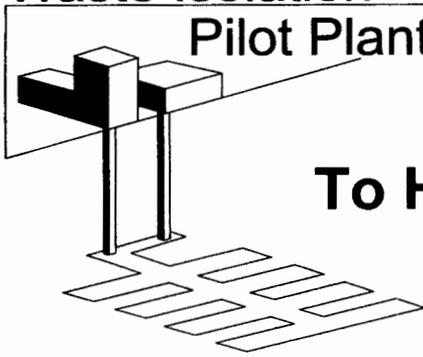
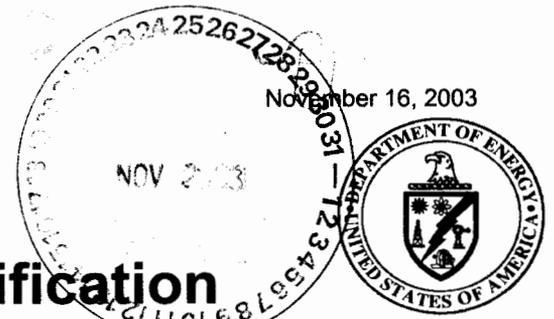


Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet



DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

LANL Sealed Sources Waste Streams Headspace Gas Sampling and Analysis Requirements

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed a modification to its Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to support DOE's national cleanup effort. This Class 2 permit modification request seeks to revise permit requirements for headspace gas sampling and analysis specific to waste streams at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The modification also includes added acceptable knowledge and visual examination requirements for these waste streams to ensure continued compliance with the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. This proposed permit change, submitted by DOE to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on November 14, 2003, will not adversely affect worker safety, public health, or the environment. This is a revised permit modification request, with the original request being submitted on May 13, 2003, and subsequently denied by NMED on September 11, 2003. NMED issued the original Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in October 1999.

What is Proposed?

LANL sealed sources waste streams are generated by the activities of the DOE Off-Site Source Recovery Project (OSRP) managed by LANL. The scope of the OSRP is to recover, transport, and store at LANL radioactive sealed sources that are not being used. A sealed source is defined by 10 CFR §30.4 and §70.4 as any special nuclear material or byproduct material that is encased in a capsule designed to prevent the leakage or escape of the special nuclear material or byproduct. DOE and predecessor agencies used these sealed sources in applications that required high surface dose rates.

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The permit modification request proposes to assign headspace gas volatile organic compound (VOC) concentration values, in lieu of headspace gas sampling and analysis. This would include radioactive sources that are sealed and certified as U.S. Department of Transportation special form radioactive material that do not contain VOCs. This modification request delineates the criteria for assigning VOC values in lieu of headspace gas sampling and analysis for characterizing waste containers with sealed sources. Compliance with the defined criteria must be determined and documented as part of the LANL acceptable knowledge record and the LANL visual examination technique.

This proposed Class 2 modification would allow LANL to safely manage and permanently dispose of these specific waste streams. This waste will meet all permit disposal criteria prior to being shipped to the WIPP facility. The proposed modifications will strengthen WIPP's mission to protect human health and the environment and speed the cleanup of radioactive materials from DOE 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 p.m. MDT on January 15, 2004. 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 may also 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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

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



- WHO:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS)
- WHAT:** DOE and WTS will conduct public meetings to provide information on the following requested permit modification. This is a revised permit modification request, with the original request being submitted on May 13, 2003, and subsequently denied by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on September 11, 2003. There will be a 60-day public comment period beginning on November 16, 2003.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, December 2, 2003
5 – 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 4, 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 November 14, 2003, DOE submitted the following Class 2 permit modification request to the NMED.
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Sealed Sources Waste Streams Headspace Gas Sampling and Analysis Requirements**—this will establish compliance criteria for the assignment of headspace gas volatile organic compound concentration values in lieu of headspace gas sampling and analysis for the characterization of waste containers belonging to LANL sealed sources waste streams. The proposal is limited to those sealed source waste containers for which compliance with the defined criteria is determined and documented.
- 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 Visitor Center, Skeen-Whitlock Building, 4021 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, New Mexico. A copy of the requested permit modification may also 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 January 15, 2004:
- 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@nmenv.state.nm.us
- The Permittees' compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from Mr. Steve Zappe at NMED.
- 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 January 5, 2004.