



**Department of Energy**  
 Carlsbad Field Office  
 P. O. Box 3090  
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221  
 December 21, 2004



Mr. Steve Zappe, Project Leader (WIPP)  
 Hazardous Waste Permits Program  
 Hazardous Waste Bureau  
 New Mexico Environment Department  
 2909 E. Rodeo Dr. Bldg 1  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6303

Subject: Notification of Mining of Panel 4

Dear Mr. Zappe:

The purpose of this letter is to submit a notification to the New Mexico Environment Department and to the facility mailing list of the commencement of mining activities for the Panel 4 Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit (HWDU) on or about January 25, 2005.

The commencement of mining of Panel 4 is necessary as a result of the proposed shipping schedule. It is anticipated that Panel 3 could be full in November of 2006 and because of the length of time required to mine a panel the Permittees must begin mining Panel 4 in late January so that Panel 4 is certified and ready to accept waste upon closure of Panel 3.

Sincerely,

Lloyd L. Piper  
 Acting Manager

cc:  
 C. Walker, Trinity Engineering \*ED  
 J. Bearzi, NMED ED  
 J. Kielling, NMED ED



Mr. Steve Zappe

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December 21, 2004

bcc:

W. Most, WRES	*ED
R. Galbraith, WRES	ED
G. Johnson, WTS	ED
R. Chavez, WRES	ED
R. Kehrman, WRES	ED
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L. Steven, WTS	ED
B. St. John, WTS	ED
RCRA Chronology, WRES GSA-109	
CBFO M&RC	