

**Allen, Pam, NMENV**



**From:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV  
**Sent:** Friday, May 02, 2014 9:51 AM  
**To:** Allen, Pam, NMENV  
**Subject:** FW: Permit Requirements related to FIRE  
**Attachments:** Fire Suppression Requirements.docx

Email and attachment for WIPP file.

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**From:** Kliphuis, Trais, NMENV  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 2:54 PM  
**To:** Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV; Smith, Coleman, NMENV; Holmes, Steve, NMENV  
**Subject:** Permit Requirements related to FIRE

Trais Kliphuis  
WIPP Staff Manager  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive E, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Office: 505-476-6051  
Front Desk: 505-476-6000



## **Overview of WIPP RCRA Permit Conditions and Requirements Related to Fire Suppression and Reporting of Fire Incidents**

### **1.7.13.1. Oral Report**

As required by 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.30(l)(6)(i)), within 24 hours from the time the Permittees become aware of the circumstances, the Permittees shall report orally to the Secretary any noncompliance which may endanger human health or the environment, including:

- i. Information concerning release of any TRU mixed or hazardous waste that may cause an endangerment to public drinking water supplies; and
- ii. Any information of a release or discharge of TRU mixed or hazardous waste, or of a fire or explosion from the facility, which could threaten the environment or human health outside the facility.

### **2.1. DESIGN AND OPERATION OF FACILITY**

The Permittees shall design, construct, maintain, and operate WIPP to minimize the possibility of a fire, explosion, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of transuranic (TRU) mixed waste or mixed waste constituents to air, soil, groundwater, or surface water which could threaten human health or the environment, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.31).

#### **2.10.1.3. Emergency Equipment**

The Permittees shall have portable fire extinguishers, fire control equipment, spill control equipment, and decontamination equipment as described in Permit Attachment D (RCRA Contingency Plan) and as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.32(c)).

#### **2.10.1.4. Water for Fire Control**

The Permittees shall have water at adequate volume and pressure to supply water-hose streams, foam-producing equipment, automatic sprinklers, or water-spray systems, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.32(d)). The WIPP facility water system shall consist of water furnished by the City of Carlsbad capable of providing water at a rate of 6,000 gallons per minute; two water storage tanks, one 180,000-gallon capacity tank for use by the fire-water system and a second tank with a 100,000-gallon reserve; dedicated fire-water pumps rated at 1,500 gallons per minute at 125 pounds per square inch; and a wet-pipe sprinkler system connected to surface buildings as described in Permit Attachment D (RCRA Contingency Plan).

### **2.12. CONTINGENCY PLAN**

#### **2.12.1. Implementation of Plan**

The Permittees shall immediately implement the Contingency Plan as specified in Permit Attachment D whenever there is a fire, explosion, or release of mixed or hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents which could threaten human health or the environment, as required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.51(b)).

### **A2-2a(3) Subsurface Structures**

The subsurface structures in the repository, located at 2,150 ft (655 m) below the surface, include the HWDUs, the northern experimental areas, and the support areas. Appendix D3 of the WIPP RCRA Part B Permit Application (DOE, 1997) provided details of the underground layout. Figure A2-8 shows the proposed waste emplacement configuration for the HWDUs.

The status of important underground equipment, including fixed fire-protection systems, the ventilation system, and contamination detection systems, will be monitored by a central monitoring system, located in the Support Building adjacent to the WHB. Backup power will be provided as discussed below. The subsurface support areas are constructed and maintained to conform to Federal mine safety codes.

### **A2-2a(3) Subsurface Structures**

#### **Underground Facilities Ventilation System**

The underground facilities ventilation system will provide a safe and suitable environment for underground operations during normal WIPP facility operations. The underground system is designed to provide control of potential airborne contaminants in the event of an accidental release or an underground fire.

#### **CH TRU Mixed Waste Emplacement**

The waste shaft conveyance will lower the loaded facility pallet to the underground. At the waste shaft station, the CH TRU underground transporter will back up to the waste shaft conveyance, and the facility pallet will be transferred from the waste shaft conveyance onto the transporter (see Figure A2-6). The transporter will then move the facility pallet to the appropriate Underground HWDU for emplacement. The underground waste transporter is equipped with a fire suppression system, rupture-resistant diesel fuel tanks, and reinforced fuel lines to minimize the potential for a fire involving the fuel system.

## **ATTACHMENT D - RCRA CONTINGENCY PLAN**

The purpose of this document is to define responsibilities, to describe coordination of activities, and to minimize hazards to human health and the environment from fires, explosions, or any sudden or nonsudden release of hazardous waste, or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water (20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.51 [a])).

This Contingency Plan has also been designed in accordance with 20.4.1.300 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR § 262.34(a)(4) - Standards for Generators of Hazardous Waste), and will be implemented whenever there is a fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste which could threaten human health or the environment.

**Emergency Services Technician (EST)/Fire Protection Technician (FPT)**—Regular employee whose job is that of full-time emergency responder. During non-emergency conditions, the EST/FPT inspects facility fire suppression systems and emergency equipment. The EST/FPT completes specific sections of the “WIPP Hazardous Material Incident Report.” Additional technical personnel complete identified sections of the report.

**Mine Rescue Team (MRT)**—Supplemental group responsible for underground reentry and rescue after an emergency evacuation. The MRT responds in accordance with 30 CFR Part 49 requirements. MRT members are part of the WIPP Supplemental Emergency Response Program.

### **D-3 Implementation**

The provisions of this Contingency Plan will be implemented immediately whenever there is an emergency event (e.g., a fire, an explosion, or a natural occurrence that involves or threatens hazardous or TRU mixed wastes or a release of hazardous substances, hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes) that could threaten human health or the environment, or whenever the potential for such an event exists as determined by the RCRA Emergency Coordinator, as required under 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40

CFR §264.51(b)). The following information is utilized for categorization of events to determine implementation of the Contingency Plan: [See Permit]

#### D-4a Notification

Notification requirements in the event of an emergency at a RCRA hazardous waste management facility are defined by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.56(a) and (d)). Necessary notifications in case of an emergency at the WIPP facility are described in this section (Figure D-4a). Personnel at the WIPP facility are trained to respond to emergency notifications.

#### D-4b Identification of Hazardous Materials

The identification of hazardous wastes, hazardous waste constituents, or hazardous materials involved in a fire, an explosion, or a release to the environment is a necessary part of the assessment of an incident, as described in 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.56(b)). RCRA hazardous waste and hazardous substances and materials listed in 40 CFR §302.4 and §302.6 or New Mexico Emergency Management Act, §74-4B-3 and §74-4B-5 and, involved in any release at the WIPP facility will be identified.

#### D-4d(2) Fire

The incident level emergency response identified in Section D-3 includes fire/explosion potential. WIPP fire response includes incipient, exterior structure fires, and internal structure fires. The RCRA Emergency Coordinator can implement the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for additional support. The first option in mine fire response will be to apply mechanical methods to stop fires (e.g., cut electrical power). The last option in mine fire response will be to reconfigure ventilation using control doors associated with the underground ventilation system.

The following actions are implemented in the event of a fire:

1. All emergency response at an incident will wear appropriate PPE. 3
2. Only fire extinguishing materials that are compatible with the materials involved in the fire will be used to extinguish fires. Compatibility with materials involved in a fire are determined by pre-fire plans, Emergency Response Guide Book (DOT, 1993), DOT labeling, and site-specific knowledge of the emergency response personnel. Water and dry chemical materials have been determined to be compatible with all 8 components of the TRU mixed waste. Pre-fire plans for the WHB are included in Figures D-10 and D-11. Fires in areas of the WHB Unit should not propagate, due to limited amount of 11 combustibles, and the concrete and steel construction of the structures. Administrative controls, such as landlord inspections and EST/FPT inspections, help to insure good housekeeping is maintained. Combustible material and TRU mixed waste will be isolated, if possible. Firewater drain trenches collect the water and channel it into a 15 sump. In areas not adjacent to the trenches, portable absorbent dikes (pigs) will be 16 used to retain as much as possible, until it can be transferred to containers or sampled 17 and analyzed for hazardous constituents.
3. If the fire spreads or increases in intensity, personnel will be directed to evacuate.
4. The RCRA Emergency Coordinator will remain in contact with responding personnel to advise them of the known hazards.
11. Fire suppression materials used in response to incidents will be retained on-scene, where an evaluation will be performed to determine appropriate recovery and disposal methods.

#### D-4e Prevention of Recurrence or Spread of Fires, Explosions, or Releases

During an emergency, the RCRA Emergency Coordinator will ensure that reasonable measures 10 are taken so that fires, explosions, and releases do not occur, recur, or spread to TRU mixed 11 waste or other hazardous materials at the facility, as required under 20.4.1.500 NMAC 12 (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.56(e) and (f)). These measures include: [ ]

After resolution of the incident, a Root Cause Analysis will be conducted to review all Level II and Level III incidents for determination of cause, and the corrective action plan to prevent recurrence.

Nonradioactive hazardous waste resulting from the cleanup of a fire, an explosion, or a release involving a nonradioactive hazardous waste or hazardous substance at the WIPP facility will be contained and managed as a hazardous waste until such time as the waste is disposed of, or determined to be nonhazardous, as defined in 20.4.1.200 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §261 Subparts C and D. In most cases, hazardous materials inventories for the various buildings and areas at the facility will allow a determination of the hazardous materials present in any cleanup of a release or of the residues from an emergency condition (The quantities of such spills are so small, it is not likely to trigger an Incident Level II or III). When necessary samples of the waste will be collected and analyzed to determine the presence of any hazardous characteristics and/or hazardous waste constituents; this information is needed to evaluate disposal options. EPA-approved sampling and analytical methods will be utilized. Hazardous wastes will be transferred to the Hazardous Waste Staging Area. The staging area is used to store hazardous waste awaiting transfer to an off-site treatment or disposal facility in accordance with applicable regulations (e.g., 20.4.1 NMAC and DOT regulations). The Hazardous Waste Staging Area for nonradioactive hazardous waste is Buildings 474A and 474B, as shown in Figure D-1. Nonradioactive hazardous wastes will be shipped off-site for disposal at a RCRA permitted disposal facility.

#### D-4h Post-Emergency Facility and Equipment Maintenance and Reporting

When the WIPP facility has completed post-emergency cleanup of waste and hazardous residues from areas where waste management operations are ready to resume and the RCRA Emergency Coordinator has ensured that emergency equipment used in managing the emergency has been cleaned or replaced and is fit for service, the notifications will be made by the Permittees to the following: the EPA Region VI Administrator; the Secretary of the NMED; and any relevant local authorities. This post-emergency notification complies with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.56(i)), and is the responsibility of the RCRA Emergency Coordinator.

#### D-8 Required Reports

The RCRA Emergency Coordinator, on behalf of the Permittees, will note in the operating record the time, date, and details of any incident that requires implementing this Contingency Plan. This notation will be in the facility log maintained by the CMRO. In compliance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.56(j)), within 15 days after the incident, the Permittees will ensure that a written report on the incident will be submitted to the EPA Region VI Administrator and to the Secretary of the NMED.

The report will include:

- The name, address, and telephone number of the Owner/Operator
- The name, address, and telephone number of the facility
- The date, time, and type of incident (e.g., fire, explosion or release)
- The name and quantity of material(s) involved
- The extent of injuries, if any
- An assessment of actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment, 13 where this is applicable
- The estimated quantity and disposition of recovered material that resulted from the incident

In accordance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.56(i)), the Permittees will notify the Secretary of the NMED and EPA Region VI Administrator that the WIPP facility is in compliance with requirements for the cleanup of areas affected by the emergency and that emergency equipment used in the emergency response has been cleaned, repaired, or replaced and is fit for its intended use prior to the resumption of waste management operations in affected areas. The means the WIPP facility will use to meet these requirements are described in Sections D-4e, D-4f, D-4g, and D-4h. The WIPP requires the EST/FPT to initiate the "WIPP Hazardous Materials Incident Report" if the Contingency Plan is implemented. A form is attached as Figure D-12. The form is initiated by the EST/FPT. The RCRA Emergency Coordinator, CMRO, and Environmental Compliance representatives complete their respective sections.

**Table D-6 Emergency Equipment Maintained at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

Underground Fire Alarms	Automatic/Manual; have priority over other paging channel signals but not override intercom channels; alarms sound in the general area of the control panel and are connected to the underground evacuation alarms; they also interface with the CMR.	Fire detection and control panel locations: Waste Shaft Underground Station, SH Shaft Underground Station, Between E-140 and E-300 in S-2180 Drift, E-O/N-1200, Fuel Station
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**Fire Detection and Fire Suppression Equipment**

Rescue Truck # 2 (U/G)	(1) 125-pound dry chemical extinguisher (1) 150-pound foam extinguisher	Underground
Extinguishers	Individual fire extinguisher stations; various types located throughout the facility, conforming to NFPA-10.	Buildings, underground, and underground vehicles

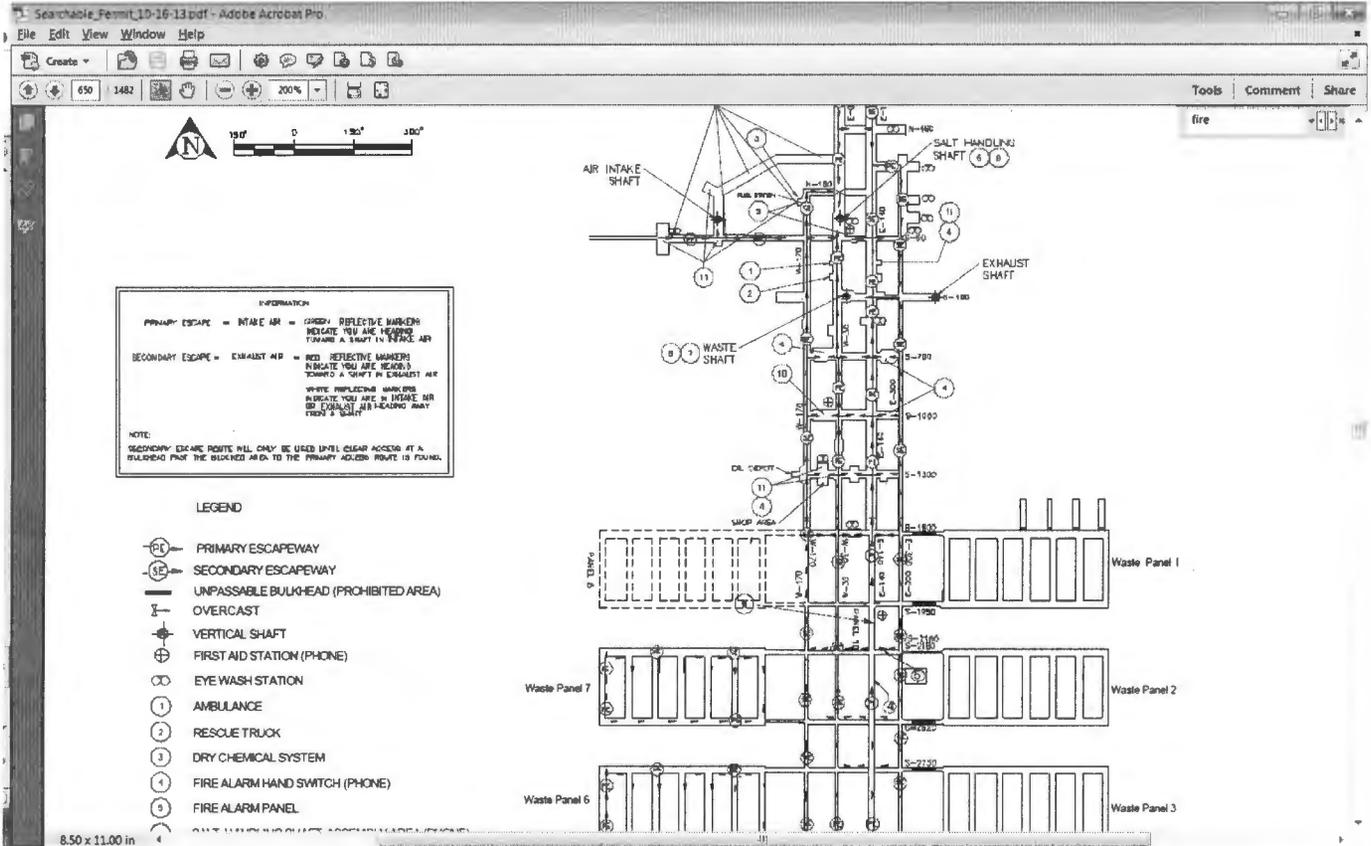
**Table D-8 Hazardous Release Reporting, Federal**

RCRA, 40 CFR §§264.56(d), 264.56(i), 265.56(d), and 265.56(i)	RCRA "hazardous waste" release, fire, or explosion, which could threaten human health or environment outside the facility.	National Response Center: (800) 424-8802 and State Emergency Response Commission: (505) 476-9681 (New Mexico State Police, Hazardous Materials Emergency Response).	(1) Name and telephone number of reporter; (2) name and telephone number of facility; (3) time and type of incident; (4) name and quantity of materials involved; (5) extent of injuries, if any; and (6) possible health or environmental hazards outside the facility.
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Prior to resumption of operations, notify that: (1) no waste that may be incompatible with released material is treated, stored, or disposed of until cleanup is complete, and (2) all emergency equipment listed in the Contingency Plan is cleaned and fit for its intended use. Send to Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502.

Within 15 days: 1) name, address and telephone number of owner/operator; 2) name, address and telephone number of facility; 3) date, time and type of incident (e.g. fire, explosion); 4) name and quantity of materials involved; 5) extent

of injuries, if any; 6) possible hazards to human health or the environment; 7) estimated quantity of material that resulted from the incident. Prior to resumption of operations, notify that: 1) no waste that may be incompatible with released material is treated, stored, or disposed of until cleanup is complete, and 2) all emergency equipment listed in the Contingency Plan is cleaned and fit for its intended use. Send to Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502



**E-1a General Inspection Requirements**

As required in 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.33), the WIPP facility inspection procedures for communication and alarm systems, fire-protection equipment, and spill control and decontamination equipment include provisions for testing and maintenance to ensure that the equipment will be operable in an emergency.

**E-1a(3) Monitoring Systems**

The CMS continuously assesses the status of the fixed radiation monitoring equipment, electrical power, fire alarm systems, ventilation system, and other facility systems including water tank levels. In addition, the CMS collects data from the meteorological monitoring system.

Fire Extinguishers

Emergency Services

Monthly  
See List 11

12-FP0036  
Inspecting for  
Deterioration,  
Leaks/Spills, Expiration,  
seals, fullness, and  
pressure

**§264.51 Purpose and implementation of contingency plan.**

(a) Each owner or operator must have a contingency plan for his facility. The contingency plan must be designed to minimize hazards to human health or the environment from fires, explosions, or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, or surface water.

(b) The provisions of the plan must be carried out immediately whenever there is a fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents which could threaten human health or the environment.

[45 FR 33221, May 19, 1980, as amended at 50 FR 4514, Jan. 31, 1985]