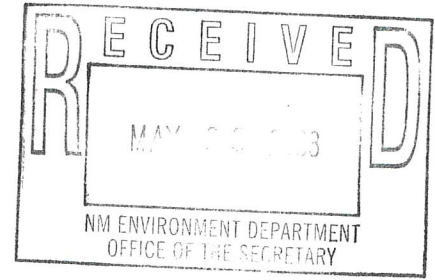




Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
May 6, 2003

ENTERED



Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
400 State Capitol, Room 400
416 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Subject: Shipments of Contact-Handled Transuranic Waste from the Argonne National Laboratory-East to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Dear Governor Richardson:

In accordance with the Department of Energy's (DOE's) commitments to the Council of State Governments, and the Western Governors' Association, DOE is providing 14-day prior notification of the first five shipments of transuranic nuclear waste from the Argonne National Laboratory-East (ANL-E), in Argonne, Illinois. These will be the first of 14 scheduled shipments made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The first shipment is planned to occur on May 20, 2003. The next four shipments are scheduled for June 11, 13, 16, and 20th. This shipment schedule is pending ANL-E certification audit report approval from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Following NMED approval, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) will certify ANL-E to perform characterization and certification of TRU Waste for disposal at the WIPP. If there is cause for delay, you will be notified and informed of subsequent shipping plans through receipt of an updated 8-week Rolling Schedule, as soon as schedule changes are determined.

These five shipments will each consist of one truck, with three TRUPACT-II shipping casks. The TRUPACT-II shipping casks have been certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the transport of nuclear materials. Each shipment will consist of up to 42 drums of contact-handled transuranic waste.

Shipments from ANL-E will travel primarily using the U.S. interstate highway system; on surface roads to Interstate 55 south to Interstate 80 west to Cheyenne, WY; south on Interstate 25 to US 285 in New Mexico; south to the WIPP relief route north of Carlsbad and US 62/180 east to the WIPP access road. This route has been agreed to with state representatives and emergency response training has been provided upon request.

Thank you for your continued support in making the clean up and transportation of transuranic waste a success. If you have any questions concerning this notification, please contact Mr. Ralph Smith at (505) 234-7335.

Sincerely,

Dr. Inés R. Triay
Manager

