July 26, 2001

Dr. Inés Triay, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Mr. John Lee, General Manager
Westinghouse TRU Solutions, LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

RE: EXTENSION OF CLASS 3 PERMIT MODIFICATION COMMENT PERIOD
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088

Dear Dr. Triay and Mr. Lee:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is currently receiving public comment for a Class 3 modification request regarding Centralized Waste Confirmation dated June 5, 2001, and received by NMED on June 6, 2001. The Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office and Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (the Permittees) published public notice of this permit modification request on June 13, 2001, establishing a 60-day public comment period ending on August 13, 2001.

NMED subsequently received requests to extend the public comment period from Mr. Scott Monroe of the US Environmental Protection Agency on July 17, 2001 and from representatives of numerous citizen organizations on June 28, 2001. Based upon these requests, NMED has decided to extend the public comment period for this Class 3 modification request by an additional 45 days beyond the current end of the comment period, until September 27, 2001 at 5:00 pm MDT.

NMED is also directing the Permittees to notify the WIPP mailing list of this decision to extend the public comment period. Please ensure that such notification is postmarked no later than five (5) working days following your receipt of this letter.
If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact either Steve Zappe at (505) 428-2517 or me at (505) 827-1758.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Lewis
Director
Water and Waste Management Division

cc: Paul Ritzma, NMED
    James Bearzi, NMED HWB
    John Kieling, NMED HWB
    Susan McMichael, NMED OGC
    Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
    Scott Monroe, EPA ORIA
    David Neleigh, EPA Region 6
    Connie Walker, TechLaw
    File: Red WIPP ’01