



ENTERED

Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

RECEIVED

APR 11 2014

NMED  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Mr. Jeffery M. Kendall  
General Counsel  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Subject: Response to NMED Letter Dated April 11, 2014

Dear Mr. Kendall

Consistent with our letter of March 21, 2014 and the responsibilities under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit), the Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (the Permittees) implemented the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Contingency Plan today, April 11, 2014 in anticipation of the planned Phase 3 re-entry into the underground hazardous waste disposal unit beginning on April 12. Accordingly, the Permittees have completed making the required notifications. Phase 3 is planned to be accomplished in four separate activities leading to the identification of the source of the February 14, 2014 event.

Your feedback to our March 21, 2014 letter is important to us and will be an important consideration in improving the emergency response program and in future changes to the RCRA Contingency Plan. We look forward to further discussions with your agency as we proceed with this important task. We will keep your office apprised of the progress made during the re-entry and recovery phases following today's implementation of the WIPP RCRA Contingency Plan.

Please contact George Hellstrom at 575-234-7010 or Dennis Cook at 575-234-7116, if you have any questions.

George W. Hellstrom  
Legal Counsel  
DOE Carlsbad Field Office

Dennis N. Cook  
General Counsel  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Cc:  
Ryan Flynn, Secretary, NMED \*ED  
Butch Tongate, Deputy Secretary, NMED ED  
Jose R. Franco, CBFO ED  
Dana Bryson, CBFO ED  
George Basabilvazo, CBFO ED  
\*ED denotes electronic distribution

140458

