

**Subject:** NMED issuance of RH Waste Notice of Deficiency

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Greetings -

On Wednesday, March 5, 2003, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Notice of Deficiency (NOD) to the Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) regarding their June 28, 2002 Class 3 permit modification request to accept remote handled (RH) TRU waste at WIPP. I was out of the office last week observing a waste characterization audit at Rocky Flats when the NOD was issued, and was unable to update the NMED WIPP Information Page with this information until yesterday.

For more information about the NOD and to view/download a copy of it, go to <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/#news>>.

The next step in the regulatory process will be for CBFO and WTS (the Permittees) to respond to NMED's comments and to submit a revised permit modification request for NMED's consideration. NMED has given the Permittees sixty days from receipt of the NOD to respond. Upon receipt of their response, I will notify you via e-mail of its availability. Although there is no provision for a formal public comment period upon receipt of a revised permit modification request, NMED remains committed to public involvement and will accept any comments submitted to the agency for incorporation into the administrative record.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Thanks!

Steve Zappe  
NMED WIPP Project Leader

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