



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



ENTERED



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March 11, 2016

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Carlsbad, NM 88221-3090

Philip J. Breidenbach  
Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, NM 88221-2078

**RE: COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION  
USDOE WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
EPA ID# NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Shrader and Breidenbach:

Beginning November 18, 2015, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a hazardous waste Compliance Evaluation Inspection at USDOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located at 34 Louis Whitlock Drive, Carlsbad, New Mexico. Based on the inspection and a review of the information obtained, NMED has determined that your facility is a Large Quantity Generator and a Permitted Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility of hazardous waste, as defined in the Notification of Regulated Waste Activity Instructions (EPA Form 8700-12). During this inspection, NMED's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program staff observed no violations of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 NMAC).

At the time of inspection, WIPP was operating at a limited capacity due to two February 2014 incidents. As a result of these two incidents, WIPP was operating under three administrative orders (AO) issued by NMED: 1) a February 27, 2014, AO ("Above-ground" Order); 2) a May 12, 2014, AO ("Underground" Order); and 3) a May 20, 2014, AO ("Isolation" Order). Pursuant to these AOs, WIPP was directed to prepare and submit three planning documents to NMED, an *Underground Compliance Plan*; an *Underground Derived Waste Storage Plan*; and a *Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan*. WIPP's compliance with these orders and the associated approved planning documents, in addition to standard



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hazardous waste generator requirements and the Permit requirements related to activities at uncontaminated areas of WIPP, were the focus of the inspection.

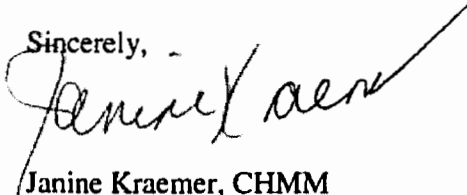
Also at the time of inspection, NMED requested additional WIPP documentation, including: waste manifests, training records and inspection records for numerous components of the facility. These documents are scheduled to be delivered to the NMED and any findings that may result from a review of those documents will be addressed separately from this inspection.

WIPP is a permitted underground geologic repository for the permanent disposal of Trans-Uranic waste generated at DOE facilities from research and production of nuclear weapons. No waste shipments have been received at the facility since February 2014. Hazardous and mixed wastes are generated at the facility from maintenance and recovery of on-site operations. These include: aerosol cans, spent powder actuation cartridges, leaded brine from mine water removal, flammable waste, used oil, and mixed waste-contaminated air pollution control filters.

NMED observed no violations; therefore, no further action is required at this time with respect to the inspection. However, this letter does not relieve WIPP of its obligation to comply with any other applicable laws and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Aaron Coffman of my staff at (505) 222-9503 or by email at [aaron.coffman@state.nm.us](mailto:aaron.coffman@state.nm.us).

Sincerely,



Janine Kraemer, CHMM  
Acting Program Manager  
Compliance & Technical Assistance Program  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JK: ac

cc: Janine Kraemer, NMED HWB  
Michael Space, NMED HWB  
Aaron Coffman, NMED HWB  
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Michael Kesler, NMED Acting District III Manager

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