



SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

*Hazardous Waste Bureau*

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303  
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030  
[www.nmenv.state.nm.us](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us)



DAVE MARTIN  
Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE  
Deputy Secretary

THOMAS SKIBITSKI  
Acting Director  
Resource Protection Division

January 30, 2013

Jose Franco  
Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
U.S. DOE  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Farok Sharif  
President  
Nuclear Waste Partnership  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

**RE: COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
EPA ID# NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Franco and Sharif:

On November 13, 2012, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a hazardous waste Compliance Evaluation Inspection Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located at 34 Louis Whitlock Dr., Carlsbad. Based on that inspection and review of the information obtained, the NMED has determined that your facility is a Large Quantity Generator and a permitted Treatment, Storage, and Disposal facility of hazardous and mixed-hazardous waste, as defined in the Notification of Regulated Waste Activity Instructions (EPA Form 8700-12). Further, the NMED observed no violations of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC).

WIPP is an underground geological repository licensed to permanently dispose of transuranic waste that is derived from the research and production of nuclear weapons. Hazardous wastes derived at the facility are disposed of off-site through Stericycle Specialty Waste Solutions, Inc.

During the inspection it was noticed that the permanent decontamination stations located in Area 474, the above-ground 90-day accumulation area, were nonoperational. A temporary eyewash station was placed in the area until the permanent decontamination stations could be repaired. A review of the weekly inspection records indicated that the stations have been inoperable since



Messrs. Franco and Sharif  
January 30, 2013  
Page 2

July 2011. Although a temporary eyewash station was placed in the area, NMED recommends as a best-management-practice fixing the permanent decontamination equipment while large volumes of corrosive and flammable wastes are stored in the area.

No further action is required at this time. However, this letter does not relieve WIPP of its obligation to comply with any other applicable laws and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Doug Hopinkah of my staff at 505-222-9542 or [doug.hopinkah@state.nm.us](mailto:doug.hopinkah@state.nm.us). Please address any written response to the attention of Mr. Hopinkah at the address on the letterhead.

Sincerely,



Steve Pullen  
Manager  
Compliance & Technical Assistance Program

SP:dh

cc: Sandra Martin, NMED HWB  
Doug Hopinkah, NMED HWB  
Michael Kesler, Acting District III Manager  
Steve Holmes, NMED HWB  
Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB  
Ricardo Maestas, NMED HWB  
Stewart Jones, URS, Site Environmental Compliance Manager  
Anthony Stone, U.S. DOE, RCRA Program Manager

file: Library #0549