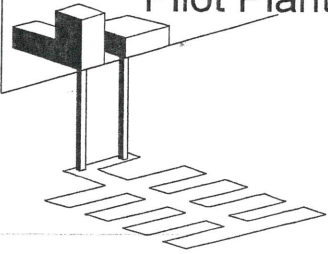


Pam

July 2, 2004

Waste Isolation
Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet

DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit



Procedure for Consideration of Tank Waste

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Washington TRU Solutions, LLC (WTS) have proposed a modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to support DOE efforts to clean up the nation's defense-generated transuranic (TRU) waste.

In November 2003, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a public notice and fact sheet announcing its intent to approve a permit modification it had developed, limiting waste eligible for disposal at WIPP. Specifically, NMED's modification would have limited eligible waste to an inventory established when the permit was originally issued.

The Permittees requested a public hearing be held regarding NMED's modification. On June 2, 2004, NMED and the Permittees filed a joint motion with the hearing officer requesting that the public hearing on NMED's permit modification be postponed indefinitely. This would allow the Permittees time to submit, and NMED to consider, a permit modification request which would supplant NMED's permit modification. On June 3, 2004, the Hearing Officer issued an Order granting the motion.

What Is Proposed

DOE submitted this Class 2 permit modification request to NMED on July 2, 2004, in compliance with the Hearing Officer's Order. This modification request establishes a procedure for approving the disposal of TRU mixed waste from tanks that has ever been managed as high-level waste.

The permit modification will prohibit WIPP from accepting TRU mixed waste from tanks that has ever been managed as high-level waste, unless such waste is first approved by NMED through a subsequent Class 3 permit modification. Any



waste approved for disposal at WIPP as the result of such a Class 3 permit modification will still be required to meet all WIPP waste acceptance criteria (i.e., no liquids, ignitables, corrosives, etc.).

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 September 7, 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.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS



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 July 8, 2004.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, August 10, 2004
5 – 7 p.m. Thursday, August 12, 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 July 2, 2004, DOE submitted the following Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED).
- Procedure for Consideration of Tank Waste at WIPP (Class 2)* — this modification request will establish a procedure for approving the disposal of transuranic (TRU) mixed waste from tanks that has ever been managed as high-level waste. The proposed procedure will prohibit WIPP from accepting and disposing of this tank waste unless it has been approved by NMED through a Class 3 permit modification. Any such waste approved for disposal at WIPP as the result of a permit modification will still be required to meet all WIPP waste acceptance criteria (i.e., no liquids, ignitables, corrosives, etc).
- 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 September 7, 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. Zappe at NMED.
- QUESTION:** 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 August 30, 2004.