



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



APR 26 2005

Ms. Sharon White
Radiation Protection Division
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460



Subject: Courtesy Notification of Waste Emplacement in Panel 3

Dear Ms. White:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that waste emplacement in Panel 3 at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Project (WIPP) will begin on April 27, 2005. The WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) limits the volume of the waste containers that may be emplaced in Panel 2 to 18,000 cubic meters. The volume of waste containers emplaced in Panel 2 is now approximately 17,450 cubic meters. We will continue to fill Room 1 of Panel 2 until the allowable capacity is reached. In order to optimize usage of Panel 2, emplacement of waste will be sequenced between Panel 2 and Panel 3 until waste emplacement reaches the permitted limit for Panel 2. It is anticipated that Room 1 will only be partially filled upon completion of waste emplacement in Panel 2 and EPA will be notified of the amount of the unused volume.

In transitioning from Panel 2 to Panel 3, ventilation control barriers will be used to reconfigure the air ventilation flow from Room 1 of Panel 2, to Room 7 of Panel 3 to maintain the air flow in the active room when waste is being emplaced.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. George Basabilvazo at (505) 234-8103.

Sincerely,


Dr. Inés R. Triay
Acting Manager



Ms. Sharon White

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cc:

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