



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

November 7, 2001



Mr. Steve Zappe, WIPP Project Leader
 Hazardous Waste Permits Program
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 E. Rodeo Park Drive, Bldg. 1
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: WIPP Waste Handling Building (WHB) Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this letter is to inform NMED that the ongoing CH Building HVAC system upgrade activities have been extended. We first informed NMED of this activity by letter dated April 23, 2001. The letter notification was submitted in accordance with Module I.E.11.a of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, NM4890139088. Our determination that the proposed HVAC system upgrade activities do not impact the safety of WIPP operations as documented by the WIPP Safety Analysis Report was stated in the letter. Additionally, we informed NMED that the completion of the system upgrade activities could be anticipated in October 2001. Work is now, however, anticipated to be completed during early December 2001.

The original completion date of the system modification, October 10, 2001, slipped due to WIPP engineering work focused on testing the upgraded system. WIPP engineers evaluated testing an equivalent HVAC system in the remote-handled (RH) waste handling building before testing the upgrade of the CH HVAC system. The engineering evaluation caused the original completion date for the CH HVAC system to slip. We have subsequently reviewed the modified strategy for completing the tests of both HVAC systems. As a result of this review we have determined that the original upgrade plan for the CH Building system was appropriate. WIPP is unable, however, to recover the original schedule; consequently, the CH Building HVAC system upgrade will be completed about six weeks later than originally anticipated. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused in your monitoring of WIPP activities.

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

Sincerely,

Inés R. Triay
 Dr. Inés R. Triay, Manager
 U.S. Department of Energy

John L. Lee
 John L. Lee, General Manager
 Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC



Mr. Steve Zappe

-2-

November 7, 2001

cc:

J. Bearzi, NMED

J. Kieling, NMED

M. Kruger, EPA

D. Neleigh, EPA