



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 19, 2015

Mr. Nick Stone, WIPP Project Officer
State/Tribal Oversight Section
US EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 (6PD-O)
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: NMED REVIEW OF 2014 WIPP BIENNIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

Dear Mr. Stone,

The New Mexico Environment Department's Hazardous Waste Bureau ("NMED") is reviewing the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant ("WIPP") Biennial Environmental Compliance Report ("BECR") for reporting period April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014. The BECR was submitted to various agencies by the Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office ("CBFO") on October 29, 2014.

During its review of the BECR, the US Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") requested supplemental information from CBFO on December 17, 2014 to address the EPA's concerns. In response to EPA's request, the CBFO submitted a supplement to the 2014 BECR on January 28, 2015 to "assist the EPA in their review".

In Calendar Year 2014, the NMED issued numerous enforcement actions to WIPP related to the February 2014 fire and radiological release: three Administrative Orders and a Compliance Order. NMED understands that information on these enforcement actions will be included in the next BECR. However, NMED believes that the additional information provided by the CBFO in their January 28, 2015 supplement helps address information gaps in the 2014 BECR. NMED will therefore require additional time to review the January 28th supplement as it relates to the 2014 BECR.

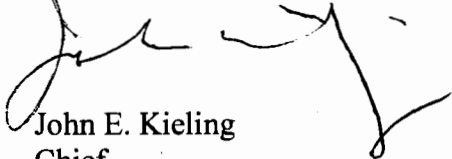


Mr. Stone
February 19, 2015
Page 2

NMED will provide its evaluation of the 2014 BECR and the supplement information as soon as practicable.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ricardo Maestas at (505) 476-6050 or myself at (505) 476-6035.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: K. Roberts, Director NMED RPD
D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
S. Pullen, NMED HWB
R. Maestas, NMED HWB
C. Smith, NMED HWB
S. Holmes, NMED HWB
S. Kamat, NMED DOE OB
T. Peake, EPA ORIA
File: WIPP 2015