



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



JUN 17 2002

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Dr. Inés R. Triay, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Dear Dr. Triay:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 2002, in which the Department of Energy (DOE) notifies the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its plans to mine a ventilation overcast in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). EPA has completed an evaluation of DOE's overcast plans and considers this activity to be part of routine operations and maintenance for the WIPP facility. Other examples of routine activities are:

- trimming, scaling and floor milling activities
- installation of bolts and wire mesh
- bolt and mesh ribs
- grouting related to roof bolting
- installation of supplemental support
- periodic roof maintenance - removal of unstable parts
- clearing an area for muck disposal
- installation of equipment/instruments related to geomechanical and ground water monitoring as required by EPA
- installation of ground control monitoring devices.

Such activities do not need to be reported to EPA except in the Annual Change Report as activities that have taken place during the past year. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Monroe at (202) 564-9712.

Sincerely,

Frank Marcinowski, Director  
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Cindy Zvonar, CBFO  
Matthew Silva, EEG  
Steve Zappe, NMED

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