to the close of the public hearing. See the attached public notice for details concerning specific times, locations, and the manner in which you may participate in the public hearing.

The draft permit, public notices, and fact sheet are available on the NMED WIPP Information Page at <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/>>. These documents, along with the entire administrative record for this administrative action, may be reviewed at the Hazardous Waste Bureau at the address listed in the letterhead above.

If there are any corrections necessary to your address or you no longer want to receive mailings from NMED concerning WIPP, please contact me at the address or phone number listed in the letterhead above, or e-mail me at <james.bearzi@state.nm.us>.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

Enclosure