

*file WIPP*

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*Barbara*

*FBI*

*Steve*

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DATE 1-17-95

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|---|
| <b>FROM: CRAIG SNIDER<br/>COMPLIANCE ENGINEER</b> |
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MESSAGE: *5 - Per our talk -*  
*Craig*

950113





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

George Dials, Manager  
Carlsbad Area Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

DEC 20 1994

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Dear <sup>George</sup> Mr. Dials:

As you know as a result of previous communications, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a Technical Workshop on Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Compliance Issues. The workshop will be held February 14-16, 1995 in Washington, DC. The purpose of the workshop is to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of significant issues relating to WIPP's compliance with EPA's radioactive waste disposal standards. We hope that you will be able to join us and participate in round-table discussions of these important issues.

The issues that EPA has identified for the workshop include:

- Evaluating the effectiveness of passive institutional controls
- Assuring the quality of radioactive and hazardous waste characterization
- Assuring the quality of old data, and
- Considering the effects of long-term climate change in compliance assessment.

An agenda for discussion of these issues is enclosed, as well as travel information. Presentations on each issue will be given by experts in the field. The presentations will be followed by facilitated round-table discussions. You, or your representative, are invited to participate in these discussions.

Our goal, in conducting this forum, is to broaden the knowledge and understanding of all participants involved in dealing with complex radioactive waste compliance issues. I hope that you will be able to take part in the workshop. Please RSVP by January 13, 1995 to Brian Littleton at (202) 233-9216. If you have any questions concerning the workshop, please call Brian.

Sincerely yours,

  
Lawrence G. Weinstock  
Acting Director  
Criteria and Standards Division

Enclosures



# EPA TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON WIPP COMPLIANCE ISSUES

**PURPOSE:** To provide a forum for interested parties to present ideas and discuss issues relating to WIPP's compliance with EPA's radioactive waste disposal standards at 40 CFR part 191. Input from the workshop may be useful to all parties involved in WIPP compliance-related activities. There will be no attempt to achieve consensus on issues.

**TIME:** FEBRUARY 14 - 16, 1995

**LOCATION:** The Embassy Row Hotel in Washington, D.C.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Invited parties including, but not limited to, stakeholders as well as other experts (e.g., in the academic or international arena) who have relevant expertise to offer. In addition, the workshop will be open to the public and an opportunity for public comment will be provided.

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

Feb 14:

- Issue 1: Evaluating the effectiveness of passive institutional controls
  - ◆ What has experience been, to date, with the effectiveness of passive institutional controls?
  - ◆ How to evaluate evidence and determine credit for the effectiveness of passive institutional controls in terms of mitigating the likelihood of human intrusion?
- EPA Explication of Issue

- Presentations

- ◆ Kate Trauth -- Sandia National Laboratories
- ◆ Kai Erickson -- Professor of Sociology and American Studies, Yale University
- ◆ Mikael Jensen -- Department of Nuclear Energy, Swedish Radiation Protection Institute
- ◆ Maureen Kaplan -- Eastern Research Group
- ◆ Matthew Silva -- Environmental Evaluation Group

- Facilitated Round-Table Discussion

- Opportunity for Public Comment

- Closing Remarks

Feb 15:

- Issue 2: Assuring the quality of radioactive and hazardous waste characterization

- Existing Waste (pre-compliance application)

- ◆ Assuring the accuracy of process knowledge or other methods of estimating existing waste for waste characterization data
- ◆ Determining what constitutes an acceptable sampling methodology to assure proper characterization
- ◆ Identifying the technical limitations of technologies used to characterize waste
- ◆ Assuring that characterization of existing waste is consistent with what is emplaced in the WIPP

- To-be-generated waste (post-compliance application)

- ◆ Assuring the accuracy of process knowledge or other methods of estimating future waste for waste characterization data
- ◆ Determining what constitutes an acceptable sampling methodology to assure proper characterization
- ◆ Assuring that characterization of to-be-generated waste is consistent with what is emplaced in the WIPP

- EPA Explication of Issue
- Presentations
  - ◆ Mark Duff -- Science Applications International Corporation
  - ◆ Jim Benetti -- EPA, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air - Las Vegas
  - ◆ Barry Lesnick -- EPA, Office of Solid Waste
  - ◆ Robert Neill -- Environmental Evaluation Group
- Facilitated Round-Table Discussion
- Opportunity for Public Comment
- Closing Remarks

Feb 16:

Morning:

- Issue 3: Assuring the quality of "old" data
  - ◆ Evaluating data gathered under Quality Assurance programs other than NQA 1,2, or 3
  - ◆ Evaluating data gathered without a Quality Assurance program
- EPA Explication of Issue
- Presentations
  - ◆ Al Stevens -- Sandia National Laboratories
  - ◆ Jim Kennedy -- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
  - ◆ Patrick Kelly -- Sanford Cohen & Associates, Inc.
  - ◆ Lokesh Chaturvedi -- Environmental Evaluation Group
- Facilitated Round-Table Discussion
- Opportunity for Public Comment
- Closing Remarks

Feb 16:

Afternoon:

- Issue 4: Considering the effects of long-term climate change in compliance assessment
  - ◆ Evaluating the effects of climate change on ground-water recharge
  - ◆ Evaluating the effects of ground-water recharge on the disposal system.
  - ◆ If there are other disposal system parameters affected by long-term climate change at the WIPP, what are they and what are their potential effects on the disposal system?
  
- EPA Explication of Issue
  
- Presentations
  - ◆ Peter Swift -- Sandia National Laboratories
  - ◆ Roger Anderson -- Professor of Geology, University of New Mexico
  - ◆ Fred Phillips -- Professor of Hydrology, New Mexico Technical Institute
  - ◆ Norman Eisenberg -- Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Performance Assessment Team
  
- Facilitated Round-Table Discussion
  
- Opportunity for Public Comment
  
- Closing Remarks

## INVITED ROUND-TABLE PARTICIPANTS

- Department of Energy - George Dials
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Malcolm Knapp
- Environmental Evaluation Group - Robert Neill
- Southwest Research and Information Center - Don Hancock
- Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety - Kathleen Sabo
- New Mexico Attorney General - Tom Udall
- New Mexico Environmental Department - Judy Espinosa
- New Mexico Energy Mines & Natural Resources Department - Anita Lockwood
- Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board - John Cantlon
- Sandia National Laboratories - Dory Ellis
- National Academy of Sciences WIPP Panel - Charles Fairhurst
- City of Carlsbad - Mayor Gary Perkowski
- New Mexico Legislative Committee on Radioactive and Hazardous Wastes - Tom Rutherford
- EPA NACEPT WIPP Subcommittee Chair - Susan Wiltshire

## **EPA WIPP Technical Workshop Traveller Information/Guidelines**

**EPA has pre-reserved a block of 20 rooms at the Embassy Row Hotel at the single room government rate of \$113.00 per night for the workshop. When you arrive and check-in at the registration desk inform the clerk that you are part of the "EPA WIPP Technical Workshop" group to ensure you receive one of the pre-reserved government rate rooms. The Embassy Row Hotel is located at 2015 Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Washington, DC across from the Dupont Circle metro stop on the red line. The telephone number is (202) 265-1600. Please make your hotel reservations by the January 31st cutoff date. The hotel will release the remaining unbooked government rate rooms EPA blocked for the workshop after this date.**

## **TRAVEL QUESTIONS & INFORMATION**

**Contact Bonnie Wyvill at (202) 233-9360 or Rafie Ferguson at (202) 233-9362.**