

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

On Proposed Modifications 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 modifications. There will be a 60-day public comment period beginning on **January 13, 2004**.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 17, 2004
5 – 7 p.m.

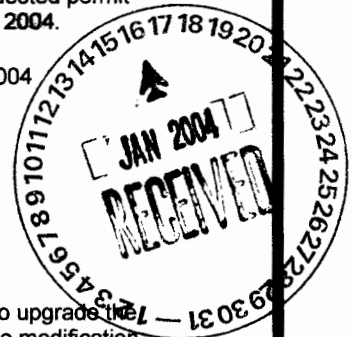
Thursday, February 19, 2004
2 – 4 p.m. & 6 – 8 p.m.

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

Courtyard by Marriott
3347 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico

WHY: On January 8, 2004, DOE submitted the following permit modification requests to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).

- 1. Upgrade Waste Conveyance Loading Car (Class 2)**—This proposed change seeks to upgrade the current waste conveyance loading car by replacing it with facility transport vehicles. The modification request will also revise wording in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) directly related to the conveyance car upgrade. This will not change the WIPP waste handling process, but rather the equipment used in the process. Furthermore, the upgrade would increase WIPP efficiency and safety in handling and disposing of the nation's transuranic waste.
- 2. Addition of Drum Age Criteria (DAC) for New Containers (Class 2)**—In November 2002, NMED authorized WIPP to dispose of transuranic waste in direct-loaded 85 and 100-gallon drums. They also authorized WIPP to dispose of waste in direct-loaded ten-drum overpacks. However, prior to using these new containers, a drum age criteria had to be established for each. This permit modification request establishes the DAC values for each drum to ensure that the waste meets all requirements prior to being transported to WIPP.
- 3. Container Management Improvements (Class 3)**—This proposed permit modification request will improve the ability for the WIPP facility to handle waste containers. Currently, only specific containers listed in the permit are allowed to be handled and disposed of at WIPP. This modification request would clarify container specifications and descriptions, including handling and above-ground storage requirements. It would also address limitations associated with potential receipt of shipments via rail.



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 modification 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 March 12, 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 March 5, 2004.

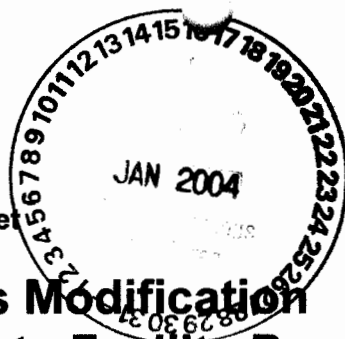
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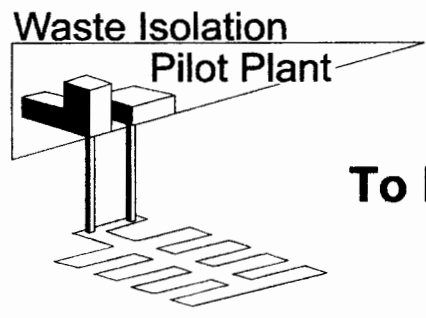
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Zappe

January 8, 2004



Fact Sheet



DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Upgrade Waste Conveyance Car

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 DOE efforts to clean up the nation's defense transuranic waste by upgrading the waste conveyance car.


Waste arrives at the WIPP facility in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission certified type B shipping container. The shipping container is taken to the Waste Handling Building where the waste containers inside the container are removed. The waste containers are then placed on a large metal pallet called a facility pallet. Next, a forklift transfers the loaded facility pallet and places it onto the waste conveyance loading car. This conveyance loading car currently sits on tracks that guide the facility pallet with its waste payload onto the waste hoist. Once on the hoist, the facility pallet descends underground for transport to the disposal area.

The existing waste conveyance loading car was originally constructed in 1985. Replacement parts are hard to obtain, making maintenance on this equipment difficult. This modification request seeks to replace the aging conveyance loading car with facility transport vehicles, which are widely used in the nuclear power, paper, steel, and aerospace industries.

What is Proposed?

DOE submitted this Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on January 8, 2004. The proposed modification seeks the following permit changes:

- Replace the existing conveyance loading car with facility transport vehicles;
- Allow the conveyance car to operate with or without the use of tracks (the facility transport vehicle has an internal guidance system that allows for guided movement without tracks);

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- Allow facility pallets to be moved by using either a forklift or a conveyance car;
 - Elevate facility pallets a minimum of 9.5 inches above the floor;
 - Correct two tables that currently contain incorrect capacities for the conveyance loading cars; and
 - Remove two figures that refer to the incorrect conveyance loading car

This permit modification does not seek to change the waste handling process at the WIPP site, but rather the type of equipment used to transfer the waste while on facility pallets. This modification will further enhance WIPP's ability to safely handle and transport waste at the site in preparation for permanent disposal underground.

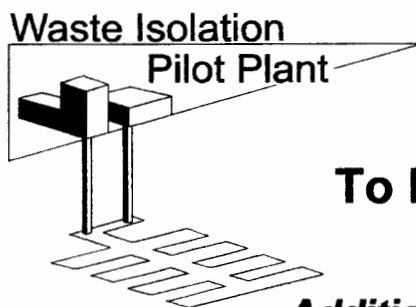
Comments

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 to 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 March 12, 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 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.

January 8, 2004



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 January 8, 2004, 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

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 p.m. (MDT) on March 12, 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.

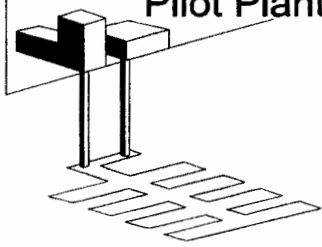
**For more
Information**

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). You 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.

January 8, 2004



Waste Isolation
Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet

DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Container Management Improvements

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 DOE efforts to clean up the nation's defense transuranic waste by improvements in waste container management.

Transuranic waste is shipped to WIPP in Department of Transportation (DOT) "Type B" packages certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Once these packages arrive at the WIPP facility, they are off-loaded from the trailer and taken into the Waste Handling Building (WHB). Once inside the WHB, the waste containers are removed from the transportation package and placed in a designated above-ground storage area, awaiting permanent disposal in the underground. Currently, WIPP is limited on the number of waste containers that can be staged above-ground and the type of waste containers it can receive for disposal at the facility.

What is Proposed? DOE submitted this Class 3 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on January 8, 2004. The proposed modification seeks the following permit changes:

- Increase the permit limitations on storage capacity to the actual design capacity limits;
- Designate an area of the WHB for the unloading of horizontally loaded contact handled packages;
- Allow the use of waste containers meeting the DOT "Type A" or equivalent requirements;
- Allow for expanded use of NRC approved DOT "Type B" packages for storage in the parking area unit (PAU) behind the WHB;
- Expand the PAU to include the rail spurs currently located in back (south) of the WHB; and

- Provide information to support the option of receiving waste shipments via rail.

This permit change does not alter the ability of the WIPP facility to safely and effectively manage and permanently dispose of TRU waste. It simply improves its ability to accept and manage a variety of waste containers.

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 also may be e-mailed to 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 March 12, 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), or 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.