PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

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


WHAT: DOE and WTS will conduct public meetings to provide information on the following requested permit modification. There will be a 60-day public comment period beginning on May 28, 2003.

WHEN: Tuesday, June 24, 2003
5 – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25, 2003
2 – 4 p.m. & 6 – 8 p.m.

WHERE: Skeen-Whitlock Building
4021 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, New Mexico

Courtyard by Marriott
3347 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico

WHY: On May 21, 2003, DOE submitted the following Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

Revise Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Prohibition
On May 15, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved DOE's application for a chemical waste landfill authorization, which allows WIPP to accept TRU waste classified as PCB remediation waste. This modification request would allow the WIPP facility to store and dispose of transuranic waste contaminated with PCBs.

HOW: To obtain additional information concerning this permit modification request, contact Mr. Bobby St. John, WTS, at 1-800-336-9477. The 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. A copy of the requested permit modifications also may be obtained from NMED at the address listed below.

COMMENT: Written comments for the record must be sent to the NMED contact person at the address below and received no later than 5 p.m. on July 28, 2003:

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: 505-428-2517
Fax: 505-428-2567
E-mail: steve_zappe@nmev.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.

QUESTION: Any questions or comments for the Permittees regarding this permit modification may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221, no later than July 20, 2003.
DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Revise PCB Prohibition

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 support the DOE environmental cleanup effort.

The existing HWFP prohibits the WIPP facility from accepting and disposing of waste that contains Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in concentrations greater than 50 parts per million (ppm). The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued the original permit in October 1999. On May 15, 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved DOE’s application to store and dispose of PCB-contaminated waste at WIPP under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

What is Proposed?
DOE submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on May 21, 2003. The change seeks to remove the restriction currently in the HWFP which prevents WIPP from disposing of PCB waste in excess of 50 ppm. No additional operational changes would be necessary at WIPP to accommodate waste containing PCBs (i.e., transportation, waste handling and disposal). Furthermore, this permit change would not alter the ability of the WIPP facility to permanently protect human health and 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 28, 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 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, LLC, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221.