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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

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May 11, 2005

Ms. Sharon White
US EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (6608J)
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: REQUEST TO BE INCLUDED IN EPA-WIPP TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND
CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING WIPP REGIONAL HYDROGEOLOGY**

Dear Ms. White:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has imposed requirements in the WIPP hazardous waste facility permit on the Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (**the Permittees**) to implement a groundwater detection monitoring program consistent with 40 CFR §264 Subpart F. Permit requirements include monitoring for hazardous constituents and indicator parameters in seven detection monitoring wells (WQSP-1 through WQSP-6 and -6a); determining the groundwater surface elevation; and determining regional groundwater flow rate and direction in a broader network of monitoring wells.

NMED has observed that although Washington TRU Solutions staff is technically capable of satisfying the groundwater monitoring requirements of the permit, they generally do not possess the expertise to answer our questions regarding the regional setting of the Rustler Formation. During discussions with the Permittees, NMED is aware of are other technical discussions and correspondence related to the WIPP regional hydrogeology between EPA, CBFO, and WIPP's scientific advisor, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). While the basis for many of these discussions and letters appear to be driven by the Compliance Recertification Application submitted to EPA, I believe NMED could benefit from periodic participation in these discussions and by being included in the distribution lists of relevant correspondence between EPA and CBFO. Therefore, I am requesting your support for NMED's involvement in your staff's interactions with CBFO and SNL regarding regional hydrogeology related to WIPP.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 428-2512 or Steve Zappe of my staff at 428-2517.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

cc: Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
Carl Chavez, NMED HWB
Nick Stone, EPA Region 6
Connie Walker, Trinity Engineering Associates
File: Red WIPP '05