Mr. Steve Zappe, WIPP Project Leader  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Plan for the Utilization of Panel 1

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this letter is to inform NMED of the Carlsbad Field Office's plans regarding the partial utilization of Panel 1. As previously discussed, WIPP intends to only partially use the remaining disposal capacity of Panel 1. As currently planned, only the S-1950 portions of Rooms 6, 5 and 4 will be used to dispose of wastes. The decision to use all or part of Rooms 3, 2 and 1 will be made in the future based on operational and technical considerations. The following is a description of variations from the waste emplacement process described in the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) that will be necessary to accommodate this plan. Enclosed are several diagrams of Panel 1 to illustrate this change. Figure 1 shows the location and layout of Panel 1.

1. As shown in Figure 2, a chain link barrier will be established between the S-1950 drift and the portion of Room 6 that will remain unused. This chain link barrier will remain in place after Room 6 is closed. The existing bulkhead in the end of Room 6 will be removed to facilitate airflow.

2. Also shown in Figure 2, the ventilation control bulkhead for Rooms 6 and 5 will be established in the S-1600 drift between Rooms 5 and 4.

3. Waste emplacement will not begin adjacent to the ventilation control bulkhead. Under this plan, waste will be placed adjacent to the Room 7 closure and will progress west through the S-1950 portion of Room 6.

4. As shown in Figure 3, when the S-1850 portion of Room 6 is filled, it will be closed with chain link and brattice cloth barrier as described in Attachment M2-2b.

5. Rooms 5 and 4 will be filled in the same manner as shown in Figures 4 and 5. When Room 5 has been filled, the ventilation control bulkhead will be moved to between Room 3 and 2.
Mr. Steve Zappe

June 29, 2001

6. The HWFP required waste emplacement map will reflect the actual use and emplacement location in each room. For the purposes of the emplacement map, the areas in the S-1950 drift adjacent to Rooms 6, 5, and 4 will be designated as Room 6, Room 5, and Room 4, respectively, on the map and in the WWIS. The process for recording the row, column and position information will not be affected by this change.

These variations assure ongoing compliance with the permit requirements for ventilation and closure of disposal rooms. They also allow us to minimize potential worker exposure.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 505-234-7462.

Sincerely,

H. L. 'Boby' Plum
RCRA Compliance Manager

Enclosure
Figure 1
Typical
WIPP Underground Orientation
Panel 1
Figure 2
Typical
Prior to Waste Emplacement in Room 6
Panel 1
Figure 3
Typical
Room 6 Closed, Ready for Room 5
Panel 1
Figure 4
Typical
Room 5 Filled, Ready for Room 4
Panel 1
Figure 5
Typical Room 4 Filled Panel 1