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September 25, 2013

For Immediate Release

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**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT ISSUES APPROVAL OF ANNUAL  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT PERMIT INSPECTION**

**Santa Fe** - On September 20, 2013, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) took final action on an annual permit-based on-site inspection of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit by determining the facility has been operating in full compliance within the Permit. The Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (the Permittees) was inspected by NMED staff November 13 through 15, 2012. As part of the inspection, various records and documents such as monitoring data, training records, and calibration records were requested. NMED received the requested information on July 15, 2013. After an extensive review of the requested documents NMED determined that there were no permit related compliance issues.

NMED acknowledges the Permittees professional and diligent work that results in this kind of strong regulatory compliance. "It is clear the Permittees take regulatory compliance very seriously," said Tom Blaine, the Environmental Health Division Director. "It is no small achievement to have so many records reviewed without a single issue uncovered."

In addition to this inspection, the Enforcement and Compliance Section of the Hazardous Waste Bureau also performed an annual unannounced Compliance Evaluation Inspection. The Hazardous Waste Bureau's WIPP Group mission is to protect human health and the environment by providing high quality and responsive regulatory oversight and technical guidance to the WIPP facility and to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state regulations ultimately achieving the safe disposal of transuranic mixed waste.

More information about the Hazardous Waste Bureau WIPP permit and a copy of the inspection approval letter can be found at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/>

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