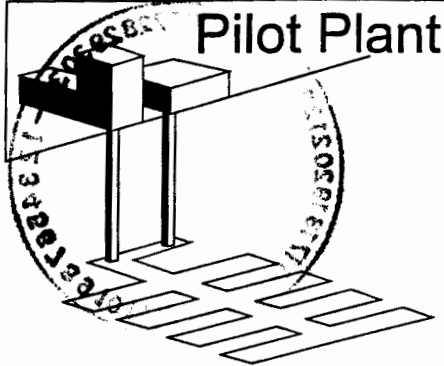


Waste Isolation



8/10/00

Please see other side
for my comments: Thank
you

DOE Requests Temporary Authorization To Begin Preliminary Activities for Waste Characterization at WIPP

Summary and background

Protecting human health and the environment is of the utmost importance to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). To this end, DOE is making a concerted effort to remove defense-generated transuranic radioactive waste from 23 sites nationwide and permanently dispose of it at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The potential consequences of delays in disposing of these wastes was highlighted by the recent Los Alamos, New Mexico (Cerro Grande) and Hanford, Washington fires that vividly showed the vulnerability of stored transuranic waste. Similar storage situations exist at numerous sites throughout the DOE complex.

About 97 percent of all transuranic waste is at six major sites. The remaining three percent is at 18 sites across the country. Before this waste can be disposed of at WIPP, it must be fully characterized (identified and described).

Many of the smaller DOE sites don't have the facilities or funds to perform this characterization. The proposed solution is to characterize waste to meet U.S. Department of Transportation requirements, then ship it to WIPP where it would be characterized to meet regulatory requirements for disposal. This initiative will allow many sites to remove all transuranic waste from their facility in a relatively short period of time without using substantial resources.

On July 21, 2000, DOE submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) a request to modify the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for WIPP. The proposed permit modification lays the groundwork for a centralized waste characterization facility at WIPP.

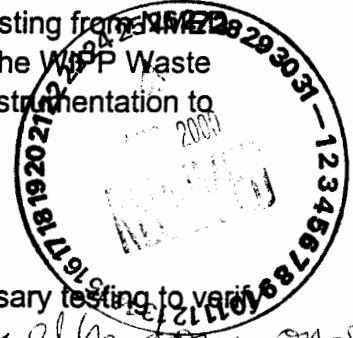
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Do not approve this request for the following reasons

What is DOE Requesting?

In order to move forward with this initiative, DOE is requesting temporary authorization to allow certain modifications to the WIPP Waste Handling Building including the installation of analytical instrumentation to perform waste characterization.



Additionally, temporary authorization will allow:

1. WIPP to accept transuranic waste to initiate the necessary testing to verify quality assurance procedures at WIPP *This should be done on-site before shipping to assure accountability for all wastes before shipping.*
2. Waste shipments to WIPP for disposal characterization *The waste must be characterized when it was produced.*
3. Additional above ground storage capacity and storage areas for the receipt of waste requiring disposal characterization *The sites already have storage capacity. Preparing the waste for disposal before shipping will eliminate need for additional storage at WIPP.*
4. Additional above ground storage time for the duration of the temporary authorization and any subsequent extensions of the temporary authorization. *Transferring storage above ground increases risk. Waste must be ready for underground burial when it arrives at WIPP.*

No!

This request is consistent with the Class 2 permit modification submitted by DOE July 21, 2000, to seek full authorization from NMED for additional testing above ground storage capacity, additional above ground storage areas and elimination of the time limit for above ground temporary storage

For more Information

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, or to be placed on the WIPP mailing list, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). Or you may visit the WIPP Home Page at www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us. If you prefer, write to:

WIPP Information Center
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221



U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Area Office
The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Public Information Meetings

On Proposed Class 2 Modification To the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit For the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

August 29, 2000

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

WIPP Information Center

Skeen-Whitlock Building

4021 National Parks Highway

Carlsbad, New Mexico

August 31, 2000

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott

3347 Cerrillos Road

Santa Fe, New Mexico

The purposes of these public information meetings are to:

1. Provide information to the public concerning a proposed Class 2 modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
2. Explain the process for submitting comments
3. Provide a forum for an exchange of views with the public, the facility's owner (U.S. Department of Energy), the management and operating contractor (Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division), and the regulatory agency (the New Mexico Environment Department).

*In its request, DOE proposes to 1) increase the limit on above ground storage capacity at WIPP by 25%, 2) expand the capacity of the above ground storage areas in the WIPP Waste Handling Building, 3) remove the time limit for temporarily storing waste above ground at WIPP, and 4) for waste characterized at WIPP, substitute the in-house, NMED-regulated assessment program for the current audit and surveillance program. These modifications are part of a proposed centralized waste characterization facility at WIPP. ***Note – The permittees' record of compliance with the permit is available from Mr. Steve Zappe at the New Mexico Environment Department.***

To obtain information about the Class 2 Permit Modification, contact Mr. Bob Kehrman at the WIPP Information Center, 1-800-336-9477. The permit modification is also available on the WIPP homepage <<http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>> and at the WIPP Information Center, Skeen-Whitlock Building, 4021 Natl.Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM

You can send written comments to:
Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2044A Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: (505) 827-2425
E-mail: steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us
Comments accepted until September 26

Pamela Aler

Please place or retain my name on mailing lists for the facilities listed below.

- WIPP.....
- Sandia National Laboratory.....
- Los Alamos National Laboratory.....
- Kirkland Air Force Base.....
- Holloman Air Force Base.....
- Cannon Air Force Base.....
- White Sands Missile Range.....
- White Sands Test Range (NASA).....
- Fort Bliss.....
- Fort Wingate Depot Activity.....
- Giant Refining Company, Ciniza.....
- Giant Refining Company, Bloomfield.....
- Navajo Refining Company, Artesia.....
- Climax Chemical.....
- Phillips Semi Conductor.....
- Rinchem.....
- Public Service of New Mexico.....
- Safety-Kleen, Albuquerque.....
- Safety-Kleen, Farmington.....
- Sparton Technologies.....
- Transwestern Pipeline, Roswell.....
- Triassic Park (Gandy Marley, Inc.).....
- General Electric.....
- El Paso Natural Gas.....
- Resource & Reclamation, Inc.....



The address on the current mailing list is correct..

The Address on the current mailing list is incorrect.
Please change my address to:

Date

VICTORIA PARRILL
 900 CALLE CARMENITA
 SFE NM 84501
Thanks