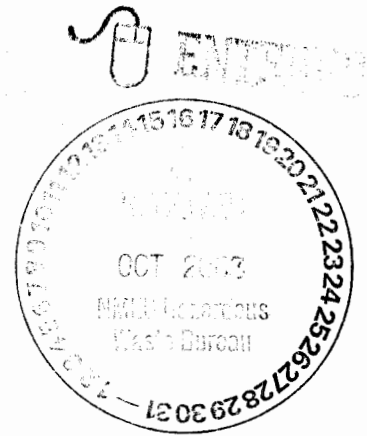




Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

OCT 15 2003



Mr. Steve Zappe, WIPP Project Leader
Hazardous Waste Permits Program
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 E. Rodeo Park Dr. Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's Quarterly Progress Report for Solid Waste Management Unit Activities

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this letter is to submit the subject report, as required by Module VII.I.1 of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit No. NM4890139088-TSDF. This report addresses activities from August 1, 2003 to October 31, 2003.

On September 25, 2003, during a meeting between Steve Zappe of New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the Permittees, a discussion of the No Further Action (NFA) Petition and the review of the petition by the State occurred. During this conversation the NMED was asked the status of their review. The NMED responded that there has not been a review of the document, and recognizes that no change in activities at the Solid Waste Management Units would occur, while this petition is under review.

While awaiting a decision on the NFA petition, the Department of Energy (DOE) requested that the State consider granting relief concerning the submittal of quarterly reports. This letter requests written approval to suspend the quarterly reports until a determination is made concerning further actions required at the Solid Waste Management Units or until activities warrant preparation of a quarterly report. The Permittees understand that the annual fees will be required until a determination has been made.

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations.



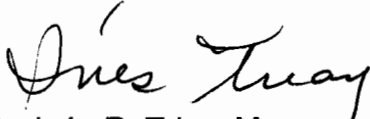
Mr. Steve Zappe

-2-

OCT 15 2003

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Mr. Jody Plum at (505) 234-7462.

Sincerely,



Dr. Inés R. Triay, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office



S. D. Warren, General Manager
Washington TRU Solutions LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure
C. Walker, Trinity Engineering

cc: w/o enclosure
J. Kieling, NMED
S. Martin, NMED

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

**November 2003 Quarterly Progress Report
for Solid Waste Management Unit Activities from
August 1, 2003 through October 31, 2003**

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Acronyms	ii
Introduction	1
Description of the Work Completed	1
Estimate of the Percentage of Work Completed	1
Summaries of Findings	1
Problems and Corrective Actions	2
Projected Work for the Next Reporting Period	2
Summaries of Contacts	2
Changes in Key Personnel	2
Changes in Funding	2
Changes in Implementation	2
References	2

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBFO	Carlsbad Field Office
DOE	Department of Energy
HWFP	Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
NFA	No Further Action
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
SWMU	Solid Waste Management Unit
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

1. Introduction

Module VII.I of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (**HWFP**), number NM4890139088-TSDF, requires that the U.S. Department of Energy (**DOE**) and Washington TRU Solutions LLC, hereafter referred to as the Permittees, submit quarterly progress reports within ninety (90) days of beginning Solid Waste Management Unit (**SWMU**) activities, and succeeding reports every 90 days thereafter. This report summarizes SWMU activities for August through October 2003.

This report contains the following items, as required by the HWFP:

- Description of the work completed;
- Estimate of the percentage of work completed;
- Summaries of findings;
- Summaries of problems or potential problems encountered and corrective actions implemented;
- Projected work for the next reporting period;
- Summaries of contacts pertaining to corrective action or environmental matters;
- Changes in key personnel;
- Changes in funding which may impact the completion date; and
- Summaries of implementation changes.

2. Description of the Work Completed

On October 8, 2002 the WIPP's No Further Action (**NFA**) Petition for SWMUs and Areas of Concern and associated data (herein referred to as the Final NFA Report) was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**). No comments have been received on the Final NFA Report. The Permittees will respond to any comments if requests for additional information are received.

As required by Module VII.I of the WIPP HWFP, a quarterly progress report has been prepared for submittal.

3. Estimate of the Percentage of Work Completed

The work is 100 percent complete pending the approval of the Final NFA Report.

4. Summaries of Findings

No findings or information requiring a summary have been discovered during this quarter.

5. Problems and Corrective Actions

No problems were experienced during this quarter. No potential problems were noted and no corrective actions have been implemented.

6. Projected Work for the Next Reporting Period

The quarterly SWMU Report will be generated. No further work is planned unless the Permittees receive NMED comments on the Final NFA Report. If comments are received the comments will be resolved and a revised report will be submitted to the NMED.

7. Summaries of Contacts

On September 25, 2003 a meeting was held between NMED and the Permittees. During the meeting NMED was asked the time frame for review of the NFA Report. NMED responded that the report had not been reviewed and there was a shortage of staff to review the report. The Permittees and NMED realize that no activities would occur at the SWMUs until the report was reviewed. The Permittees requested that NMED consider suspension of the Quarterly SWMU Reports until review of the report was complete and activities occur.

8. Changes in Key Personnel

There were no changes in key personnel this quarter.

9. Changes in Funding

There were no changes in funding this quarter.

10. Changes in Implementation

No changes in the implementation of the *WIPP Facility Work Plan for Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern* (DOE, 2001) were made during this quarter.

11. References

DOE, 2001. *WIPP Facility Work Plan for Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern*. DOE/WIPP-00-2001, Rev. 1.