Dear Messrs. Franco and McQuinn:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a Class 3 modification request to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit on March 18, 2013. The Class 3 modification request included three items: (1) Modifications to the WIPP Panel Closure; (2) Repository Reconfiguration of Panels 9 and 10; and (3) Revise Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Target Analyte List and Other Changes to the VOC Monitoring Program.

The draft Permit for the Class 3 modification request was issued by NMED for public comment on February 14, 2014, and was scheduled to conclude on April 15, 2014. In light of the recent
events at WIPP, including a fire in the underground and the radioactive material release, NMED has requested additional information relating to these incidents and the Class 3 modification request, in accordance with 20.4.1.901(B)(5) NMAC and WIPP Permit Section 1.7.8, that may influence the draft Permit language. And, NMED assuredly will request other additional information as further progress is made at WIPP. Therefore, NMED hereby withdraws the draft Permit effective immediately. Due to the withdrawal of the draft Permit, the current public comment period is now closed. Notice of the withdrawal of the draft Permit will be provided to all interested parties and will be posted in the Carlsbad Current Argus. NMED may issue a revised draft when it is appropriate. In such a case, a revised draft Permit will be issued for public comment and a new public comment period will begin in accordance with the requirements specified in 20.4.1.901 NMAC.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Trais Kliphuis of my staff at (505) 476-6051.

Sincerely,

John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JFK: TLK

cc: Tom Baine, Director, NMED EHD
    Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB
    Steve Holmes, NMED HWB
    Ricardo Maestas, NMED HWB
    Coleman Smith, NMED HWB
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