



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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JUN 3 1999

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

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

Dear Dr. Triay:

We have completed our review of the information you provided on changes in activities or conditions that pertain to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), in accordance with 40 CFR 194.4(b)(4). After examining the information provided by the Department of Energy (DOE) in correspondence dated November 10, 1998 and April 22, 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that the changes reported do not require a modification, suspension or revocation of the Certification Decision of May 13, 1999. We appreciate your cooperation in providing us the additional information that was needed to complete this review.

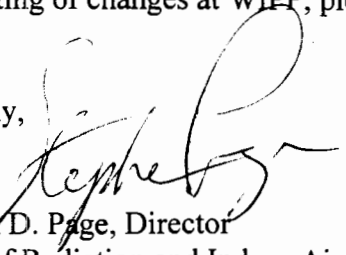
EPA reviewed the changes to the WIPP quality assurance and waste characterization documentation, changes to the individual monitoring plans and the changes in the frequency of the Performance Demonstration Program (PDP). DOE has committed to conducting the semi-annual PDP cycle for all sites until a site has passed the PDP cycle, at which time the site may be required to participate in only one cycle each year. EPA expects that DOE will: 1) keep EPA informed of the PDP cycle status and frequency of each site; 2) ensure that the sites have passed a PDP cycle for a test matrix representative of the waste they are characterizing; and 3) provide documentation to EPA, upon request, justifying a site moving to an annual PDP cycle versus a semi-annual cycle. EPA agrees with DOE's assessment that these changes do not significantly impact the assumptions underlying EPA's Certification Decision.

As you know Section 194.4(b)(3)(i) stipulates that DOE must inform EPA prior to making a planned change in activity or disposal system condition. EPA will continue to provide input to DOE on the appropriate mechanism for reporting any planned or unplanned changes in activities or conditions at WIPP and the determination of their significance.



If you have any questions regarding the reporting of changes at WIPP, please contact Mary Kruger at 202-564-9310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen D. Page". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Stephen D. Page, Director
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air

cc: Bob Neill, EEG
Steve Zappe, NMED ✓