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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

December 3, 1998

Mr. Don Hancock
Southwest Research and Information Center
P.O. Box 4524
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Mr Hancock:

This letter is to document our telephone conversation of Monday, November 23, 1998. You called to ask me about differences between the Draft Permit of May 15, 1998, and the revised Draft Permit of November 13, 1998. Specifically, you asked whether the revised Draft Permit, in redline/strikeout format, was supposed to indicate all text removed from the original Draft Permit by a strikeout notation, rather than simply being removed with no indication of its removal. I confirmed that all removed text should be indicated by strikeout notation.

You then informed me that text which had appeared on page B4-3, lines 22-24 of May 15 Draft Permit did not appear anywhere in the November 13 Draft Permit. I confirmed that while this text was not in the printed copy of the November 13 Draft Permit, it is in the WordPerfect file which was available from the NMED WIPP Information web page, the file from which the printed copy was made.

I then identified the probable cause of this discrepancy. I explained that I had taken the original printed copy to the NMED Copy Center on Monday, November 9, at approximately 9:00 AM. However, three of the WordPerfect files have modification date/time stamps after 9:00 AM. I reconstructed that I had made changes to these files with the intention of inserting the replacement pages into the original copy before the Copy Center printed them.

The three files potentially affected are Attachment B4, Attachment B6, and Module VII. Apparently I only printed out new pages for Attachment B4 from page B4-4 forward, even though I should have also printed out pages B4-2 and B4-3 to reflect my removal of the redline phrase "to acquire the required information" on page B4-2, line 23. This removal does not appear in strikeout because it reflects a modification of language we were imposing which was not part of the May 15 Draft Permit. Removal of this phrase caused the page breaks to shift such that the missing strikeout language in question moved from the top of page B4-4 to the bottom of B4-3. The corrected printed replacement pages now accurately reflect the contents of the WordPerfect file which has been available since November 13. I subsequently faxed you

981202



Mr. Don Hancock
Page 2
December 3, 1998

corrected printed pages. Please note that your pages do not have any distinguishing annotation to indicate that they have been corrected.

The changes made to Attachment B4 potentially affected the checklists in Attachment B6. However, I confirmed that I had delivered the appropriate page changes to the Copy Center, and that the printed checklists accurately reflected the changes made in Attachment B4. I further confirmed that I had manually replaced the affected page in Module VII.

NMED is publishing a legal notice regarding the correction of these errors to the revised Draft Permit. This legal notice will appear on the NMED WIPP Information Page <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/>> when published.

Thank you very much for identifying this minor oversight in the revised Draft Permit. Please call me at (505) 827-1560 x1013 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Steve Zappe
RCRA Permits Management Program
NMED Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau

cc: WIPP Hearing Clerk
Red WIPP '98