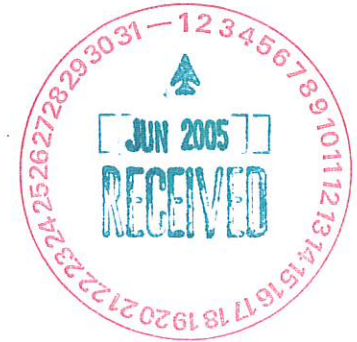


Department of Energy
 Carlsbad Field Office
 P. O. Box 3090
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

MAY 31 2005

 **ENTERED**



Mr. Clint Marshall
 Ground Water Quality Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 P.O. Box 26110
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Subject: Notification of the Freeboard Levels in the Sewage Lagoons and the H-19 Evaporation Pond and Monthly Construction/Dewatering Progress Report for Stormwater Infiltration Control Pond A

Dear Mr. Marshall:

The purpose of this letter is to report the Freeboard Levels remaining in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Sewage Lagoons and the H-19 Evaporation Pond.

Your letter dated December 28, 2004, approved the corrective actions proposed by Department of Energy (DOE) for required DOE provide notification to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by the last day of each month. As requested, the freeboard levels for May 2005 are listed below.

Location	Remaining Freeboard on May 16, 2005
Settling Pond 1A	33 inches
Polishing Pond 1B	30 inches
Settling Pond 2A	30 inches
Settling Pond 2B	32 inches
Evaporation Pond A	27 inches
Evaporation Pond B	26 inches
Evaporation Pond C	26 inches
H-19 Evaporation Pond	30 inches

A minimum of two feet of freeboard has been re-established in all seven ponds in the sewage lagoon system and the H-19 Evaporation Pond. For this reason, the corrective actions approved in your December 28, 2004, letter have been completed and this will be the last monthly status report on the freeboard levels in these ponds. The WIPP project will return to the normal inspection schedule and discontinue daily inspections of the sewage system ponds and the H-19 Evaporation Pond.

A Notice of Intent dated March 4, 2005, from DOE to you, references your request for WIPP to provide NMED with a monthly report of the status of activities for the construction of Storm Water Infiltration Control Pond A. Correspondence dated May 6,



Mr. Clint Marshall

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May 16 and May 19, 2005, documents efforts taken to transfer water from Pond A to Ponds 1 and/or 2 to facilitate drying Pond A so that construction may be continued. All water has been removed from Pond A; however, the dirt is not dry enough to permit the use of heavy equipment at this time. We are currently attempting to schedule the liner and construction contractor to complete the earthwork and liner installation in Pond A in early June 2005.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (505) 234-7462.

Sincerely,



Ines R. Triay
Acting Manager

cc:

J. Kieling, NMED * ED
J. Bearzi, NMED ED
CBFO M&RC

*ED denotes electronic distribution