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,

[Signature]
Lloyd L. Piper
Acting Manager

CC:
C. Walker, Trinity Engineering  *ED
J. Bearzi, NMED  ED
J. Kieling, NMED  ED
Mr. Steve Zappe

December 21, 2004

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

*ED denotes electronic distribution
CBFO:AMO:HL/PA:GSA:04-17650:FOC 5466.00