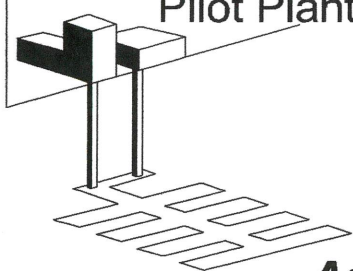


Waste Isolation
Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet



DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Addition of Drum Age Criteria for New Containers

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) to make DOE environmental cleanup efforts more efficient.

The purpose of the drum age criteria (DAC) is to ensure that samples of gaseous volatile organic compounds collected from within a waste container have reached a minimum of 90 percent steady-state equilibrium. This 90 percent steady-state is required to ensure that a representative headspace gas sample is obtained. The DAC values are implemented on a container basis in terms of the number of days required to reach 90 percent steady-state.

A Class 2 permit modification approved by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on November 25, 2002, authorized WIPP to dispose of transuranic mixed waste in direct-loaded 85-gallon drums, 100-gallon drums, and direct-loaded ten-drum overpacks. On adding the new containers to the list of approved disposal containers, NMED specified that DAC values must be established prior to their use. A Class 3 permit modification was approved by NMED on December 31, 2002, which established the BWXT (2000) methodology as the appropriate method for determining packaging-specific DAC values. Section B1-1a(3) of Attachment B1 of the HWFP requires the following: *"If additional packaging configurations are identified, an appropriate permit modification will be submitted to incorporate the DAC using the methodology in BWXT (2000)."*

**What is
Proposed?**

DOE submitted the Class 2 permit modification request to NMED on May 13, 2003, to establish packaging-specific and default DAC values for the newly added containers. The methodology used to determine the packaging-specific DAC values for the newly approved waste containers is the methodology

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stipulated in Section B1-1a(3) of Attachment B1 in the HWFP. This modification request will not adversely affect worker safety, human health, or the environment.

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.