SECRETARY'S ORDER APPROVING DRAFT PERMIT

This matter came before the Secretary of the Environment following a hearing before the
Hearing Officer held on October 23, 24 and 25, 2018 in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The Applicants/Permittees, the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) and Nuclear Waste
Partnership, LLC (“NWP”), seek to modify the existing Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)
Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) Number NM4890139088-TSDF to differentiate
between the way Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (“RCRA”) waste volume is
calculated versus the way Land Withdrawal Act (“LWA”) TRU waste volume is calculated for
the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (“WIPP”). The Secretary of the Environment ultimately escalated
the PMR to a Class 3 proceeding based upon significant public interested and the complexity of
the modification being requested. In accordance with Class 3 permit modification request
procedures, and pursuant to 20.4.1.901.A(3) NMAC, the Bureau issued a Draft Permit (AR
180804) initiating a 45-day public comment on August 6, 2018. During the public comment
period, the Bureau received approximately 37 public comments, both for and against the PMR,
several of which requested a public hearing on the matter (and several of which requested that no
hearing ‘be held on the matter). As stated above a public hearing was held on October 23 through
25, 2018 in Carlsbad, New Mexico, the area of the state substantially affected by the proceedings
in accordance with 20.4.1.901.F(2) NMAC. Parties to the proceeding were the HWB, the
Applicants, Southwest Research and Information Center ("SRIC"), Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety ("CCNS"), Nuclear Watch New Mexico ("Nuke Watch"), and Mr. Steve Zappe. All but CCNS and Nuke Watch filed Statements of Intent to Present Technical Testimony.

As found in both written and oral testimony, the Bureau generally supported the PMR, but rejected certain requested modifications and added others to ensure that the Permit contained all necessary components. SRIC, CCNS, Nuke Watch, and Mr. Steve Zappe were in opposition to the PMR, arguing that it was in violation of federal law and contrary to past Bureau positions.

Having considered the administrative record in its entirety, including Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, closing arguments and all post hearing submittals submitted by the Applicants, the HWB and the other parties to these proceedings, and the Hearing Officer’s Report and being otherwise fully advised regarding this matter:

THE SECRETARY HEREBY ADOPTS THE HEARING OFFICER’S REPORT, PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Draft Permit issued by the HWB on August 6, 2018 as amended by language agreed upon by the HWB and the Parties during their negotiations held September 24-25, 2018 that revised the definition of “Shielded Containers” in Permit Part 3, Section 3.3.1.8 and Permit Attachment A1, Section A1-1b (2) is hereby approved in its entirety.

Southwest Research and Information Center’s request for oral argument pursuant to 20.1.4.500 C (3) NMAC is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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BUTCH TONGATE, CABINET SECRETARY
New Mexico Environment Department
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the Secretary's Order Approving Draft Permit was sent via electronic mail to the following parties of record on December 21, 2018:

ON BEHALF OF THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT:

Jennifer L. Hower  
121 Tijeras Avenue, NE  
Suite 1000  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87502-3400  
Telephone: (505) 222-9550  
jennifer.hower@state.nm.us

ON BEHALF OF THE NUCLEAR WASTE PARTNERSHIP, LLP:

Michael L. Woodward  
HANCE SCARBOROUGH, LLP  
400 W. 15th Street, Ste. 950  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Telephone: (512) 479-8888  
Facsimile: (512) 482-6891  
mwoodward@hslawmail.com

J.D. Head  
Fritz Byrne, Head & Gilstrap, PLLC  
221 W. 6th St., Suite 960  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Telephone: (512) 476-2020  
jhead@fbhg.law

Dennis N. Cook  
General Counsel  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC  
4021 National Parks Highway  
P.O. Box 2078, GSA-202  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221  
Telephone: (575) 234-7116  
dennis.cook@wipp.ws

Robert A. Stranahan, IV  
The Stranahan Firm, LLC  
1314 ½ Madrid Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Telephone: (505) 577-0729  
rstranahan2@me.com
ON BEHALF OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

Myles Hall
Legal Counsel
Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
4021 National Parks Highway
Post Office Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF:

Steve Zappe
60 La Pradera
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
Telephone: (505) 660-0353
steve_zappe@mac.com

ON BEHALF OF SOUTHWEST RESEARCH AND INFORMATION CENTER:

Lindsay A. Lovejoy, Jr.
3600 Cerrillos Rd.
Unit 1001 A
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507
Telephone: (505) 983-1800
Facsimile: (505) 983-4508
lindsay@lindsaylovejoy.com

Don Hancock
Southwest Research and Information Center
PO Box 4524
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196-4524
Telephone: (505) 262-1862
Facsimile: (505) 262-1864
sricdon@earthlink.net
ON BEHALF OF CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY

Joni Arends
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
P. O. Box 31147
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87594-1147
Telephone: (505) 986-1973
jarends@nuclearactive.org

ON BEHALF OF NUCLEAR WATCH NEW MEXICO:

Scott Kovac
Nuclear Watch New Mexico
903 W. Alameda, #325
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Telephone: (505) 983-7342
scott@nukewatch.org

for Pam Castaneda, Hearing Clerk