



Allen, Pam, NMENV

From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Subject: FW: Waste Reprocessing Inquiry - 1-25-15

From: Roberts, Kathryn, NMENV
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:02 AM
To: mmm_mart@hotmail.com
Subject: Waste Reprocessing Inquiry - 1-25-15

Ms. Landreth:

My name is Kathryn Roberts. I am the Resource Protection Division Director for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). I believe you sent an inquiry to Ms. Trais Kliphuis on January 25, 2015 regarding waste stream reprocessing at LANL and WIPP. Regulatory oversight of LANL and the WIPP now falls under my division, so Ms. Kliphuis forwarded your inquiry to me.

With regard to your question about a plan for reprocessing the waste stream in question, LANL continues to work on a plan for the nitrate-salt bearing waste stream that currently resides at LANL and at WCS near Andrews, Texas. Discussions continue to take place between LANL and NMED on the issue.

With regard to your question concerning modification of the drum testing requirements, the WIPP Permittees submitted a Class 2 Permit Modification to NMED in December 2012. As with all Class 2 modifications, it underwent a public comment period and review/approval by NMED. The container testing requirements that were removed from the Permit would not have prevented these containers from being shipped to WIPP. This testing was for a specific set of compounds and the results are used to resolve the hazardous waste numbers assigned to the waste. The reaction between the kitty litter and the nitrate salt waste that is alleged to be the cause of the release would not have been discovered with this testing.

Investigations are ongoing into the exact cause or causes of prohibited waste being shipped to WIPP. There are Permit and internal requirements that both LANL and WIPP must follow to ensure waste processes are compliant with state and federal regulations.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Katie Roberts

Kathryn Roberts
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New Mexico Environment Department
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