



From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:47 PM
To: Allen, Pam, NMENV
Subject: FW: Notes from the GTCC Final EIS Call with DOE EM

From: Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 4:17 PM
To: Roberts, Kathryn, NMENV; Kieling, John, NMENV; Smith, Coleman, NMENV
Cc: LucasKamat, Susan, NMENV; Maestas, Ricardo, NMENV
Subject: Notes from the GTCC Final EIS Call with DOE EM

Notes from the Greater Than Class C (GTCC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) call.

Thursday, February 25, 2016
1pm-1:25pm

The call was led by Frank Marcinowski with DOE EM.

The call included about 15 people including:

- Todd Shrader, CBFO Manager- Carlsbad
- John Heaton -Carlsbad
- Russel Hardy, CEMRC Director- Carlsbad
- Ricardo Maestas and Coleman Smith for the State of NM

No questions were asked of NMED nor did NMED have any comments or questions during the call.

The call was to update folks on the issuance of the GTCC Final EIS and what is next to come.

Marcinowski: DOE has been working on GTCC for quite some time, since 2011.

Draft EIS in 2011, reviewed 6 sites including WIPP, had public comment period.

The Final EIS has been posted on the web at <http://www.gtcceis.anl.gov/documents/index.cfm#final>

A little about the inventory:

- GTCC waste is both commercial waste and DOE...
- Classes of waste include A, B, and C, as defined by the NRC. The type of waste is greater than Class C waste, and consists of activated metals from the decommissioning of nuclear reactors, disused or unwanted sealed sources, and Other Waste consisting of contaminated equipment, debris, scrap metal, filters, resins, soil, and solidified sludges.
- DOE also has other waste very similar in nature but with no currently identified disposal option. DOE owns and generates both LLRW and non-defense-generated TRU waste. DOE terms the GTCC component of this waste as "GTCC-like" and notes that it is not subject to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (LLRWPA), but requires a disposition path.
- Relatively small volume considering other defense TRU mixed waste streams in the complex.
- About 12,000 cubic meters.

-(Additional information for reference from the EIS Report: 12,000 cubic meters representing both in inventory as of 2008 and projected through 2083. Total activity is estimated at 160 million curies



(MCI), and would occupy approx.. 26 disposal rooms at WIPP. Some is TRU waste that is very similar to the waste already emplaced at WIPP, but without a defense pedigree. Modification to the LWA (legislation) would be required before non-defense TRU could potentially go to WIPP.)

-West Valley has a lot of non-defense TRU waste that cannot currently go to WIPP and WIPP can only accept defense related TRU waste.

The preferred alternative for the disposal of GTCC and GTCC-like waste is the WIPP geologic repository (Alternative 2) and/or

land disposal at generic commercial facilities (Alternatives 3-5). The preferred alternative does not include land disposal at DOE sites.

Alternative 3 is a new intermediate-depth (40 m) borehole disposal facility with approx. 930 boreholes; Alternative 4 is a new enhanced near-surface (11 m deep) trench disposal facility with 29 trenches;

Alternative 5 is a new above-grade vault disposal facility consisting of 12 vaults, each with 11 cells.

Some hurdles to overcome, what's next.

-Legislative authority

-Other inventories, activated metals, sealed sources

-Final EIS-completed

-Report to Congress- copies have been distributed

-Guidance back from Congress, Record of Decision

-The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the DOE to await Congressional action after submittal of the report and before a Record of Decision can be issued.

-Engagement with stakeholders, delegation from New Mexico, to inform them of preferred alternative decision.

-Long way to go yet

-WIPP is the right location

-Much of the GTCC waste is no different than what is disposed of at WIPP, with regard to radiological characteristic.

-only difference in some cases is some GTCC is non-defense

Final EIS Report in on the web.

Any questions?

Heaton: have not seen the EIS for some time. Is it correct that the GTCC volume could grow?

Marcinowski: total volume is 12,000 cubic meters. Most is yet to be generated from commercial sources, power plants. West Valley has lots of non-defense TRU waste.

Heaton: What is the strategy on the definition issue? Congressman Pierce introduced legislation some time ago to amend the Land Withdrawal Act (LWA). Passed the House was stalled in the Senate, mostly by Senator Udall.

Marcinowski: Folks could have further discussions with NM Congressional delegation, and others, to advance changes to the LWA.

Heaton: Could you send me a copy of Senator Heinrich's legislation?

Marcinowski: Yes.

Heaton: Is we are to change the LWA should we also tackle increasing waste volume limit at WIPP?

Marcinowski: Could be considered.

Heaton: Has DOE come to a conclusion on how WIPP is to count against waste volume? Volume of container or volume of actual waste?

Marcinowski: This is outside the scope of the GTCC Final EIS. We believe no legislation changes are necessary for this particular volume issue, volume of container vs. actual waste.

DOE EM news flash will come out this afternoon regarding the Final EIS.

Marcinowski: Wants to find out if New Mexico's Congressional delegation prefers multiple small changes to the LWA, or one big change?

Russel Hardy: Any estimates for the timing of the Record of Decision?

Marcinowski: Not sure of timing. Waiting for Congress to act. The ball in in their court.

Heaton: the Record of Decision is not done by DOE but instead Congress.

Heaton: Thank you for including all of us on this call and for the update we really appreciate it.

Marcinowski: Yes. If you have any question please let me know. Thank you all.

END - 1:25pm.