



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

July 12, 1999

ENTERED
RECEIVED
JUL 15 1999
DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU

Mr. Ralph Ford-Schmid
DOE Oversight Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2044 Galisteo Street
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Subject: Verification of Metal concentrations in Shallow Soil and Best Management Practices for WIPP Solid Waste Management Units

Dear Mr. Ford-Schmid:

This letter will serve as documentation of telephone conversations between you and Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID) personnel and subcontractors on June 11, 1999, and June 14, 1999. In addition, this letter will verify information discussed during those conversations.

During the telephone conversation on June 11, 1999, with employees of Harding Lawson Associates (a WID subcontractor) you asked for verification of measured concentrations of metals in shallow soil samples collected and analyzed from three Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Soil samples were collected at 001o (Badger Unit), 001p (Cotton Baby), and 001q (DOE-1) by both the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and WID personnel during the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment (RFA) in October 1992. Separate laboratories analyzed the samples collected by each organization. The analytical results for the metal constituents were reported in Appendices 4.1.16, 4.1.17, and 4.1.18 of the *Assessment of Solid Waste Management Units at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant* (NMED/DOE/AIP-94/1, May 1994). The October 1992 data along with the analytical results for samples collected by WID in January 1992 at SWMU 001o were included in *Voluntary Release Assessment/Corrective Action Workplan for Solid Waste Management Units located at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)* (DOE/WIPP DRAFT-2115, July 25, 1995; Tables 5, 7, and 9). These documents are available for your use at the New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau.

On June 14, 1999, you requested information regarding implementation of best management practices (BMPs) recommended during your visit to the facility in the Spring of 1998 at SWMUs 001o, 001p, 001q, and 001x. To reiterate the information related verbally to you, implementation of BMPs at these SWMUs began in October 1998.



Printed on recycled paper

990710



Mr. Ralph Ford-Schmid

-2-

The implementation involved construction of water diversion berms and ditches and installation of silt fences as required to control precipitation-influenced runoff and erosion of surface soil from the SWMUs. The condition of the SMWUs is evaluated and addressed on an ongoing basis as part of the WIPP National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan inspections.

DOE trusts that we have completely responded to your request for information, both verbally and with this letter. If you need any additional information regarding the SWMUs, please contact Ms. Linda Frnak-Supka at (505) 234-8816.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Zvonar
Environmental Programs Manager

cc:

G. Basabilvazo, CAO
M. McFadden, CAO
L. Frank-Supka, WID

Reference: CAO:ORC:CZ 99-1040 / UFC 5480