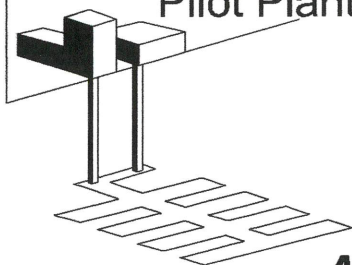


Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet

DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit



Addition of new Hazardous Waste Numbers

Background The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed a modification to its Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in an effort to improve DOE environmental cleanup efforts.

The existing HWFP, issued in October 1999 by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), lists all hazardous wastes and their associated identification numbers that can be accepted and disposed of at the WIPP facility.

Recently, Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) has requested that additional hazardous waste numbers be added to the current list of acceptable chemical waste numbers at WIPP. Most of these chemicals have been treated and no longer exist in their original states. However, both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and WIPP regulations require that all hazardous waste numbers continue to be listed even after treatment. 40 CFR §261.3(c)(2)(i) states: *“Any waste derived-from treating a hazardous waste is itself a hazardous waste. Such “derived-from” wastes are assigned the waste code(s) of the incoming (i.e., treated) wastes. Thus, if more than one listed waste was treated, the treated residue would be identified by all of the listed wastes treated.”*

What is Proposed? DOE submitted the Class 2 permit modification request to NMED on May 13, 2003, to add these hazardous waste numbers to the approved list which would allow WIPP to receive and dispose of waste containing these chemical constituents.

The addition of these hazardous waste numbers will enable RFETS to dispose of its defense-generated transuranic waste that continues to carry these numbers,



even after treatment. Specifically, this permit modification request seeks to add the following hazardous waste numbers:

- D033—Hexachlorobutadiene
- P033—Cyanides (soluble cyanide slats) not otherwise specified
- P098—Potassium Cyanide
- P099—Potassium Silver Cyanide
- P106—Sodium Cyanide
- U003—Acetonitrile
- U103—Dimethyl Sulfate
- U108—1,4-Dioxane

Adding these waste numbers will not change the ability of WIPP to safely protect workers, human health, or the environment, but will enable DOE to more effectively clean up RFETS and proceed with the national cleanup of transuranic waste facilities.

Comments

Comments for the record must be sent to Mr. Steve Zappe, New Mexico Environment Department, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. They may also be e-mailed: steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us or faxed to 505-428-2567. Only written comments will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. MDT on July 14, 2003. A copy of the permit modification may be viewed or copied at the NMED offices of Mr. Zappe. To be placed on the WIPP mailing list, contact Mr. Zappe at the address above.

For more Information

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). You also may visit the WIPP Home Page at <http://www.wipp.ws>. Comments to the Permittees regarding this permit modification may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, Washington TRU Solutions, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221.