

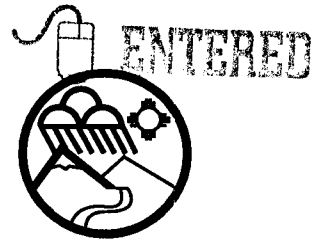


GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Telephone (505) 428-2500
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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 30, 2002

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: 30-DAY EXTENSION FOR RESPONSE TO NMED'S COMMENTS ON THE WIPP
GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORT FOR MARCH – JUNE 2001, ROUND 12
WIPP HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Dr. Triay and Mr. Lee:

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) is in receipt of a letter dated April 24, 2002 from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) requesting a 30-day extension to respond to NMED's April 5, 2002 comment letter on the "WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Semiannual Groundwater-Monitoring Report", Sampling Round 12, March through June 2001. NMED's April 5 comment letter (received by CBFO on April 11, 2002) requested a response to comments within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the letter. CBFO's extension request stated that the development of a response is not feasible at this time because all current resources are being utilized in the groundwater sampling efforts to complete Round 14 of the Detection Monitoring Program.

Based on the information provided by CBFO in the extension request, NMED hereby approves a 30-day extension for CBFO to submit a response to comments no later than June 10, 2002.

020431



Dr. Inés Triay
Mr. John Lee
April 30, 2002
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact William Fetner of my staff at (505) 428-2520 or me at (505) 428-2517.

Sincerely,



Steve Zappe
WIPP Project Leader
Permits Management Program

Attachment

cc: James Bearzi, Chief, HWB
John Kieling, Manager, Permits Management Program, HWB
Will Fetner, HWB
Laurie King, EPA Region 6
Connie Walker, TechLaw, Inc.
WIPP File - Red '02