



Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

MAY 27 2016

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Ms. Wren Stenger, Director  
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division  
EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Subject: Request for Additional Extension of Storage Time for Polychlorinated Biphenyl at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Reference: EPA Region 6 letter from Wren Stenger to Jose Franco dated May 4, 2015,  
Subject: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Approval of Additional Extension of Storage Time for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) located at Carlsbad, New Mexico (EPA I.D. No. NM4890139088)

Dear Ms. Stenger:

In compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) letter of May 4, 2015, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) is requesting an additional extension of the storage time for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) transuranic (TRU) and PCB TRU mixed waste currently stored in the Waste Handling Building (WHB) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. Waste disposal operations will not resume by June 30, 2016, as originally scheduled. The current schedule indicates emplacement of the above ground stored waste is anticipated to begin at the end of calendar year 2016. The emplacement of waste underground will begin slowly at first and therefore, consistent with this schedule, the DOE/CBFO requests an extension of storage time for the PCB TRU and PCB TRU mixed waste until June 30, 2017. This request is in accordance with 40 CFR 761.65(a)(1), §761.65(a)(2), §761.75(c)(3)(ii) and section III-D of the *Disposal of PCB/TRU and PCB/TRU Mixed Waste at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Carlsbad, New Mexico Conditions of Approval*.

In accordance with the conditions set forth in your letter of May 4, 2015, no new off-site generated PCB waste will be received at the WIPP until normal operations resume. This is to ensure that the landfill disposal operations do not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. DOE/CBFO has determined that the continued storage of the waste in the WHB minimizes risk to human health and the environment since the waste will not need to be transported to another location. As stated in EPA's May 4, 2015 letter to the DOE, DOE/CBFO has kept, and will continue to keep; the EPA informed of the WIPP's progress in resolving the storage issues by submitting updates to the Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB) and provided EPA copies of report(s) submitted to the NMED in accordance with the effective Administrative Order. These updates can be found on the WIPP Recovery website set up by the DOE and accessible to the EPA and stakeholders. The WIPP Recovery website is found at [http://www.wipp.energy.gov/wipprecovery/path\\_forward.html](http://www.wipp.energy.gov/wipprecovery/path_forward.html).

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Russell Patterson at (575) 234-7457.

Sincerely,

  
Todd Shrader, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office



Ms. Wren Stenger

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