

Subject: Request for information at RFETS

Date: Thu, 08 Feb 2001 11:44:20 -0700

From: Steve Zappe <Steve_Zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us>

Organization: NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau

To: Jody Plum <plumj@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>

CC: Bob Kehrman <kehrmab@wipp.carlsbad.nm.us>,
Will Fetner <William_Fetner@nmenv.state.nm.us>,
Steve Holmes <Steve_Holmes@nmenv.state.nm.us>,
Connie Walker <CWalker@techlawinc.com>



Jody, Bob -

I had an inquiry from Don Hancock yesterday regarding activities he observed at RFETS last week while he was visiting the site. In an attempt to understand his concerns, could you provide any additional information you may have on the following two topics?

1. Don observed drums which he said had undergone tomography, and he was told that these containers were being prepared for shipment to WIPP. This activity was being performed in Building 371, Room 3420. He said containers were arranged in groups of 14 drums as if they were being prepped for loading. The date for tomography appeared to be during the period of January 25 - 29, 2001. He didn't have the person's name, but said he spoke with the assistant manager of Building 371 about these activities, and to this individual's knowledge the waste was "ready to ship."

For this issue, could you please:

- confirm or clarify the information I've relayed to you
- identify the waste stream being characterized/stored in this location
- identify what other characterization may have been performed on this waste
- provide any other information which may be useful to understanding this issue

2. The DNFSB issued a report <www.dnfsb.gov/weekly/rf/2001/rf011201.PDF> regarding RFETS waste on January 12, 2001 which said:

"Transuranic (TRU) Waste Management: For some time, RFETS has been advocating that TRU waste containing contaminated, classified parts and shapes be disposed at WIPP (see the May 26, 2000 site rep. report) <<http://www.dnfsb.gov/weekly/rf/2000/rf052600.PDF>>. This would provide substantial reduction in waste preparation/declassification efforts at RFETS (e.g., crushing and size reduction in a glovebox) thereby reducing worker exposure and other risks. Efforts by RFETS, WIPP and DOE Headquarters have resulted in recent approval of the security plan for shipment and disposal of TRU waste containing such classified parts/shapes at WIPP. RFETS is proceeding with packaging of such parts/shapes for disposal at WIPP. (3-A)"

010220



Don said he spoke with Mark Spears from Kaiser Hill regarding material with high FGE that was repackaged 12/6/00, and he was wondering if this might be a part of the classified waste stream.

For this issue, could you please:

- either provide a copy of the approved "security plan for shipment and disposal", or if that isn't feasible, summarize the relevant points regarding WIPP's role in the receipt and disposal of such classified waste
- clarify how classified wastes will undergo the characterization process currently required under the permit -OR- what modifications to the permit may be requested to accommodate any special concerns DOE has regarding classified waste
- provide a status on how "RFETS is proceeding with packaging of such parts/shapes for disposal at WIPP."
- explain how NMED will know when this waste is ready for disposal (i.e., submittal of a WSPF)

If you need this request formalized in an official letter, please let me know. Thanks!

Steve