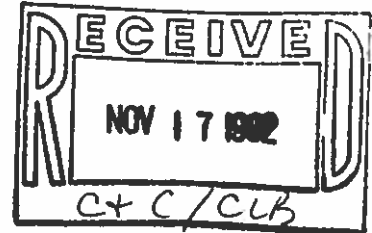




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Department of Energy
Field Office, Albuquerque
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115



NOV 13 1992

Ms. Judith Espinosa, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Secretary *Judy* Espinosa:

This letter responds to the New Mexico Environment Department's request for an update regarding planned or past exercises with scenarios in which injured individuals are radiologically contaminated to demonstrate emergency response capabilities. This request was made at the July 15, 1992, Quarterly Review meeting.

The following paragraphs summarize recent off-site exercises with scenarios that included injured individuals with radiological contamination. The enclosure provides specific dates and locations of the exercises.

Between June 8 and August 20, 1992, exercises were conducted in nine New Mexico hospitals in which patients with simulated injuries and radioactive contamination were received at hospital emergency rooms. The simulated scenario conditions provided the hospital personnel with the opportunity to exercise their skills in handling and treating patients contaminated with radioactive materials.

On September 3, 1992, the State of Wyoming sponsored an exercise in which a radiopharmaceutical was released from a transport vehicle that was involved in a simulated accident with a Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) transporter. The scenario included injured individuals contaminated with radioactive materials.

The site's Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Services personnel have conducted several exercises over the past five years in which contaminated patients from a site accident scenario were transported to either the Carlsbad or Hobbs hospital.

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Secretary Espinosa

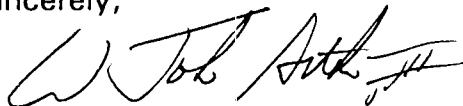
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The site is in the process of extending an invitation to Guadalupe Medical Center (GMC) to conduct the annual contaminated/injured patient drill supported by the WIPP. The Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division supports this as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between WIPP and GMC. The drill date will be scheduled at GMC's convenience.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Les Gage of my staff at 845-5983.

Sincerely,



W. John Arthur, III
Project Director
WIPP Project Integration Office

Enclosure

cc w/enclosure:
C&C File (ATS9200077)
N. Weber, NMED
L. Gage, WPIO
J. Mewhinney, WPSO



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RECENT EXERCISES WITH SCENARIOS INCLUDING INJURED/CONTAMINATED OR POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED INDIVIDUALS

DATE	LOCATION	SCENARIO
June 9, 1992	Las Vegas, NM, Northwestern Regional Hospital	Injured/contaminated individuals delivered to hospital emergency room. Part of REAC/TS Medical Management Program.*
June 11, 1992	Raton, NM, Miner's Colfax Medical Center	"
June 25, 1992	Roswell, NM, Eastern NM Medical Center	"
July 28, 1992	Santa Fe, NM, St. Vincent Hospital	"
July 30, 1992	Artesia, NM, Artesia General Hospital	"
July 31, 1992	Carlsbad, NM, Guadalupe Medical Center	"
August 10, 1992	Blackfoot, ID, Bingham Memorial Hospital	"
August 14, 1992	Albuquerque, NM, University Hospital	"
August 20, 1992	Albuquerque, NM, Veterans Hospital	"



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RECORD

September 3, 1992	Cheyenne, WY, Highway 85, South of Port of Entry	Radiopharmaceutical released from a vehicle involved in an accident with WIPP transporter.
September 16, 1992	Fort Hall, ID, Interstate 15, Exit 89	Van collides with TRUPACT-II Transporter. One of two TRUPACT-IIs released from trailer has a damaged skin. Injured patients are considered contaminated until surveyed.
June 11, 1992	WIPP Site and Lea Regional Hospital in Hobbs, NM	A falling bin hits a waste handler during unloading of a TRUPACT-II. The contaminated/injured handler is transported to Lea Regional Hospital.

• REAC/TS = Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site; This training program is part of Oakridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) affiliated with Oakridge Associated Universities

