

ENTERED

Southwest Research and Information Center

P.O. Box 4524, Albuquerque, NM 87106

(505) 262-1862

FAX Number: (505) 262-1864

USER'S DOCUMENT COVER SHEET

TO: Tim Hall

FAX #: _____ TEL. #: _____

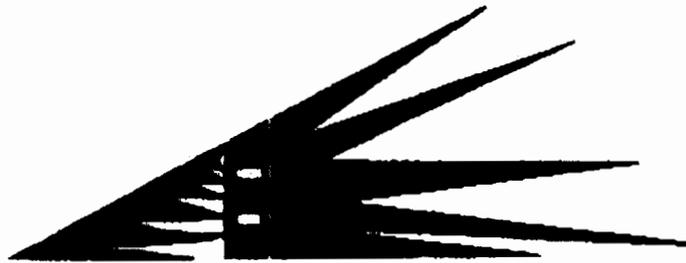
FROM: Don Hancock

DATE: _____

NUMBER OF PAGES IN DOCUMENT, INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 11

111207



**SOUTHWEST RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTER****P.O. Box 4524 Albuquerque, NM 87196 505-262-1862 FAX: 505-262-1864 www.sric.org**

December 5, 2011

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: WIPP Class 2 Permit Modifications – Ventilation and Ground Water Monitoring

Dear Tim,

Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) provides the following comments on two Class 2 permit modification requests that were submitted by the permittees on September 30, 2011, according to their public notice. SRIC is commenting separately on the third request regarding shielded containers.

SRIC appreciates that the permittees provided drafts of the three proposed requests and that representatives of the permittees as well as NMED met with SRIC and other citizen group representatives on August 30, 2011. SRIC continues to believe that such pre-submittal meetings are useful and supports continuing that “standard” practice in the future. SRIC also notes that there were some changes made in the modification requests after the pre-submittal meeting.

Pursuant to 20.NMAC 4.1.900 (incorporating 40 CFR 270.42(b)(7)) and its historic practices, NMED may modify the class 2 modification requests. SRIC believes that some changes are necessary regarding both requests.

Update Ventilation Language

As an initial matter, SRIC notes that on October 7 NMED approved the permittees’ September 29, 2011 request for a temporary authorization to allow entrance into a room actively managing remote-handled (RH) waste when ventilation is less than 35,000 scfm. SRIC also is aware of additional comments submitted on November 18 by the permittees that suggested changes to the request.

SRIC’s primary concern is that adequate ventilation always be maintained in the Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (HWDUs). The concern is reinforced by the measured levels

of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Underground HWDUs during the past three years, which have exposed workers to higher levels of carbon tetrachloride than were contemplated when the permit was issued in 1999. SRIC's concerns about the request and the Temporary Authorization are that they could allow instances in which adequate ventilation is not maintained and that any such instances would not be reported to NMED. SRIC also believes that changes in permit language need to be carefully crafted so as not to be confusing or inconsistent with other provisions of the Permit. Further, based on the discussion at the pre-submittal meeting on August 30, 2011 and the information in the request, SRIC believes that there are few situations in which the existing permit language is not appropriate. Thus, any modifications to the Permit regarding ventilation should be minimal and necessary and not result in workers being allowed to emplace CH or RH waste in rooms when ventilation is less than 35,000 scfm.

Regarding the proposed new definition in Part 1.5.19 Filled Room, SRIC agrees with the language of the November 18 comments, not the proposed language in the request. The language in the comment is consistent with that of Part 1.5.16 Filled Panel. Thus, the Permit would state:

1.5.19. Filled Room

"Filled Room" means a room in an Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit as specified in Permit Part 4 that will no longer receive waste for emplacement.

In the November 18 comments, the permittees also propose a new Part 1.5.20 Active Disposal Room that was not included in the request. SRIC believes that the practice of significantly revising a request with new language is undesirable for at least two reasons. First, it indicates that the request was not complete and accurate, which it must be. An incomplete request is grounds for denial by NMED, pursuant to 20.NMAC 4.1.900 (incorporating 40 CFR 270.42(b)(7)(i)). Second, the permittees' comments on requests are not widely disseminated by the permittees, so they are not available to the general public that could comment on the request. In this particular instance, SRIC asked for and received the permittees' comments from NMED, so we can comment on the proposed change. SRIC also recognizes that if public comment or other factors result in the permittees recognizing the need to revise the request, the permittees may comment on their own request. In the future, SRIC requests that the permittees post their comments on modification requests in the Information Repository on the WIPP Home Page <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>. Such public dissemination would allow interested persons to be aware of such comments.

SRIC does not agree with all of the language of proposed Part 1.5.20 Active Disposal Room. Specifically, the word "Disposal" is unnecessary and not consistent with other language in the Permit. For example, Permit Part 4.4.1. Room-Based Limits specifies that an "open room" is "active." The request proposes new language in Part 4.5.3.2. Ventilation with the language of "active room," which the permittees do not propose to change in their comments. Thus, the comment and the request are inconsistent. Moreover, SRIC is not convinced that a further definition of "active room" is necessary and urges that NMED not include such a new provision. If NMED decides to incorporate a new definition, SRIC would support:

1.5.20. Active Room

"Active Room" means a room in an Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit as specified in Permit Part 4 that contains emplaced TRU waste and is not a filled room.

Regarding the specific proposed change to Part 4.5.3.2 in the request, SRIC could support the following language:

4.5.3.2. Ventilation

The Permittees shall maintain a minimum running annual average mine ventilation exhaust rate of 260,000 standard ft³/min and a minimum ~~room~~ **active** room ventilation rate of 35,000 standard ft³/min when workers are present in ~~the~~ an active room adjacent to a filled room or in Room 7 of any panel, as specified in Permit Attachment A2, Section A2-2a(3), "Subsurface Structures (Underground Ventilation System Description)" and as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 264.601(c)).

Revise WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan

SRIC recognizes that the Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Plan must be revised to address concerns about the program and that NMED approved the Groundwater Permit Modification Work Plan on August 5, 2011.

SRIC requests that the typographical error in the caption of Figure L-2 be corrected, as follows:
Figure L-2 – WIPP Facility Boundaries Showing 16-square-Mile Land Withdrawal Boundary

Table 1 on page 16 of the request correctly states that the Land Withdrawal Area (LWA) is 16 square miles. The List of Figures on page B-12 has the correct title. Section L-1 of the request, page B-16, correctly states that the LWA is 16 square miles. Existing Permit Figure L-2 caption is 16-square-miles, so the proposed caption in the request is clearly an erroneous typographical error that NMED should correct.

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety joins in these comments.

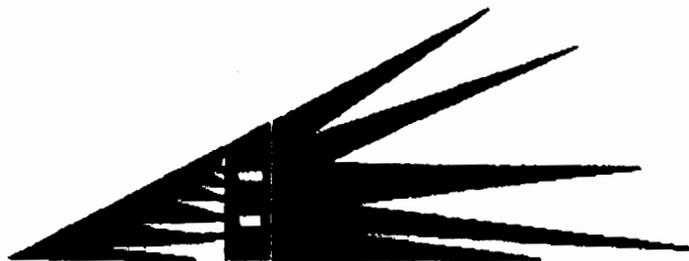
Thank you very much for your careful consideration of, and your response to, these and all other comments.

Sincerely,



Don Hancock

cc: John Kieling

**SOUTHWEST RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTER****P.O. Box 4524 Albuquerque, NM 87196 505-262-1862 FAX: 505-262-1864 www.sric.org**

December 5, 2011

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: WIPP Class 2 Permit Modification – Addition of a Shielded Container

Dear Tim,

Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) provides the following comments on the Addition of a Shielded Container Class 2 permit modification request that was submitted by the permittees on September 30, 2011, according to their public notice. SRIC is commenting separately on the other two class 2 requests regarding ventilation and groundwater monitoring.

SRIC appreciates that the permittees provided drafts of the three proposed requests and that representatives of the permittees as well as NMED met with SRIC and other citizen group representatives on August 30, 2011. SRIC continues to believe that such pre-submittal meetings are useful and supports continuing that “standard” practice in the future. SRIC also notes that there were some changes made in the modification request after the pre-submittal meeting, although several major changes suggested by SRIC at the pre-submittal meeting were not incorporated into the modification request.

1. NMED must deny the modification request

Pursuant to 20.NMAC 4.1.900 (incorporating 40 CFR §270.42(b)(7)), NMED may deny the class 2 modification request for any of three reasons. SRIC believes that denial is required because the request is deficient under each of the three criteria -- the request is not complete, the request does not meet the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Hazardous Waste Act (HWA), and the request does not demonstrate that the changes requested will protect human health and the environment.

A. The request is not complete. 40 CFR §270.42(b)(7)(i)
Despite the discussion at the pre-submittal meeting, the request does not include important information necessary for the public to adequately comment and for NMED to determine that the

modification would protect public health and the environment and comply with other provisions of RCRA and the HWA. For example, the modification request does not provide any limits to the amount of remote-handled (RH) waste in shielded containers that can be stored in the Parking Area Unit (PAU) or in the contact-handled (CH) Bay of the Waste Handling Building (WHB). The Permit allows no RH waste in the CH Bay Storage Area, in the CH Bay Surge Storage Area, and in the Derived Waste Storage Area. Permit Part 3.1.1.2 and Table 3.1.1.

The purpose of shielded containers request is to allow RH waste to be handled in the precisely those CH areas in which RH waste is currently prohibited. Yet the request includes no changes regarding Table 3.1.1. For example, without changes to Table 3.1.1, as was discussed at the pre-submittal meeting, the entire CH Bay Storage Area could be filled only with RH waste in shielded containers. Similarly, the request also includes no changes regarding Table 3.1.2, so the entire PAU could be filled with RH waste in shielded containers. The request does not discuss those possibilities and is incomplete.

The request does not include the amounts of RH waste that would be managed at WIPP in shielded containers, nor the amount of RH waste that would be managed at WIPP in canisters. Thus, the public and NMED cannot determine, among other things, the types and amounts of RH waste that would be managed in the CH Bay Storage Area, in the CH Bay Surge Storage Area, and in the Derived Waste Storage Area. The public and NMED cannot determine how much RH waste in shielded containers would be emplaced in the Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (HWDUs) and how much RH waste in canisters would be in Panels 6, 7, and 8. Therefore, the request is incomplete.

The public and NMED cannot determine how much capacity would be available for CH waste in the Underground HWDUs if shielded containers were emplaced. The request Figure 3 shows some shielded containers being "randomly placed." However, the request does not describe how "random emplacement" would be accomplished or how it makes the most efficient use of Underground HWDU capacity. Nor is Figure 3 proposed for inclusion in the Permit. Apparently, some CH waste emplacement space will be displaced for RH waste in shielded containers. Whether there is adequate space for remaining CH waste in the WIPP Inventory or whether the permitted capacity for CH waste should be reduced are matters that must be discussed in the request. Therefore, the request is incomplete.

An unstated major purpose of the modification request is to address the permittees' management (or mismanagement) of WIPP over the past 13 years in such a way that there is not enough available capacity in the Underground HWDUs for some of the RH waste in the WIPP Inventory. In Panels 1-5, there are 462 RH canisters emplaced, with a volume of 411.18 cubic meters (462 x 0.89). Panels 6, 7, and 8 have a total capacity of 2,060 canisters (600+730+730), or 1,834 cubic meters, according to Table 4.1.1. Since the permittees have stated that they intend to request a permit modification for panels 9 and 10 to be the same size as panels 1-8, the presumed RH capacity of those two panels would be 1,460 canisters or 1,300 cubic meters. Thus, the total available capacity for RH waste is 3,545.18 cubic meters (411.18+1,834+1,300). That is approximately half of the RH waste legal capacity of 7,079 cubic meters and less than the amount of RH waste described in the 2011 WIPP Inventory (DOE/TRU-11-3425). That this

major purpose and the above data is not even mentioned in the request clearly shows that the request is grossly incomplete.

Page 2 of the request states:

“RH TRU mixed waste emplaced at the WIPP facility in shielded containers will remain designated as RH TRU mixed waste in the WIPP Waste Information System (WWIS). The emplaced volume will be counted against the RH repository limit of 7,080 cubic meters (m³) and RH TRU mixed waste volume limits specified in the Permit.”

Proposed revised Permit Section A1-1b(2) states that “Each 30-gallon inner container has a gross internal volume of 4.0 ft³ (0.11 m³).” Since each shipment could contain a 3-pack of shielded containers, each shipment could have 0.33 cubic meters. Each RH canister holds 0.89 cubic meters. Thus, 100 cubic meters of RH waste in canisters is handled in 113 containers and shipments, whereas 100 cubic meters of RH waste in shielded containers is handled in 304 3-packs and shipments. Therefore, use of shielded containers would substantially increase the number of packages containing RH waste being handled at WIPP, and substantially increase the number of containers arriving at the site and being stored in the PAU, WHB, and Underground HWDUs. However, those matters are not discussed in the request, and the request is inadequate and incomplete.

The request includes a new section in Attachment A1, A1-1d(4) Handling Waste in Shielded Containers, which states:

“If a primary waste container is not in good condition, the Permittees will overpack the container, repair/patch the container in accordance with 49 CFR §173 and §178 (e.g., 49 CFR §173.28), or return the container to the generator.”

At the pre-submittal meeting there was discussion regarding how overpacking would be done. One option mentioned was taking the shielded container to the RH Waste Bay for overpacking. In its November 18, 2011 comments on the class 2 requests, the permittees state (#5, page 2):

“A question was raised by a stakeholder regarding the overpacking of shielded containers should the container integrity be such that overpacking is necessary upon arrival at the WIPP facility. Shielded containers which require overpacking will be managed as any other CH TRU waste requiring overpacking. Overpacking of Shielded Containers is addressed in Permit Attachment A, Section A1-1d(4), Handling RH TRU Mixed Waste in Shielded Containers.”

An additional comment in the November 18, 2011 submittal, regarding Attachment A1, Section A1-1c(1), would add:

“Shielded containers are not stored in the RH Complex of the WHB. Shielded containers will be stored in the CH Bay of the WHB Unit.”

The Permit Section 3.1.1.9 also states:

The Permittees shall store RH TRU mixed waste in casks, canisters, or drums in the RH Complex as described in Permit Attachment A1, Section A1-1c(1).

The language in the additional comment and Permit Section 3.1.1.9 do not include shielded containers, thereby precluding the possibility of overpacking shielded containers in the RH Bay.

Permit Attachment A2-2(b), Page A2-12 of 46, lines 30-31 provides:

If a waste container is damaged during the Disposal Phase, it will be immediately overpacked or repaired.

Thus, the request states that overpacking could be done, but does not describe how overpacking would be done upon arrival at WIPP or if damaged in an Underground HWDU and what overpack container would be used. While Part 3 of the Permit provides that some containers may be used to overpack "CH TRU mixed waste," there is no container specifically allowed for use to overpack shielded containers with RH waste. Thus, the request includes an overpacking provision that is erroneous and cannot be accomplished. Here again, the request is incomplete and inadequate.

Thus, regarding several different essential matters, the request is incomplete and denial of the request is appropriate.

B. The request does not meet the requirements of the HWA and RCRA. 40 CFR §270.42(b)(7)(ii)

The request includes numerous changes to the Permit in how RH waste is packaged (using the shielded container), stored in the PAU, opened in the CH Bay of the WHB, examined for contamination and damaged containers, placed on the facility pallet, and emplaced underground. As already noted above, aspects of handling of shielded containers are not completely and adequately described in the request, as required by the HWA and RCRA.

20.NMAC 4.1.900 (incorporating 40 CFR §270.42(b)(1)(iii)) requires that the request explain why the modification is needed. The request fails to discuss, let alone adequately explain, that a major need is to expand the available disposal capacity for RH waste in the Underground HWDUs (see discussion on pages 2-3 above). It is clearly a violation of the HWA and RCRA to not explain the need, and the request should be denied.

Moreover, the request includes a clearly erroneous statement about the Permit. Page 2 of the request states:

"Quantities of RH TRU waste that arrives in canisters is currently counted based on the volume of inner containers."

On the contrary, as NMED pointed out in its November 9, 2011 letter to the permittees regarding the Revised November 2, 2011 Permit, each canister is counted as 0.89 cubic meters. Thus, the request is not accurate, as required by RCRA and the HWA.

As a related matter, SRIC also would object to the volume of waste in shielded containers being counted based on the volume of the inner container, rather than on the volume of the shielded container itself. Here again, the request is incomplete, because the gross internal volume of the shielded container is not specified.

As will be further discussed in #2 below, the request also does not meet the requirements for a class 2 modification request. Consequently, the request does not meet the requirements of RCRA and the HWA.

Thus, the request does not meet the requirements of RCRA and the HWA and denial of the request is appropriate.

C. The request does not demonstrate that use of shielded containers will protect public health and the environment. 40 CFR §270.42(b)(7)(iii); §74-4-4 NMSA.

The modification request does not discuss the characteristics of RH waste, including that it can have a surface dose rate of up to 1,000 Rem per hour and is highly dangerous to workers and the public. Because of the difficulties of safely permitting RH waste at WIPP, RH waste was not allowed until a Class 3 modification was approved on October 16, 2006, effective November 16, 2006.

As discussed on page 3 above, the use of shielded containers substantially increases the number of packages containing RH waste being handled at WIPP, substantially increases the number of containers arriving at the site and being stored in the PAU, WHB, and Underground HWDUs. In addition to significantly increasing the operations at the site, those increases pose dangers to public health and the environment that are not discussed in the request. The request does not demonstrate that such an increase in the number of packages with RH waste would not endanger public health and the environment. On the contrary, increasing the number of RH waste packages could endanger public health and the environment by requiring additional handling of RH waste, thereby increasing exposures and the likelihood of accidents and releases.

Further, SRIC believes that overpacking of a damaged or leaking shielded container must be required to protect workers and public health and the environment. That there is no overpack container available for shielded containers means that those containers should not be allowed at WIPP. Even a provision requiring that a damaged shielded container be returned to the generator may not be adequate because such return shipment might not be possible if the container is significantly damaged or leaking.

Because the request does not demonstrate that use of shielded containers will protect public health and the environment, denial of the request is appropriate.

2. If NMED does not deny the request, it must process the request as a class 3 permit modification under 40 CFR §270.42(c).

Pursuant to 20.NMAC 4.1.900 (incorporating 40 CFR §270.42(b)(6)(i)(C)), NMED may determine that the modification request must follow the procedures for a class 3 modification because there is substantial public concern about the proposed modification or the complex nature requires the more extensive procedures of class 3. Both requirements are met regarding shielded containers. There is substantial public interest in shielded containers, and there is very substantial public interest in WIPP and RH waste, as has been demonstrated over the past 15 years with the WIPP permitting process in which hundreds of people have participated as well as several organizations, in addition to SRIC, that represent hundreds of other people.

The complex nature of using shielded containers also has been demonstrated by the above comments regarding matters that are not completely included in the request. Handling RH waste at WIPP is demonstrably complex and was subject to class 3 modification procedures in 2005 and 2006. Shielded containers would continue the complexity of the existing RH operations and add new procedures. Thus, shielded containers would multiply the complexity of managing RH waste at WIPP.

Moreover, on October 24, 2011, NMED Secretary David Martin made a determination that the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) class 2 permit modification request for TA-63 Transuranic Waste Facility would be processed as a class 3 modification because of a "long history of substantial public concern regarding the management of hazardous waste at LANL." (Page 2). The NMED Secretary also determined that the modification "would require complex changes to the facility and its operations." (Page 2). There is an even longer history of substantial public concern regarding the management of hazardous waste at WIPP, dating back at least 20 years. That public concern has been manifested repeatedly in the original permitting process, including the public hearing that lasted 19 days in 1999; and in public involvement in numerous permit modification requests over the past 13 years, including the request that allowed RH waste to be managed at WIPP. As already discussed, the use of shielded containers would require complex changes to many aspects of RH management at WIPP.

Moreover, other regulations require shielded containers to be a class 3 modification. 40 CFR §270.42, Appendix I.F.1.a requires that a modification "resulting in greater than 25% increase in the facility's container storage capacity..." is a class 3 modification. Also noted above, there are no limits on the amount of RH waste that could be stored in shielded containers in the Parking Area Unit and CH Waste Bay, so the amount of RH waste allowed in those areas is certainly more than a 25% increase and the amount of RH waste in the WHB can increase by more than 25%.

40 CFR 270.42, Appendix I.F.3.a requires that modifications "That require additional or different management practices than those authorized in the permit" are class 3. The purpose of shielded containers is to require additional and different management practices for RH waste than those in the Permit. Here again, shielded containers require a class 3 modification.

Thus, based on the HWA and RCRA regulations and because of current NMED practices, shielded containers must be processed as a class 3 modification, if the modification request is not denied.

3. The request includes other inadequacies.

A. The request on page 2 states:

"No waste assemblies will be placed on top of a 3-pack assembly of shielded containers because the narrower cross section of the 3-pack assembly of shielded containers may make the stack unstable."

However, the Permit Section A2-1, Page A2-2 of 46, lines 7-8 provides:

The CH TRU mixed waste containers may be stacked up to three high across the width of the room.

Since the request includes no change in that provision and states that shielded containers would be handled as CH waste, other CH waste containers could be placed on top of a 3-pack assembly or a 3-pack assembly could be placed on top of CH TRU mixed waste containers. The request does not demonstrate that such stacking would protect workers or public health and the environment, and indeed the request states that such stacking is not appropriate. SRIC objects to allowing 3-packs of shielded containers to be stacked on top of CH TRU waste containers or to CH TRU waste containers being stacked on top of shielded containers.

B. The request proposes to revise Permit Part 4, Table 4.1.1 to remove the container equivalent column. SRIC strongly objects to such a revision. The limit on the number of RH TRU canisters was supported by public comment and technical testimony in the permit modification process that added RH waste to the Permit. In the request, the permittees have provided no adequate technical basis to remove the column and the limits.

Further, Permit Part 4, Table 4.1.1 as included in the request is not consistent with the November 2, 2011 Revised Permit and must be corrected.

4. SRIC requests a public hearing on any shielded containers modification request.

RH waste and shielded containers are a matter of significant interest to SRIC and the public. As demonstrated by these comments, the use of shielded containers would be complex, and stringent measures are required to protect public health and the environment. The complexity of the matters and the incompleteness of the request require a public hearing so that the matters may be adequately examined, and the required determinations regarding protecting public health and the environment can be adequately made. Therefore, any permit modification to allow use of shielded containers is a major modification, and SRIC requests a public hearing on the current, or any other, shielded containers permit modification request.

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety joins in these comments.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of, and your response to, these and all other comments.

Sincerely,



Don Hancock

cc: John Kieling

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Lucy R. Lippard [flip14@wildblue.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 4:03 PM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV; ccns@nuclearactive.org
Subject: WIPP

I am very concerned that shielded containers at WIPP allow more remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. I request a public hearing on shielded containers, which should be a class 3 modification to allow additional public comment and hearing.

Lucy R. Lippard, 14 Avenida Vieja Galisteo NM 87540

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Marlene Perrotte [MarleneP@swcp.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 9:33 PM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV; Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety; Joan Brown
Subject: Hearing for shielded containers

Dear Mr. Hall

I am very concerned about shielded containers for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose to be stored at WIPP. Shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing. WIPP's mission should not be expanded, Thank you,
Marlene Perrotte

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Lesley Weinstock [lesleyweinstock@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 6:02 PM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: Shielded Containers Proposed for WIPP

Dear Mr Hall:

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Sincerely,
Lesley Weinstock
1712 Richmond NE
Abq, NM 87106

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Virginia J Miller [vjmopus@cybermesa.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 5:22 PM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: Shielded Containers at WIPP/DOE permit request

P.S. It is not even known how well the shielded containers work, OR NOT! RH waste is lethal. Deny this permit. (Rest of message sent a few minutes ago.)

Virginia J. Miller

----- Original Message -----

From: [Virginia J Miller](mailto:Virginia.J.Miller)
To: Timothy.Hall@state.nm.us
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 5:08 PM
Subject: Shielded Containers at WIPP/DOE permit request

**Tim Hall
NM Environment Department
Hazardous Waste Bureau
Santa Fe NM 87505**

DOE's proposal for shielded containers at WIPP is unacceptable and illegal opening the door to the disposal of commercial waste and expanding WIPP beyond its legal mission of disposal of up to 175,564 cubic meters of defense transuranic waste, the limit set by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act of 1992.

Shielded containers allow remote handled (RH) waste to be transported, stored and disposed at WIPP, all of which is very dangerous to people along the route and to workers at WIPP. Also, space for RH waste is becoming more limited by the contact handled (CH) waste for which WIPP was intended.

I request the shielded container permit be a class 3 modification which would allow additional public comments and a public hearing.

Please work with our members of Congress to help prevent new radioactive waste from being produced at LANL. There simply is no truly safe way to transport, store and dispose of this very dangerous and long term waste and no good reason to do it! Thank you.

**Virginia J. Miller
125 Calle Don Jose
Santa Fe NM 87501
505-986-8676**



December 5, 2011

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

E-mail: Timothy.Hall@state.nm.us

Dear Mr. Hall:

Nuclear Watch New Mexico respectfully submits these comments for the Permit Modification Request (PMR) for Addition of a Shielded Container at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The PMR is dated September 2011. **We request a public hearing and that the shielded containers PMR be treated as a Class 3 modification.**

We are very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is more dangerous to transport, store and dispose.

We are concerned that we have not been given the true reason for the Department of Energy's (DOE's) need for this PMR. The stated reason is, "*The use of the shielded containers will enable DOE to significantly increase the efficiency of transportation and disposal operations for RH TRU waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).*" Nowhere in the PMR does it state specifically what efficiencies will be gained. Will shielded containers allow faster transportation and disposal? If so, the proposed new numbers must be given. Will new efficiencies cause job layoffs? Will this PMR save WIPP money?

What we do know is that much of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought contact handled waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited. Available RH space for emplacement in some of the panels was lost. And, from the time RH waste was permitted, DOE still has not shipped RH waste at a rate sufficient to use the available capacity. Is this PMR an effort to catch up on lost opportunities to emplace RH in WIPP? In this Permit Modification Request, **DOE must state a valid reason to use shielded containers.**

The shielded containers request is NOT a Class 2 permit modification. ***We request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a Class 3 modification*** so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

This shielded containers request is NOT a proper Class 2 permit modification. ***We request a public hearing and that the proposal for shielded containers be treated as a Class 3 modification*** so that there would be the opportunity for more extensive public comment and a hearing.

Given the inherent increased dangers of RH waste, the need for much more information, the complexity of the changes proposed, and the public concern about RH waste, shielded containers require a Class 3 modification request. Members of the public had put DOE on advance notice that this should be a Class 3 modification before the Department submitted its request, which it then ignored. This proposal is of more than sufficient significance that NMED should now designate DOE's request as a Class 3 modification and treat it as such.

DOE claims "negligible effect on long-term performance" of the shielded containers. However, no mention is given of any thermal effects of remote-handled waste stored in shielded containers. The thermal effects of remote-handled waste stored in shielded containers on the waste matrix at WIPP must be studied.

Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be managed in a manner consistent with management of CH waste. This language must be changed in the PMR. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked. Further, there is the simple matter of the radically increased weight involved with shielded containers, which logically would call for using different handling procedures than CH wastes.

The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase. The modification request includes no limits on the number of RH shielded containers that could be in the CH Bay, in effect substantially increasing the amount of RH waste allowed. The exact limits must be stated in the PMR.

These comments respectfully submitted,

Jay Coghlan
Scott Kovac
Nuclear Watch New Mexico
551 Cordova Road #808
Santa Fe, NM, 87501
505.989.7342 office & fax
www.nukewatch.org

December 5, 2011

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: WIPP Class 2 Permit Modifications – Ventilation and Ground Water Monitoring

Dear Tim,

Thanks for the pre-submittal meetings.

Ventilation

Card's no.1 concern is that adequate ventilation always be maintained in the Underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (HWDUs). This concern is reinforced by the measured levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the Underground HWDUs during the past three years, which have exposed workers to higher levels of carbon tetrachloride than were contemplated when the permit was issued in 1999. Adequate ventilation might not be maintained under the conditions requested in the permit application. Current permit language is more protective of workers

CARD requests that the permittees post their comments on modification requests in the Information Repository on the WIPP Home Page <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>. Such public dissemination would allow interested persons to be aware of such comments.

Groundwater Monitoring

Issues:

- 1) There is controversy over direction of groundwater flow at WIPP; detection wells to the west and southwest of the site should not be abandoned.
- 2) The 'Annual Culebra Groundwater Report' should be available to the public and should include information concerning individual wells.
- 3) Magenta wells should not be abandoned; Dr. David T. Snow and Dr. Richard Phillips claim a connection between the Magenta and the Culebra.
- 4) Changing Analytical methods merits a permit modification. Without methods approved of by NMED and the public, results will not be easily accepted by the public.
- 5) Page 12, pa 1 states that there has been 'no significant change in the nature of the Culebra water' even though the inexplicable rise and fall of Culebra well heads was a major issue, debated by hydrologists and extensively commented upon by the public during the last EPA re-certification.

Shielded Containers

Due to intense public interest and the fact that the proposed container is untried, this modification should be a class three modification and, as a class 2 modification, should be denied by NMED. We have not seen adequate reasons to change from the present method of transporting and storing remote handled wastes at WIPP to justify changing from a tried and true method to an unknown method of transporting and storing remote-handled waste.

For example, RH waste is currently not allowed in CH handling areas, whereas in shielded containers, it would be. There is no information about what will be done if a container fails or has 'hot spots'. How will workers be protected if these situations occur? 'Over packing' under these conditions has not been adequately explained.

DOE wants us to think of shielded containers as we do of contact handled waste, but this is not a realistic scenario, rather one of wishful thinking. As an example of this, there is no over pack container available for shielded containers as there is for contact handled waste.

Any change in the container equivalent should be a matter of public hearing; in earlier public comment periods the current limit was extensively discussed while in the current request no adequate reason is given for the change.

Respectively Submitted,

Janet Greenwald
Co-coordinator, Citizens for Alternatives
To Radioactive Dumping
202 Harvard, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

December 05, 2011
Tim Hall
NM Environment Department - Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Timothy.Hall@state.nm.us

Re: Department of Energy Class 2 Modification Request to Use Shielded Containers for RH TRU Waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

Citizen Action New Mexico respectfully requests that the New Mexico Environment Department require a Class 3 permit modification application for the use of shielded containers for the transport, storage and disposal of remote handled Transuranic (TRU) waste to WIPP. Citizen Action also requests an additional 60 day extension of the time period for more extensive public comment to consider the matter.

Issues of concern:

1. Whether the shielded containers are suitable to be managed like contact-handled waste when there are damaged or leaking containers that require overpacking.
2. The expansion of the space at WIPP that may be required for use for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose.
3. Additional precautions that may be necessary for protection of the public from the use, transportation and disposal of the shielded containers.
4.
 - a. The potential for additional thermal load in the salt disposal matrix and
 - b. whether such potential effect has been previously tested at the WIPP in relation to
 - c. the projected long term effect of the volume of RH TRU intended for WIPP disposal (describe the projected volume of RH TRU for disposal). What is the potential for variation in the heat load for the shielded containers?
5. The short-term and long term potential for accidents from the use of shielded containers.
6. Whether DOE intends to use such containers for High Level Waste transport.
7. Whether the containers are NRC certified.
8. Whether conditions during and along the transport route for the shielded containers may be exceeded for:
 - Free-drop of 30 feet onto a flat, unyielding surface striking the surface at the container's weakest point;
 - More than a 40-inch free drop onto any object capable of puncturing the container;
 - Subjecting the transportation container to temperature greater than 1,475 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes whether by accident or terrorist act;

- Whether the transportation container may be subjected to external pressure equivalent to being immersed under greater than 50 feet of water.
9. Under what conditions singular or in combination does the potential exist for overheating and melting of the lead liners in the shielded containers.
 10. How will potential variations in heat load from differing radionuclides for energetic gamma radiation be determined and limited.
 11. Under what circumstances can the surface dose rate limit of not greater than 200 mrem/hr be exceeded by the shielded containers.
 12. How would a shipper determine whether a significant change in radiation could result for a specific payload.
 13. Under what circumstances, if any, could criticality take place for shielded containers.
 14. What actual physical, vibrational testing has been performed by DOE for the shielded containers.
 - a. Would Resonant frequencies be generated
 - b. Would torqued bolts be loosened by vibration
 - c. Would press fit items be affected by vibration
 15. Has DOE obtained NRC certification for not using the physical stacking test required under § 173.465(d)
 16. What Unreviewed Safety Questions (USQ) may currently exist for the shielded containers.
 17. Provide any scenarios for loss of the container shielding that may result in melting of the lead liner and outer containment that may result from fires, explosions, loss of confinement, direct radiation exposures, criticality, and externally initiated and natural phenomena.
 18. Will use of shielded containers potentially shorten the closure period for the WIPP facility. What amounts of CH TRU waste could be excluded under projected RH TRU disposal
 19. What are the potential effects of fires, explosions, and externally initiated and natural phenomena on overpacked leaking shielded containers for direct radiation exposures, criticality, and loss of confinement.
 20. What are the urban areas through which the shielded containers will travel and the maximum release that could occur in such an area. Give the latent cancer fatalities and the cost of decontamination and associated economic costs from the maximum credible accident.
 21. Describe what DOE believes to be the Beyond Design Basis accident for the shielded containers.
 22. Describe whether the accident consequences for RH shielded containers can be greater than the consequences for accidents involving contact handled containers.

Respectfully,
 David B. McCoy, Executive Director
 Citizen Action New Mexico
 POB 4276
 Albuquerque, NM 87196-4276
 505 262-1862
dave@radfreenm.org www.radfreenm.org

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Diana Baker [dianabaker105@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 2:33 PM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: Shielded Containers to WIPP

As a former employee of LANL, I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

WIPP was never intended to hold this kind of waste, and is just one more example of DOE improperly expanding operations after initial approval in order to de facto overrule existing ordinances and laws.

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505



RE: WIPP Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be over-packed.

Shielded containers will allow more remote-handled (RH) waste to be emplaced at WIPP because RH waste would continue to be disposed in walls of the underground rooms. Thus, there would be not only more RH waste at WIPP, but also more shipments of RH waste throughout the state of New Mexico, increasing the risk of accidents and exposures to the public.

The amount of RH waste in the Waste Handling Building would dramatically increase because substantial amounts of RH waste would be in the contact-handled waste portion of the building, where they currently are prohibited.

DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste (Greater-Than-Class C waste), expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Thank you for fully considering and responding to my comments.

name Patricia Neal

address 1960 Osage Lane

Santa Fe, NM 87505



150

44c
Stamp

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Dave Milisa [dmilisa@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 11:44 AM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: "Hot" waste to WIPP

Dear Timothy,

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Best,
David Milisa
dmilisa@mac.com

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Earth Spirit [EarthSpirit11@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 9:34 AM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: WIPP

Dear Mr. Hall;

Again, we the people of New Mexico, are about to be deceived. When the Department of Energy (DOE) first held public hearings a couple decades ago regarding the proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the public was assured that only low grade waste would be stored, and that transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated waste would be prohibited.

I knew back then, at that public hearing, that this was just a bogus statement to get the DOE's foot in the door, so to speak, and that soon, they would try to ram the rest of the nuclear waste into a hole that will not be able to contain 100,000 years of radioactivity.

I feel that months of public hearings must be held for DOE plans to allow a class 3 modification to the original WIPP regulations, before any further storage plans can be made.

Sincerely yours,
Denise Trochei

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Jackie Hand [jhand@taosnet.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: Shielded Radioactive Containers

Dear Sirs: I am opposed to any expansion of storage operations at WIPP . The lessons of Fukushima have apparently not been learned. This is not the direction we should be pursuing as a nation. Jacqueline Hand, 304C Montoya Street, Taos, NM 87571.

Hall, Timothy, NMENV

From: Spencer Stall [spencers@kitcarson.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 7:04 AM
To: Hall, Timothy, NMENV
Subject: Shielded Containers Proposed for WIPP

Tim Hall
NM Environment Department - Hazardous Waste Bureau

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Spencer Stall
El Prado, NM



concerned citizens
for nuclear safety

107 Cienega St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505-986-1973 Tel
505-986-0997 Fax
ccns@nuclearactive.org
www.nuclearactive.org



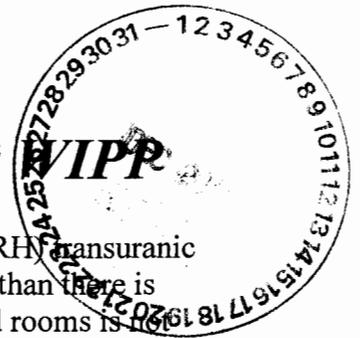
RECEIPT

I, Tim Hark,
received from Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety 17 individually
signed letters expressing citizen concern to the New Mexico Environment
Department regarding the Department of Energy proposal to ship to and
dispose of shielded containers at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Dated: December 5, 2011.

[Signature]
New Mexico Environment Department

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Jeanne-Michèle Charbonnet

1613 Paseo de la Conquistadora

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Glenda L. Littlefield

1610 calle lento

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Roberta Armstrong'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.



Roberta Armstrong
20 Silver Saddle
Lamy, NM 87540

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

A. Webster

20 Silver Saddle

Lamy, Nm, 87540

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Patricia Stephens

14 ALCALDE LOOP

S.F., NM 87508

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Euse Folsom

2868 Plaza Verde

Santa Fe, N.M. 87507

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

JENN ANDERSON

1106 DON GASPARE AVE

SANTA FE, NM 87505

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Ann Anthony →



Ann Anthony
3466 Cerrillos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Kate Daw

3340 Siringo Rd

SF, NM 87507

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Patricia F. Zuck

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

 7 Dec. 2011

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Ann Morgan

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

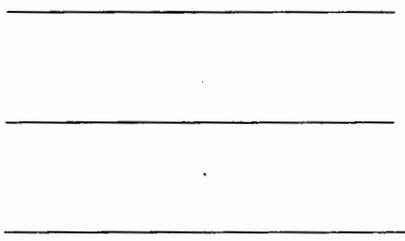
Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

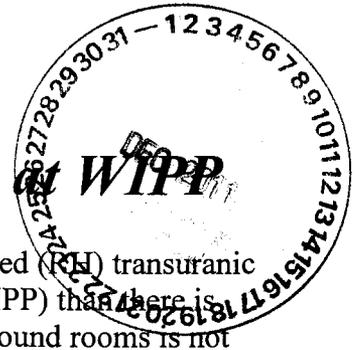
The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Nancy C. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.



Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

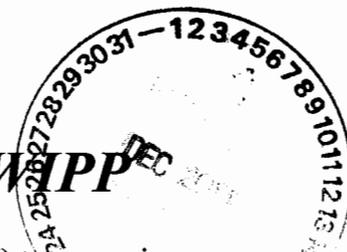
I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Wayne B.

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

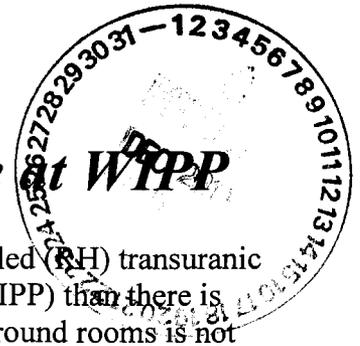
I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Lucas E. Wilson

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP



The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Marilyn Hartington'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Speak Out Against More "Hot" Waste at WIPP

The Department of Energy (DOE) wants to bring more "hot" Remote-Handled (RH) transuranic (TRU-plutonium-contaminated) waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) than there is space available. About half of the planned RH space in the walls of underground rooms is not available because DOE brought waste to WIPP while RH waste was prohibited and, even since RH waste is permitted, still has not shipped RH waste at a rate to use the available capacity.

What are DOE's Plans?

DOE has submitted a *Permit Modification Request - Addition of a Shielded Container* so that it can transport and dispose of RH waste in lead shielded containers. In addition, RH waste would continue to be shipped and disposed in large canisters, as has been done since January 2007. If the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) approves the modification request, RH waste in shielded containers could be trucked to WIPP and emplaced in the underground rooms along with Contact-Handled (CH) TRU waste.

What are concerns about shielded containers?

- The amount of RH waste shipped to WIPP and disposed would substantially increase.
- Contrary to what DOE says, shielded containers cannot be handled the same as CH waste. For example, shielded containers that are damaged or leaking cannot be overpacked.
- The amount of RH waste allowed in the Waste Handling Building would greatly increase.
- DOE also plans to use shielded containers for hotter commercial waste, expanding WIPP beyond its legal limit of 175,564 cubic meters of TRU waste.

What Can I Do?

Submit written comments to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by **December 5, 2011**.

Use the sample comments below, or write whatever you want.

Thank you!

Dear Tim Hall:

I am very concerned about shielded containers. They would expand the space available at WIPP for remote-handled waste that is dangerous to transport, store, and dispose. Despite what the Department of Energy says, shielded containers could not be handled like contact-handled waste because damaged or leaking containers could not be overpacked.

The shielded containers request is not a proper class 2 permit modification. I request a public hearing and that shielded containers be a class 3 modification so that there would be more extensive public comment and an opportunity for a hearing.

Meredith Frank

61640 ALTA Vista S

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Tim Hall
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1,
Santa Fe, NM 87505