



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

Steve
WIPP file
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Dear Colleague:

The document entitled "Performance-Based Waste Acceptance Criteria Preliminary Baseline Assumptions" is enclosed for your information. This document serves two purposes. First, it familiarizes regulators and stakeholders with the concept of performance based waste acceptance criteria as an augmentation within a final Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Waste Acceptance Criteria. Second, the document preliminarily identifies certain waste characteristics that appear important to the performance assessment process for WIPP; therefore, these could become component characteristics in the Performance Based Waste Acceptance Criteria (PBWAC).

As noted in the document, identification of the final PBWAC will be accomplished through iterative runs of the System Prioritization Method (SPM). These iterations will serve to more clearly isolate and identify those waste characteristics that directly and predominately impact on the performance assessment. As with all aspects of the WIPP regulatory certification process, the Carlsbad Area Office will keep regulators and stakeholders informed with respect to the PBWAC as it develops over the next few months.

If you have any questions please call Jim Mewhinney of my staff at (505) 234-7480.

George E. Dials
George E. Dials
Manager

Enclosure

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