



Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
APR 23 2001



Mr. Steve Zappe, WIPP Project Leader
Hazardous Waste Permits Program
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Subject: Notice of Upgrade to Air Handling Equipment for the Waste Handling Building

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this notification is to inform NMED of a planned upgrade to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System for the Waste Handling Building (WHB) of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). This notification is being submitted in accordance with Module I.E.11.a of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, NM4890139088-TSDF.

The upgrade includes the installation of a constant air volume system, which will allow more efficient control of airflow in the WHB. This project is anticipated to begin in May 2001 and take approximately four weeks for the system preparation, seven weeks for the installation, and seven weeks for testing and integration. During this time, the ventilation system will need to be taken off-line for short periods resulting in losses of negative pressure.

Prior to the ventilation system being taken off-line, normal waste handling activities in the WHB will be suspended until ventilation and negative pressure are restored. These interruptions are planned during the back-shift to minimize the impacts on waste handling activities. TRU mixed waste stored in the WHB during these outages will not be moved until normal building ventilation operations are reinstated.

Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) Safety Evaluation #01-004 determined that the proposed activities do not impact the safety envelope of the current WIPP Safety Analysis Report. In accordance nuclear safety requirements, Department of Energy authorization for this project is documented in a Justification for Continued Operation (JCO), dated April 23, 2001. All activities will be coordinated between the maintenance/construction management and CH waste handling operations to ensure communications of changes to the ventilation and negative



Mr. Steve Zappe

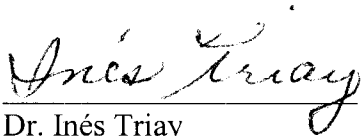
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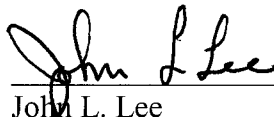
pressure. The Central Monitoring Room Operator maintains a record of when the ventilation system is off-line as well as a record of when waste handling operations occur.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Mr. Jody Plum at (505) 234-7462.

Sincerely,



Dr. Inés Triay
Manager



John L. Lee
Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC

cc:

James Bearzi, NMED

John Kieling, NMED

Mary Kruger, EPA-ORIA

David Neleigh, EPA-Region VI