



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733



RECEIVED

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JUL 17 2014

Jose R. Franco
Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

RE: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Approval of Additional Extension of Storage Time for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located at Carlsbad, New Mexico (EPA I.D. No. NM4890139088).

Dear Mr. Franco:

We are in receipt of your letter of July 2, 2014, in which you requested an additional extension of storage time until January 1, 2016, for PCB TRU and PCB TRU mixed waste beyond the current deadline of July 15, 2014, approved in our letter of May 16, 2014. This extension request was submitted because of the limited alternative storage options while the WIPP continues to evaluate its recovery options. We hereby grant you an additional six-month extension to January 15, 2015 with the following condition:

- No new off-site generated PCB waste may be received at the WIPP until normal operations resume. This condition is added pursuant to condition III-B of our Conditions of Approval dated May 21, 2013, and 40 CFR 761.75(c) (3) (ii) to ensure that the landfill operations do not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or to the environment.

You previously informed us that the WIPP experienced a vehicle fire in the underground which required disposal operations to be temporarily halted. On February 14, 2014, the WIPP experienced a radiological incident. Until investigations and corrective actions have been completed, the WIPP will be unable to resume normal operations, which will require an emergency extension of approved storage time. In order for EPA to stay informed of the WIPP's progress in resolving the storage issues, please send a copy of: (1) Recovery Plan and Schedule under development, and (2) the report you are required to submit to NMED in accordance with the effective Administrative Order to the attention of Mr. James Sales, Region 6 PCB Coordinator, Mail Code 6PD-A.

We will evaluate additional storage time extension requests as the need arises. Please contact me if you have any questions, or have your staff contact Mr. Sales at (214) 665-6796.

Sincerely,

Wren Stenger
Director
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division

cc: Trais Kliphuis, NMED

