



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

Steve

August 4, 1998



Mr. Benito Garcia, Chief
Hazardous and Radioactive
Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044A Galisteo Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Re: Comments on the draft RCRA Part B permit for the Waste
Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) EPA No. NM4890139088

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the
draft permit submitted on May 15, 1998. Listed below are the
comments Region 6 has regarding this draft permit.

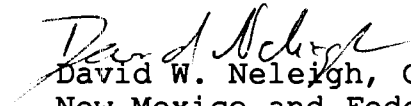
- 1) **General Comment:** The draft permit requires a permit
modification for each generator site before WIPP can receive
waste from that site. Region 6 recommends that NMED
consider changing the language at Section II.B.1 to provide
a more streamlined method of approving the receipt of waste
from off site generators. At a minimum, the Region
recommends that NMED identify the specific modification
process required for site certification.
- 2) **Module I:** The boilerplate condition pertaining to
severability of the permit, 40 CFR 124.16(a)(1) and (2), was
not found. NMED should add this requirement to the permit
boilerplate language.
- 3) **Page II-13, Section II.N-P and page VI-4, Section VI.E:**
These sections refer to the "permittees" and should be
clarified to define the relationship between DOE and the
contractor, WID. The permit should describe the financial
assurance responsibilities of the contractor as required by
NMED.
- 4) **Page IV-3, Section IV.D.1:** It is unclear to which media the
concentrations listed in Table IV-D.1 apply. Table IV.D.1
should be clarified to indicate whether the concentrations
apply to the air or the waste material.



- 5) **Page VII-4, Section VII.A:** Section VII.B.4.a references the Administrator with regard to treatment standards. Consider adding a definition of "Administrator" to the definitions in Section VII.A.
- 6) **Page I-25, Table I-1, Attachment I:** The table indicates that operations begin in July, 1998. Due to the delay in the RCRA Part B permit issuance, the anticipated closure dates will change.
- 7) **Page J-5, Section J-1a(2), Attachment J:** The text states that the groundwater monitoring frequency may be changed during post-closure. The text should be clarified to reflect NMED approval for changes to the monitoring frequency and constituents to be monitored.
- 8) **Page L-63, Figure L-8, Attachment L:** The application needs to include a larger scaled map of the monitoring well locations. The map provided is too small to clearly appreciate well placement.
- 9) **Page M1-1, Section M1-1b, Attachment M1:** In the description of standard 55-gallon drums, standard waste boxes, and 85-gallon drum overpacks, the permit states that each vessel has "...a nominal life of 20 years from the date of TRU mixed waste certification." This language should be changed to "... TRU mixed waste loading" to avoid confusion between certified waste characterization processes and the act of container loading.

Thank you for the close cooperation your staff has shown my staff in conducting the pre-publication review. Should you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Nick Stone at (214) 665-7226 for further information.

Sincerely,


David W. Neleigh, Chief
New Mexico and Federal
Facilities Section