



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



SEP 29 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

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

Dear Mr. Franco:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun the completeness review of the March 2014 U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Compliance Recertification Application (CRA-2014) for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). In accordance with our WIPP Compliance Criteria (40 CFR Part 194), a full technical evaluation of the recertification shall not begin until the EPA has informed the Secretary of the DOE in writing that the Agency has deemed the recertification application as complete. This is an administrative step to ensure that the application addresses all the required regulatory elements.

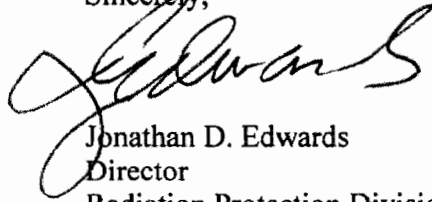
The completeness determination does not reflect any conclusion regarding the WIPP's continued compliance with the EPA's radioactive waste disposal regulations (40 CFR Part 191, Subparts B and C) or WIPP Compliance Criteria. A Federal Register notice formally announcing receipt of the CRA-2014 and initiation of the EPA's completeness review will be published in the near future.

Please note that our completeness review has been delayed due to the ongoing response to the February 2014 radiological incident at the WIPP. We are considering how the incident may affect our review of the CRA-2014. Although the incident took place after the preparation of the CRA-2014, the DOE has indicated that changes will need to be made to the WIPP disposal system in order to reopen the facility and that the Department will provide supplemental information on the incident and identify potential ramifications on compliance.



I appreciate the helpful and cooperative interactions with DOE staff to date. We look forward to continued cooperation from your staff as we move forward with our review. If you have any questions concerning our review of the CRA-2014, please contact Kathy Economy at (202) 343-9844 (economy.kathleen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan D. Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jonathan D. Edwards
Director
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Electronic Distribution