

5-27-16

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PUBLIC COMMENT
U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
Community Relations Plan

ENTERED



WHO: The U.S. Department of Energy and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (the Permittees) are seeking public comments and suggestions to improve the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan as part of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit Number: NM4890139088-TSDF) issued by the New Mexico Environment Department.

New Mexico residents, organizations, interest groups, federal, state and local government entities, tribal governments and tribal members are encouraged to provide comments or suggestions to the Permittees to enhance the Plan.

WHAT: The Community Relations Plan is designed to inform communities and interested members of the public about WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit activities and opportunities for public participation in those activities.

PLAN ELEMENTS:

Part 1, Section 1.15.2 of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit identifies six key elements of the Plan:

1. Establish working relationships with communities and interested members of the public.
2. Establish productive government to government relations between the U.S. Department of Energy and affected tribes and pueblos.
3. Inform communities and interested parties of permit activities.
4. Minimize disputes and resolve differences with communities and interested members of the public.
5. Provide timely responses to individual requests for information.
6. Establish mechanisms for communities and interested members of the public to provide feedback and input to the Permittees.

WHEN: The Permittees propose minor updates to the Plan which will be mailed to individuals on the WIPP Facility Mailing List May 26, 2016, for comment. Proposed updates are also available online at: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/WIPPCommunityRelations/index.html>

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS:

Contact the Permittees by e-mail, telephone or by mail to receive a copy of the updated WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan and a comment form.

Comments and suggestions can be made online by accessing the Plan at: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/WIPPCommunityRelations/index.html> and clicking on "Comments."

E-mail: communityrelations@wipp.ws

Call the toll free telephone number: 1-866-271-9640, available during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. MST

Mailing address: Bobby St. John, Nuclear Waste Partnership, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221



The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan is Currently Being Updated

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (the Permittees) are seeking public comments to improve the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan (the Plan). The purpose of the Plan is to provide Permit-related information to communities and interested members of the public and to alert them to opportunities to participate in the Permit process.

The Permittees proposed changes to the Plan in 2016 are identified by red text with a double underline for new text and a strikeout font for deleted information. The Plan and proposed changes can be read in its entirety online at: <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/WIPPCommunityRelations/index.html>. The Permittees propose the following changes to the Plan:

Section 3.3, second paragraph: add the word "the" before software

Linked page on the Community Relations Plan home page where it says "Click Here for More Information."

Paragraph 1, last sentence: The waste drum, shipped by Los Alamos National Security, later was found to contain incompatible materials.

Paragraph 3, last sentence: The information is currently provided in a quarterly ~~monthly~~ report to the NMED. The required reports are posted on the Information Repository, where they are available to the public.

Paragraph 5, first sentence: The third administrative order, issued May 20, 2014, required submittal of a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan

Paragraph 6, first sentence: On December 6, 2014, the NMED issued an Administrative Compliance Orders

Paragraph 7: In April 2015, general principles of agreement were reached between the NMED Secretary and the Department of Energy and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (Permittees) toward positive resolution of the administrative compliance order. A settlement agreement and stipulated order was signed by the parties on January 22, 2016. In response to the settlement agreement, the Permittees submitted the Information Required by Paragraph 31 of the Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order dated January 22, 2016, HWB 14-21 (CO) on March 2016.

We encourage members of the public to submit comments or suggestions by Wednesday, **June 22, 2016**. Comments may be submitted by:

- E-mail to Communityrelations@wipp.ws
- Accessing <http://www.wipp.energy.gov/WIPPCommunityRelations/index.html> online. Clicking on the Comments tab, typing in your comments and submitting them.
- Calling the toll-free number at 1-866-271-9640 to speak directly to WIPP staff
- Mailing your comments to Bobby St. John, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, N.M., 88221

The Permittees are required to post comments, consultations, communications, agreements and disagreements between the Permittees and members of the public on the Community Relations Plan Web page "Comments" section. Comments and suggestions will only be posted with the express consent of the contributor. Changes to the Plan will become effective based on timely resolution of comments.

You have received this correspondence because your name is listed on the WIPP Facility Mailing List. If you would like a copy of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Community Relations Plan or do not wish to receive further Permit-related correspondence, please contact:

Bobby St. John
Nuclear Waste Partnership
P. O. Box 2078
Carlsbad , NM 88221

or

Ricardo Maestas
New Mexico Environment Department
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Santa Fe, NM 87505