

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

RECEIVED



On a 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. There will be a 60-day public comment period beginning on January 15, 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 12, 2004, DOE submitted the following Class 3 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).



Revisions to Current WIPP Waste Analysis Plan (Class 3)—This proposed modification request will allow WIPP to comply with Public Law 108-137, which was signed on December 1, 2003. Specifically, this modification will address confirmation methods used to ensure that waste shipped from the generator sites is acceptable at the WIPP site. The monitoring of volatile organic compounds will also be revised. These compounds will now be monitored in each underground disposal room in which waste has been emplaced until that specific disposal panel has been closed.

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 15, 2004:

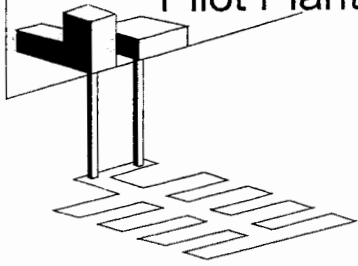
Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Phone: 505-428-2517
Fax: 505-428-2567
E-mail: steve_zappe@nmenv.state.nm.us

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 March 8, 2004.



Waste Isolation
Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet



DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Revisions to Current Waste Analysis Plan

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.

Currently, TRU waste generator sites are required to perform a number of verification activities prior to sending waste to WIPP. Many of these activities are used as a confirmation mechanism or double-check to confirm the accuracy of previous tests. Most confirmation tests are performed on every drum of waste that is intended to be shipped to WIPP.

To date, tests and verification processes have been performed on more than 50,000 waste containers during the 4-year operating life of WIPP. During this time, DOE has comprehensively evaluated the need for continued multiple tests and has determined that elimination of intrusive sampling and analysis is permissible and will not affect the safety of operations, human health, or the environment. The possible reduction in radiation exposure to workers is an added safety benefit.

In November 2003, Congress passed the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004, which became Public Law 108-137, when it was signed by President Bush on December 1, 2003. Section 311 of the Act states:

(a) The Secretary of Energy is directed to file a permit modification to the Waste Analysis Plan (WAP) and associated provisions contained in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). For purposes of determining compliance of the modifications to the WAP with the hazardous waste analysis requirements of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), or other applicable laws, waste confirmation for all waste received for storage and disposal shall be limited to (1) confirmation that the waste contains no ignitable,

corrosive, or reactive waste through the use of either radiography or visual examination of a statistically representative subpopulation of the waste; and (2) review of the Waste Stream Profile Form to verify that the waste contains no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste and that assigned Environmental Protection Agency hazardous waste numbers are allowed for storage and disposal by the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

(b) Compliance with the disposal room performance standards of the WAP shall be demonstrated exclusively by monitoring airborne volatile organic compounds in underground disposal rooms in which waste has been emplaced until panel closure.

**What is
Proposed?**

DOE submitted this Class 3 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on January 12, 2004, pursuant to this statutory requirement. In accordance with the provisions of Section 311, this modification proposes changes that would:

- Confirm that waste contains no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste through the use of either radiography or visual examination
- Eliminate three confirmation activities
 - Headspace gas sampling and analysis
 - Solids sampling and analysis
 - Visual examination as a quality control check on radiography
- Require generator sites to define their hazardous waste in accordance with local state requirements
- Report material parameter weights to the WIPP Waste Information System
- Ensure the absence of prohibited items
- Monitor the underground disposal rooms for volatile organic compounds, and establish predetermined action levels

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 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), 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.



Department of Energy

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

~NOTICE~

January 15, 2004

**Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Notification of Class 1 Permit Modifications**

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office and Washington TRU Solutions LLC hereby notify you of the following Class 1 Permit Modifications to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Permit Number: NM4890139088-TSDF.

The following Class 1 permit modification notice was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on the date indicated below. Included with the notice is a summary of the change requested.

January 12, 2004 (Class 1)

This modification requested a change in the name of the Manager at the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office from Dr. Inés Triay to Mr. Lloyd L. Piper, II.