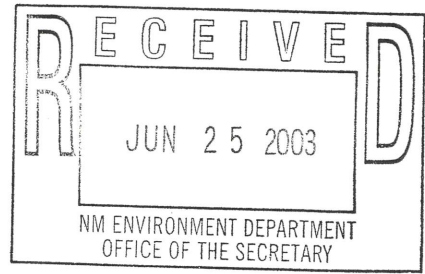




Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
June 16, 2003

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 Nevada Test Site to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Dear Governor Richardson:

In accordance with the Department of Energy's (DOE's) commitments to the Western Governors' Association and Tribal governments, DOE is providing 14-day prior notification of the first five shipment dates of transuranic nuclear waste from the Nevada Test Site (NTS), in Mercury, Nevada. These will be the first of 60 scheduled shipments made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The first shipment is planned to occur on June 30, 2003. The next four shipment dates are scheduled for July 10, 18, 25, and 29th. 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.

There will be a total of eight shipments made from June 30 through July 29th. The shipments scheduled for June 30, July 25 and 29 will each consist of one truck, with three TRUPACT-II shipping casks. The shipments on July 10th and 18th are planned as two truck shipments. 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 NTS are currently scheduled to travel on Nevada route 373 south to California route 127 south to Baker, CA, west on Interstate 15 to Barstow, CA, east on Interstate 40 to Clines Corners, NM; south on US 285, south to the WIPP relief route north of Carlsbad, NM and US 62/180 east to the WIPP access road. Final confirmation of the Nevada/California portion of this route will occur during a conference call with DOE, California, and Nevada scheduled for June 18, 2003.

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

