



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

October 5, 2000



Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Regulator Workshop, October 17-18, 2000, Carlsbad, NM

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this letter is to invite your participation in a Regulator Workshop, October 17 and 18, 2000 in Carlsbad, NM. The U. S. Department of Energy's (DOE), Carlsbad Field Office is sponsoring this workshop to encourage dialogue among regulators of remote handled (RH) TRU mixed (transuranic plus hazardous) waste, and to provide first hand knowledge of our current operations and a discussion of future opportunities. RH TRU waste is waste with a surface dose rate greater than 200 millirem/hr. To enhance an understanding of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) operations a site tour will be conducted on October 18, 2000. We ask your attendance at this meeting to provide your perspective on RH TRU mixed waste characterization issues that would be of mutual benefit to all attendees. Please join us October 17 in Carlsbad.

On March 26, 1999, WIPP received its first shipment of contact handled (CH) TRU waste from Los Alamos national laboratory. CH TRU waste is transuranic waste with a surface dose rate less than 200 millirem/hr. WIPP received a permit for TRU mixed waste on October 27, 1999. This permit, however, does not include RH TRU mixed waste. To date 94 shipments of CH TRU waste have been received, totaling 653 cubic meters of waste. All of this waste has been emplaced in the WIPP Repository. WIPP is now turning its attention to additional operational efficiencies and the cleanup of RH TRU waste from generators throughout the DOE Complex.

A copy of the draft agenda for the workshop is enclosed for your information. A list of hotels convenient to the workshop location is also enclosed for your information.

To date, both the New Mexico Environment Department and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation have offered to give presentations at this workshop. Presentations from other attendees are encouraged.



For those interested in participating in a tour of the WIPP facility, please be advised that you will be required to wear slacks and sturdy closed toe, flat heeled shoes. All other safety equipment will be provided. Those with physical disability requiring accommodation are requested to contact this office as soon as possible to discuss special needs.

Please RSVP to Joann Marshall at (505) 234-7524 or Miriam Whatley at (505) 234-7440 no later than October 13, 2000. We look forward to your participation in this workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.L. Plum', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

H.L. Plum
Assistant Manager, (Acting)
Office of Regulatory Compliance

Enclosures

Workshop Draft Agenda

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2000

PECOS RIVER VILLAGE, 711 MUSCATEL, CARLSBAD NEW MEXICO

TIME	ACTIVITY	PARTY
7:45 a.m.	Registration	
8:00 a.m.	Welcome	Dr. Inés Triay
8:20 a.m.	Overview of Agenda	Dr. Clayton Gist
8:40 a.m.	WIPP Overview	Bob Kehrman
9:20 a.m.	Break	
9:35 a.m.	Remote-Handled Waste Program – Path Forward	Miriam Whatley
10:00 a.m.	New Mexico Environment Department, Program Overview	Steve Zappe
10:45 a.m.	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Program Overview	Earl Leming
11:30 a.m.	Lunch *	
1:00 p.m.	Mixed Waste Regulatory Issues/ Introduction to Topical Discussions	Susan Collins
1:20 p.m.	Topical Discussion	Regulator Representatives (Panel)
2:45 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m.	Topical Discussion (continued)	Regulator Representatives (Panel)
3:45 p.m.	WIPP RH Readiness Activities	Tod Burrington
4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Dr. Inés Triay
4:45 p.m.	Adjourn	

*Lunch and refreshments are available for a cost of \$8/person.

SUGGESTED WORKSHOP DISCUSSION TOPICS

Regulatory Issues Pertaining to Mixed Waste Management

- Regulatory priorities of states overseeing mixed waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities.

Objective: *Identify areas of common concern.*

- Challenges and solutions associated with characterizing legacy waste, i.e., waste generated prior to the enactment of RCRA.
 - Applicability of agency guidance
 - Remediation waste versus stored waste versus disposed of waste (e.g., buried in trenches)
 - Characterization during repackaging

Objective: *To identify acceptable characterization techniques for legacy waste.*

- Requirements and expectations for “acceptable knowledge” used for waste characterization. Appropriate techniques for supplementing inadequate acceptable knowledge.
 - Applicability of agency guidance
 - Types of information that can be used as acceptable knowledge’
 - Combine acceptable knowledge with information obtained during packaging/repackaging

Objective: *To define adequacy of acceptable knowledge.*

- Process for removing hazardous waste codes that were conservatively assigned.
 - Evaluate how U, P, F and D codes can be removed
 - Identify information necessary to support code removal

Objective: *To determine regulatory feasibility and information needed to remove codes.*

- “Good faith efforts” for assigning listed codes following *Management of Remediation Wastes Under RCRA*, EPA 53-F-98-02655.
 - Applicability of agency guidance
 - What constitutes a “good faith effort”

Objective: *To establish how much information is needed to determine that no listed codes are required.*

SUGGESTED WORKSHOP DISCUSSION TOPICS (CONTINUED)

- Using data collected under 40 CFR Part 261 to meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 264.13.
 - Determine whether data collected to meet 40 CFR Part 261 are considered acceptable knowledge for the purposes of meeting 40 CFR Part 264.13
 - Determine when analyses must be repeated
 - Determine the types and amount of necessary waste characterization documentation

Objective: *To establish how generator site data can be used for meeting treatment, storage, and disposal facility waste analysis plan requirements.*

- Applying the *Joint NRC/EPA Guidance on Testing Requirements for Mixed Radioactive and Hazardous Waste* (62 FR 62079) to mixed waste characterization programs.
 - Applicability of agency guidance to TRU-mixed waste
 - Establish the appropriate use for acceptable knowledge
 - How are ALARA considerations addressed when determining appropriate characterization

Objective: *To establish the applicability of this guidance.*

- Incorporating the EPA OSWER *Performance-Based Measurement System Implementation Plan, Rev. 1* (October 9, 1998) for mixed waste characterization.
 - Applicability of agency guidance to TRU-mixed waste
 - How is a performance-based measurement system implemented by a treatment, storage, and disposal facility
 - What factors should be considered when implementing a performance-based measurement system

Objective: *To establish the applicability of this performance based measurement system.*

- Information needs and concerns of mixed waste regulators.

Objective: *To establish a continuing forum for communication among mixed waste regulators.*

WIPP SITE TOUR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2000

TIME	ACTIVITY	PARTY
8:00 a.m.	Meet at Skeen Whitlock Building, 4021 National Parks Highway, travel to site (van provided)	
9:00 a.m.	Arrive on site; receive safety briefing	Bob Kehrman
9:30 a.m.	Tour Waste Handling Building	Tod Burrington, Randy Britain
10:30 a.m.	Tour Central Monitoring Room (CMR)	CMR Operator
11:00 a.m.	Lunch in cafeteria	
12:00 p.m.	Meet in lamproom; tour underground	Tod Burrington, Randy Britain
2:00 p.m.	Return to surface; conclusion brief	Bob Kehrman
2:30 p.m.	Return to Skeen-Whitlock Building	

FirstName	LastName	Title	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
Brian	Monson	Mr.	Division of Environmental Quality	1410 North Hilton	Boise	ID	83706-1290
Rensay	Owen	Mr.	Idaho Division of Environmental Quality	900 N. Skyline, Suite B	Idaho Falls	ID	83402
Kathleen	Trever	Ms.	State of Idaho	1410 North Hilton	Boise	ID	83706-1255
Gordon	Appel	Mr.	Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety	1035 Outer Park Drive - 5th Floor	Springfield	IL	62704
Tom	Ortciger	Mr.	Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety	1035 Outer Park Drive - 5th Floor	Springfield	IL	62704
Greg	Lewis	Mr.	New Mexico Environment Department	1190 St. Francis Drive, Room N2210	Santa Fe	NM	87502
Peter	Maggiore	Mr.	New Mexico Environment Department	P.O. Box 26110	Santa Fe	NM	87502
Paul	Liebendorfer	Mr.	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	333 W. Nye Lane	Carson City	NV	89706-0866
Vicky	Soberinsky	Ms.	Office of the Governor	State Capitol	Carson City	NV	89710
John	Walker	Mr.	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	333 W. Nye Lane	Carson City	NV	89706-0866
Hal	Brodie	Mr.	NY State Energy and Research Development Authority	286 Washington Avenue Extension	Albany	NY	12203
Roger	Murphy	Mr.	Department of Environmental Conservation	50 Wolf Road	Albany	NY	12233-7252
Jack	Spath	Mr.	NY State Energy Research and Development Authority	286 Washington Avenue Extension	Albany	NY	12203
Graham	Mitchell	Mr.	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	401 East Fifth Street	Dayton	OH	45402
Tom	Winston	Mr.	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	401 East Fifth Street	Dayton	OH	45402
Mike	Grainey	Mr.	Oregon Department of Energy	625 Marion Street	Salem	OR	97310

FirstName	LastName	Title	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
Earl	Leming	Mr.	TN Department of Environment and Conservation	761 Emory Valley Drive	Oak Ridge	TN	37830-7072
Bill	Childress	Mr.	Tennessee Department of Conservation	761 Emory Valley Road	Oak Ridge	TN	37830-7072
Mike	Apple	Mr.	Tennessee Department of Conservation	761 Emory Valley Road	Oak Ridge	TN	37830-7072
Laura	Cusack	Ms.	Washington State Department of Ecology	1315 W. 4 th	Kennewick	WA	99337
Fred	Jamison	Mr.	Washington Department of Ecology	P.O. Box 47600	Olympia	WA	98504-7600
John	Price	Mr.	Washington Department of Ecology	P.O. Box 47600	Olympia	WA	98504-7600
Mike	Savage	Mr.	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	P. O. Box 1049	Columbus	OH	43216-1049
Edgar	Bailey	Mr.	California Department of Health Services	601 N. 7 th Street	Sacramento	CA	95814
Steve	Zappe	Mr.	New Mexico Environment Department	P. O. Box 26110	Santa Fe	NM	87505
Connie	Walker	Ms.	TechLaw	300 Union Blvd, Suite 600	Lakewood	CO	80228
Barry	Lesnick – 5307W	Mr.	United States Environmental Protection Department Headquarters	Ariel Rios Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.	Washington	DC	20460

Area Motels/Restaurants

There are two motels close to the downtown area where the workshop will be held. The two motels are:

Holiday Inn (505) 885-8500
601 S. Canal

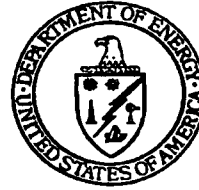
Best Western Stevens Inn (505) 887-2851
1829 S. Canal

Local restaurants are as follows:

Cortez	506 S. Canal	Mexican food
Court Café	219 S. Canyon	Greek/Sandwiches/Salads
Dairy Queen	902 S. Canal	Hamburgers/Bar-B-Q
Firehouse Gourmet Grill	222 W. Fox	Steak/Seafood
Furrs	901 S. Canal	Cafeteria
Golden China	509 Canal	Chinese/buffet
Golden Corral	2125 S. Canal	Steaks/buffet
Lucy's	701 S. Canal	Mexican food
Pecos River Café	409 S. Canal	Grilled sandwiches/homemade cinnamon rolls
Red Chimney	817 N. Canal	Bar-B-Q
Sirloin Stockade	710 S. Canal	Steaks/buffet
Stevens	1829 S. Canal	Steaks/Seafood

Direct flights into Carlsbad are limited. You might wish to check flights into El Paso, Midland, or Lubbock, Texas. All three cities are approximately 150 miles from Carlsbad and offer reasonable car rental options.

CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE POLICY



Subject: Tours of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Underground Facilities

Policy Statement:

The Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) encourages visitors to tour the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Tours of the WIPP underground facilities have been developed to allow visitors to observe the ongoing integrated safety management culture at the WIPP. It is believed that by allowing the public to observe, firsthand, the WIPP safety programs implemented to protect the safety of the workers, the public, and the environment, the public may have more confidence in the important national program being implemented at WIPP. It is CAO policy to ensure site visits are conducted as safely as possible. Due to the unique nature of the underground facility and the potential hazards to which a visitor could be exposed, visitors must be capable of accommodating personal protective equipment and associated physical requirements. Satisfying these requirements will afford visitors the highest possible degree of safety while touring the underground facility.

• **Visitor Attire and Personal Protective Equipment Requirements:**

<u>Attire</u>	<u>Personal Protective Equipment</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Long pants	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety glasses
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard hat
<input type="checkbox"/> No dresses	<input type="checkbox"/> Belt
<input type="checkbox"/> No open toed shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamp
<input type="checkbox"/> No sandals	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-rescuer

• **Physical Condition:**

To assure personal safety, visitors must be capable of physically accommodating all personal protective equipment described above, independently using the personal protective equipment, and independently seeking the nearest point of safety in the event of a hazardous condition. Visitors under age 15 are prohibited underground access without special prior approval.

• **Special-Needs Visitors and Exceptions:**

Special-needs visitors, including physically challenged and underage visitors, will require prior special approval of the CAO Manager or designee before any underground tour approval is granted. Granting or denial of such approval will be based solely on the recommendation of the CAO Safety and Health Officer or designee.

Approved By: Chuan-Fu Wu for Date: 9/27/00
Dr. Inés R. Triay, CAO Manager