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State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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RON CURRY  
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May 14, 2004

Mr. R. Paul Detwiler, Acting Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Dr. Steven Warren, President  
Washington TRU Solutions, LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: COMPREHENSIVE GROUNDWATER MONITORING EVALUATION (CME) OF WIPP  
GROUNDWATER DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM  
WIPP HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY PERMIT  
EPA ID. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Mr. Detwiler and Dr. Warren:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is planning to observe field activities and split groundwater samples with the Department of Energy and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (the Permittees) during a scheduled sampling event of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Detection Monitoring Program. NMED will conduct the field elements of a Comprehensive Groundwater Monitoring Evaluation (CME) on the morning of May 19, 2004 at Detection Monitoring Well WQSP-6, as discussed with Mr. Jody Plum of your staff.

NMED's primary objectives are to: 1) assess compliance with the requirements of Module V and Attachment L of the permit; 2) evaluate laboratory results between the Permittees' and NMED laboratories in light of prior sampling events; and 3) evaluate the Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program of the NMED contract laboratory.

NMED determined that a CME report for WIPP had not been completed to date and consequently will report this CME to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of NMED's Hazardous Waste Grant Commitment with EPA Region 6. The split-sample event will facilitate the field evaluation of sampling and laboratory techniques for the report. NMED may seek assistance from the Permittees in completing applicable sections of the report following the field evaluation and review of analytical results.

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The CME report will summarize pertinent information; explain how information was obtained; identify incomplete or missing data; and describe any potential deficiencies or violations. The report will consist of an introduction; well construction; hydrogeologic characterization, sampling and analysis; well placement; action identifying any deficiencies or violations; and a references section. For further information on CMEs, please refer to the CME guidance document on EPA's website at <<http://www.epa.gov/Compliance/resources/policies/civil/rcra/frcracmedoc-rpt.pdf>>

We look forward to your cooperation in the upcoming split-sample event and your assistance as needed in completing the CME report. Please contact me at (505) 428-2517 or Carl Chavez of my staff at 428-2518 if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Zappe

WIPP Project Leader

Permits Management Program

SOZ:cc

cc: James Bearzi, NMED HWB  
John Kieling, NMED HWB  
Laurie King, EPA Region 6  
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