



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Field Office
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NOV 25 2015



Mr. Ron Curry, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Fountain Place 12th Floor, Suite 1200
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Subject: Sixth Supplement to the Report of Implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan on April 11, 2014

Dear Mr. Curry:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Sixth Supplement to the Report of Implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan on April 11, 2014. This report is required by the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (NM4890139088-TSDF) Attachment D, Section D-8, *Required Reports*.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If you have any questions regarding this supplemental information, please feel free to contact Mr. George T. Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Todd Shrader, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Philip J. Breidenbach, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure

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Sixth Supplement to the Report of Implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan on April 11, 2014

On April 11, 2014, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), Permittees of Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (NM4890139088-TSDF), implemented the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Contingency Plan. The Permittees subsequently filed a report with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) on April 28, 2014, documenting implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan. The Permittees submitted supplements to the report on July 7, 2014, August 18, 2014, March 23, 2015, May 8, 2015, and September 16, 2015.

Investigations related to the February 14, 2014, radiological event are ongoing as part of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) extent of condition investigation. The information provided below is an additional supplement to the information provided in the previous reports based on recent findings by LANL. A summary of this information was reported verbally to the NMED on November 10, 2015.

The name and quantity of material(s) involved

The DOE Accident Investigation Board has concluded that container LA00000068660 from LANL waste stream LA-MIN02-V.001 was the only container that was breached in the February 14, 2014 event. This is a waste stream that contains nitrate salts. The EPA hazardous waste numbers (HWNs) assigned to this waste stream were identified by the generator at the time of characterization, and provided to the Permittees in a waste stream profile form. These HWNs are D004, D005, D006, D007, D008, D009, D010, D011, D018, D019, D021, D022, D035, D038, D039, D040, F001, F002, and F005.

Because video investigations of the source of the release in Panel 7, Room 7, show evidence that a thermal reaction occurred in drum LA00000068660, the Permittees have determined that the subject waste container appears to have exhibited the characteristic of ignitibility after it was disposed. The Technical Assessment Team concluded that the thermal reaction was the result of incompatible materials, including nitrate salts in the container along with the physical conditions within the container that led to the reaction. Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Permittees initiated investigations to determine if other containers from waste stream LA-MIN02-V.001 and other nitrate salt bearing waste streams also contain incompatible materials including nitrate salts that could, under similar physical conditions exhibit the characteristic of

ignitability and, consequently, should be provisionally assigned an additional HWN (D001).

Pending receipt of additional information, the Permittees provisionally applied HWN D001 to 425 containers (this includes drum LA00000068660) from LANL waste streams LA-MIN02-V.001, LA-MHD01.001, and LA-MIN04-S.001. These wastes containers have been disposed of in Panel 5, Room 1; Panel 6, Rooms 1 through 6; and Panel 7, Room 7, in the underground WIPP facility (Panel 5, Room 1 (2 containers); Panel 6, Room 1 (216 containers); Panel 6, Room 2 (101 containers); Panel 6, Room 3 (41 containers); Panel 6, Room 4 (7 containers); Panel 6, Room 5 (1 container); Panel 6, Room 6 (2 containers); and Panel 7, Room 7 (55 containers)). Moreover, the Permittees provisionally applied HWN D001 for the characteristic of ignitability to 192 waste containers that have been disposed at the WIPP facility. The Permittees also provisionally applied the D002 HWN for the characteristic of corrosivity to 88 of these containers. The additions applied specifically to containers from the LANL homogeneous solids waste stream LA-CIN01.001. One hundred eighty-nine (189) of these containers are located in Panel 6 (17 containers in Room 1; 110 containers in Room 2; 38 containers in Room 3; 23 containers in Room 4; one (1) container in Room 5) and three (3) containers are located in Panel 7, Room 7. Continuing investigation and analysis by both the Permittees and LANL may provide additional information concerning the waste streams.

In addition to the containers above, the Permittees are provisionally applying HWN D001 for the characteristic of ignitability to 66 waste containers that have been disposed at the WIPP facility. The additions apply specifically to containers from LANL homogeneous solids waste stream LA-CIN01.001. These containers are located in Panel 6 (21 containers in Room 1; 44 containers in Room 2; 1 container in Room 3).

The application of this HWN is based on information provided to the Permittees by LANL resulting from the LANL ongoing extent of condition evaluation. Los Alamos National Laboratory applied D001 to containers pending the outcome of sampling and analysis for nitrates. Therefore, the Permittees are also provisionally applying D001 pending the outcome of LANLs sampling and analysis.

Because the evaluations and investigations are ongoing, the application of the D001 code to these containers is considered provisional and the application of code(s) to containers and/or waste streams may change in the future.

The Permit Part 2, Section 2.3.3.7, specifies that wastes exhibiting the characteristic of ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity (HWNs D001, D002, or D003) are not acceptable at the WIPP facility.

An assessment of actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment, where this is applicable

On May 8, 2014, the Permittees suspended the authorization for certification of certain waste streams, including LA-MIN02-V.001, via the WIPP Form process. This halted shipment of additional containers of these wastes from LANL. This action was taken to protect human health and the environment. On May 20, 2014, the NMED ordered the Permittees to prepare and submit for approval a plan to isolate the disposed nitrate salt bearing waste by closing Panel 6 and Panel 7, Room 7, in order to protect human health and the environment. The Permittees responded to the order by preparing the WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, which was submitted to the NMED on May 30, 2014. The NMED approved two portions of the plan, which provide protection to human health and the environment. Specifically, the NMED approved the continued use of the underground filtration system in Sections 3.2.1 and 3.4.1 and the expedited initial Panel 6 closure portion of the plan identified in Sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.2 and provided comments on the plan on August 5, 2014. The Permittees responded to the comments and submitted the revised plan on September 30, 2014. On March 20, 2015, the NMED approved Revision 1 of the plan with the exception of Sections 3.2.3 and 3.3.3, which include the proposed activities for permanent closure of Panel 6. The approval process for permanent closure of all panels will be subject to public participation requirements in accordance with 40 CFR §270.42. The Permittees implemented this plan including the continued operation of the underground repository in filtration mode and have installed the approved initial closures of Panel 6 and the approved closure for Panel 7, Room 7. An explosion isolation wall had previously been installed in Panel 5. Based on this assessment, the change described in this supplemental report poses not additional hazards to human health and the environment.