
RESOLUTION 2017-01:

“Support for the U.S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office Class 2 Permit Modification”

WHEREAS, the United States’ Department of Energy (DOE), Carlsbad Field Office, and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (Permittees) have submitted a Class 2 Permit Modification Request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) as it pertains to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (NM4890139088-TSDF) (Permit); and

WHEREAS, the NMED serves as the regulator of the WIPP facility in terms of approving the Class 2 modification to the Permit, thereby allowing for the permanent disposal of transuranic (TRU) waste mixed with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste (TRU mixed waste) within the DOE-owned WIPP repository; and

WHEREAS, a modification to the Permit is required in order to change technical and/or operating aspects of the Permit; and

WHEREAS, a modification to the Permit is imperative to allow waste disposal activities to resume at the WIPP facility under reduced airflow conditions as a result of the February 14, 2014, underground radiation event at the WIPP facility; and

WHEREAS, the Permittees’ proposed modification to the Permit will provide the Permittees the ability to use alternative measures for underground waste disposal operations when the minimum active room ventilation rate of 35,000 standard cubic feet per minute cannot be met, thereby ensuring the continued safety of waste emplacement operations; and

WHEREAS, the Permittees’ proposed modification to the Permit will provide the Permittees the ability to propose an alternative remedial action plan to the Secretary of the NMED in lieu of closing the active room if the action levels in the Permit (Part 4, Section 4.6.3.3) are exceeded; and


WHEREAS, the Permittees’ proposed modification to the Permit removes the minimum air velocity value of 60 feet per minute as specified in attachment A2 of the Permit; and

WHEREAS, the Permittees’ proposed modification to the Permit is needed for the resumption of waste disposal activities and provides updates and clarifications necessary to simplify the Resource Conservation and RCRA Contingency Plan, updates the language in the Permit and includes references to the new WIPP Fire Department, and revises emergency response personnel and job titles/descriptions and training requirements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Carlsbad Department of Development strongly supports the resumption of waste emplacement activities at the WIPP facility and believes that the Permittees’ proposed modifications to the Permit are reasonable and necessary in order to provide a safer and more flexible operating environment at the WIPP facility in a reduced underground airflow environment resulting from the February 14, 2014, underground radiation event; and

FUTHERMORE, the Carlsbad Department of Development encourages the distribution of this Resolution to the New Mexico Legislature, the New Mexico Environment Department Secretary, the New Mexico Governor, and the U.S. DOE Secretary.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of August, 2016



Russell Hardy, Ph.D.,
President of the Board of Directors,
Carlsbad Department of Development

Attest:



Danny Cross,
Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors,
Carlsbad Department of Development