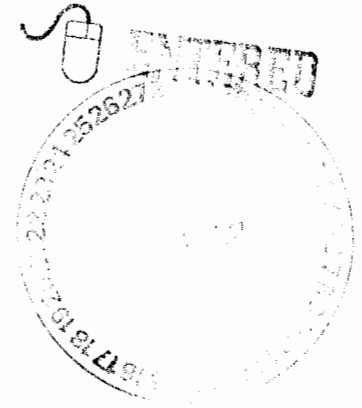




Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

JUN 21 2002



Mr. Jim Bearzi,
General Manager Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Dr. Bldg-E
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Subject: Request for an Extended Public Comment Period for the Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Modification Request

Dear Mr. Bearzi,

The purpose of this letter is to request an extended public comment period on the class three *Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Modification Request*. We intend to submit the permit modification request before the end of June. The request propose a waste analysis plan for the characterization of remote handled transuranic (RH TRU) waste. Additionally, it details the facility changes for the management, storage, and disposal of RH TRU waste and describes changes to waste handling processes and procedures specific to RH TRU waste. Pursuant to the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act 20.4.1.900.NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 270.42) the public shall be provided at least 60-days to comment on the modification request. Due to the volume and complexity of the subject permit modification request and the public's need to adequately review and give comment, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is requesting an extended comment period of 120-days be placed in the public notification.

The regulations also provide for a public meeting no earlier than 15-days after the publication of the public notice of the permit modification request and no later than 15-days before the close of the *60-day comment period*. The regulations do not address the time period for public meetings when extended comment periods are in place. It is the WIPP recommendation that the New Mexico Environment Department establish the time period for the public meetings be between days 75 and 105 after the publication of public notice and that the public meetings be held in Carlsbad and Santa Fe, New Mexico. WIPP believes that this time period is appropriate to give the public adequate time for review of the permit modification request and formulate questions for the public meetings should the 120-day comment period be granted.

Please address the request for an extended comments period for the RH TRU Waste Permit Modification request and approval of the time period for the public meetings to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clayton Gist, Manager
RH TRU Program

cc:
S. Zappe, NMED
CBFO M&RC





PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

On Proposed Modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

WHO: The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (WTS)

WHAT: DOE and WTS will conduct public information meetings to discuss the proposed Class 3 permit modification to manage, store and dispose of remote-handled transuranic waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

WHEN/ WHERE:	Day, Date Time	Day, Date Time
	Skeen-Whitlock Building 4021 National Parks Highway Carlsbad, New Mexico	Courtyard by Marriott 3347 Cerrillos Road Santa Fe, New Mexico

WHY: On **June XX, 2002** CBFO submitted the following class 3 modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department.

1. ***The Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste modification request (formally titled: Request for RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification in Accordance with 20.4.1.900 NMAC Incorporating 40 CFR Part 270).*** The request seeks to allow for the management, storage, and disposal of remote-handled transuranic mixed waste at WIPP. A Waste Analysis Plan that describes the methods used to characterize the waste prior to shipment to WIPP is included in the modification request.
2. Additionally, the proposal requests minor facility changes at WIPP and changes to waste handling processes and procedures specific to remote-handled transuranic waste.

HOW: To obtain additional information about this Class 3 permit modification request, contact Ms. Susan Scott at 1-800-336-9477. The proposed permit modification is also available on the WIPP Web site at <http://www.wipp.ws> and at the WIPP Information Center, Skeen-Whitlock Building, 4021 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

COMMENTS: Written comments must be sent to the address below and received no later than 5:00 p.m. on DATE.

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: 505-428-2517
E-mail: steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us

The permittees' compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from Mr. Steve Zappe at the New Mexico Environment Department.

If you have comments relative to this permit modification request, and would like them addressed by the permittees, please submit them to Ms. Susan Scott, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221 no later than (7 Days).