Mr. John Kieling, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: PENDING CHANGE RELATED TO OPERATIONAL CONTROL AT THE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) of a pending change related to the parent company of the Management and Operating Contractor (MOC) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility.

The MOC and co-Permittee under the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) is Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP). URS Energy & Construction, Inc. (URS E&C) is the parent company of NWP. URS E&C is the guarantor for NWP's prime contract with the Department of Energy for the management and operation of the WIPP facility. On October 17, 2014, AECOM announced that the acquisition of URS was completed. However, no date for a change in the parent company of NWP has been announced. If there is a change, it is anticipated that it will not occur until after January 2015. The change will not affect the day-to-day operation of the WIPP facility and no modification to the Permit Application (Part A) is expected. NWP will continue as the MOC and co-Permittee under the WIPP Permit.

Although NWP will continue as the MOC and co-Permittee, such a change is similar to a change made in August 2007, that required the submittal of a notification in order to assure compliance with 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR, §270.40(b)). Therefore NWP is hereby notifying the NMED of this pending change. Once the details of the change in the parent company of NWP are known, the Permittees will submit a Class 1 Permit modification requiring prior agency approval, including an appropriate update to Permit Attachment A, Section A-6, Chronology of Events Relevant to Changes in Ownership or Operational Control.
There will be no change in the ownership of the WIPP facility or the financial responsibility exemption with this change in parent company of the facility operator.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (575) 234-7400 or Mr. R. R. Chavez at (575) 234-3225.

Sincerely,

Robert L. McQuinn
Project Manager

JCH: dag

cc: T. Blaine, NMED    *ED
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