

Steve E.

Updated 2/15/96

Revision 2

October 6, 1995

WIPP Disposal Decision Plan

FY 1994

FY 1995

FY 1996

FY 1997

FY 1998

Regulatory/Technical Processes

Submit Draft Compliance Certification Package (191) to EPA 3/95

Issue Biennial Environmental Compliance Report 10/94*

Submit Draft No Migration Variance Petition for Disposal to EPA 5/95

Submit Revised Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Application to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) 5/95

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Issue 40 CFR 194 2/96+

Submit No Migration Variance Petition for Disposal to EPA 6/96

Issue Biennial Environmental Compliance Report 10/96*

RCRA Permit Issued 8/96*

Submit Compliance Certification Application to EPA 10/96*

Disposal Phase Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (ROD) 3/97

No Migration Determination Issued 6/97

EPA Certification 10/97*

Secretary of Energy Decision to Operate WIPP as Disposal Facility 10/97*
(All Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) Requirements Met)

WIPP Program Compliance Status Report 3/94

Stakeholders/Oversight

Experimental Programs & Performance Assessment (PA)

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Documentation to 3/95
Draft Compliance Package 12/94

Final Models to PA for 9/96
Complementary Cumulative Distribution Function (CCDF) 9/95

Publish Sealing Systems Design Report 10/95

Final Data Input to Models for 5/96
CCDF 3/96

Final CCDF Calculations to Compliance Application 6/96

Final Performance Input for the 10/96 Compliance Certification Application 6/96

Waste Characterization, Certification, and Inventory

Performance Based Waste Acceptance Criteria Preliminary Baseline Assumptions 10/94

Publish First Baseline Inventory Report 6/94

Inventory Definition to Compliance Package 3/95

Provide Supplemental Inventory Data to PA Based on Waste Characterization Plan 12/95

Inventory Definition to Final Compliance Package 6/96

Issue TRU Waste Management Plan 9/96

Comprehensive Disposal Recommendation Submitted to Congress 5/97*

Operations

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Recertifies TRUPACT-II 8/94

Complete Remote Handled (RH) Strategy 3/95

Complete RH Study 10/95*

NRC Approval of RH Safety Analysis Report for Packaging 9/96

Approve Disposal Operations Safety Analysis Report 3/97

Issue Decommissioning & Post Decommissioning Plan 9/97*

Carrier Operational 6/97

Operational Readiness Declaration 9/97

Notify States & Indian Tribes of Intent to Transport 10/97*

(180 Day Post EPA Certification Waiting Period)

RH Operations are planned to begin in FY2002

Begin CH Disposal Operations 4/98

Notes

1996-1998 milestones are dependent on funding allocation from Program Budget Cycle.

Contact David Holmes, (505) 234-7314, for information or questions related to this document.

* All associated compliance LWA requirements
+ EPA controlled action.

Stakeholder/Oversight Legend

- N NM & Environmental Evaluation Group Quarterly Meetings
- S National Academy of Sciences Quarterly Meetings
- E EPA Scheduled Meetings
- B Annual Bureau of Mines Safety Evaluation
- A Annual NM State Advisory Panel Medical Training Report

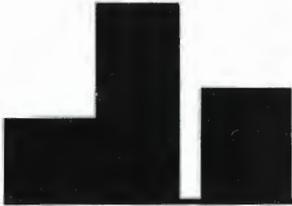
Schedule for additional periodic Stakeholder meetings to be determined. Stakeholder milestones are based on best current estimate.

Approved:

George E. Dials, 10/6/95
George E. Dials Date
Manager, Carlsbad Area Office

960308





Disposal Decision Plan Provides “Roadmap” of WIPP Milestones

***Decision set for
October 1997***

***Plan shows WIPP
time lines***

In October 1997 the Secretary of Energy will decide whether to open the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), near Carlsbad, New Mexico, as the nation's facility for permanent disposal of defense-related transuranic radioactive waste now stored at 23 sites across the United States.

The *WIPP Disposal Decision Plan*, on the other side of this fact sheet, is the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) “roadmap” for reaching the complex goal of demonstrating compliance with all environmental, safety, and health regulations leading to that decision. Stakeholders can use the plan to anticipate upcoming WIPP milestones.

The *WIPP Disposal Decision Plan* shows an integrated time line of milestones that must be accomplished before a decision is made to operate the facility. Milestones fall into five categories:

- **Regulatory/Technical Activities**, including applications the CAO must submit to regulators to comply with applicable laws; permits, certifications, and determinations the regulators will make regarding the WIPP; and other reports required by law. The Secretary's decision is part of the regulatory time line.
- **Stakeholder/Oversight**, including meetings with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New Mexico Environment Department, Environmental Evaluation Group, National Academy of Sciences, and New Mexico Medical Working Group. Additional stakeholder meetings will coincide with key milestones, so interested citizens can learn about and comment on CAO plans.
- **Experimental Programs and Performance Assessment**, including completion of experiments and transmittal of the results to regulators through applications, and development and refinement of models, data and calculations regarding expected performance of the WIPP. In essence, this activity develops the scientific basis for the performance of the WIPP.
- **National Transuranic Program and Waste Characterization**, including completion of an inventory of transuranic waste throughout the Department of Energy, development of criteria for accepting waste at WIPP, and organization of the system for transporting the waste.
- **Operations**, including preparation of certification applications for containers to be used in transporting the waste, completion of Safety Analysis Reports, notification of states and tribes of the intent to ship waste, and an operational readiness declaration.

Triangles on the *Disposal Decision Plan* are project milestone markers. Solid milestone markers indicate completed milestones. The vertical arrows on the chart show which activities in one area support milestones in another.

To obtain more information about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant or to be placed on the Carlsbad Area Office mailing list, call the WIPP Information Center, toll-free, at 1-800-336-WIPP (800-336-9477).



CARLSBAD AREA OFFICE

Upcoming 1996 Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

January 1996						
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May 1996

★ *Milestone: Final Data Input to Models*

June 1996

★ *Milestone: Final Complementary Cumulative Distribution Function Calculations to Final Compliance Certification Application*

★ *Milestone: Final Performance Input for 10/96 Compliance Certification Application*

★ *Milestone: Inventory Definition to Final Compliance Certification Application*

★ *Milestone: Submit to Environmental Protection Agency the No Migration Variance Petition for disposal*

Summer 1996

(Date to be announced)

State of New Mexico public hearings on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B application anticipated

August 1996

★ *Milestone: Issuance of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B Permit by the New Mexico Environment Department anticipated*



★ Milestones (in italics) are key dates shown on the Disposal Decision Plan. For additional information, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477)

July 1996						
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December 1996						
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★★★ For Your Information ★★★

March 1996

Your Copy of the Disposal Decision Plan Enclosed

A copy of the WIPP Disposal Decision Plan is included in this mailing. The Carlsbad Area Office uses the Disposal Decision Plan as a "roadmap" for completing the complex activities demonstrating regulatory compliance. Stakeholders can use it to anticipate upcoming WIPP milestones. One of those milestones was reached on February 1, 1996, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued its criteria (contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 194) for certification of the WIPP's compliance with radioactive waste disposal standards (contained in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 191). The criteria implement the agency's radioactive waste disposal standards specifically at the WIPP.

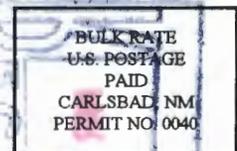
★★★ Now Available ★★★

The *Draft Plan for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement-II Public Hearings* has been completed. The Carlsbad Area Office would like your feedback on it. The draft lays out the purpose, logistics, and general schedule, and proposes locations for public hearings. Call the WIPP Information Center 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477) for a copy. Please provide your comments in writing or by phone to the WIPP Information Center by March 31, 1996.

Also available is the winter edition of the *TRU Progress* newsletter. For more information on any WIPP topic or to request a copy of any of the above documents, call the WIPP Information Center 1-800-336-WIPP (1-800-336-9477).



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