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SEP 1999
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September 24, 1999

Mr. Steve Zappe
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Zappe:

You are cordially invited to attend the joint DOE/EEG Workshop on Monitoring Radioactivity in Air at WIPP on Thursday October 14, 1999, at the Pecos River Valley Conference Center in Carlsbad. The workshop agenda will include presentations on the current WIPP radiation effluent monitoring program and involve discussions with experts in aerosol physics and radiation monitoring to identify any potential modifications and improvements to the program.

Enclosed is the tentative draft agenda. Specific speakers have yet to be identified for several sessions. The Thursday session will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until 4:30 p.m. Friday will be an optional discussion time for invited technical experts. It is intended that the workshop include ample opportunities for questions and discussion among the participants.

To save time, we are arranging to have a sandwich buffet brought in for $8.50. If you are planning to attend, please contact Susan Stokum, EEG, 505-885-9675. We look forward to seeing you in October.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Neill
Director

RHN:WTB:js
Enclosure

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AGENDA FOR WORKSHOP ON WIPP RADIATION AIR MONITORING PROGRAMS

Date: October 14 and 15, 1999

Location: Pecos River Conference Center, Carlsbad, NM

Workshop Objectives:

1. **To Describe and Evaluate the Current WIPP Radiation Air Monitoring Program**
2. **To Discuss the Need for Modifications/Improvements to the Current Program.**

Format of the Workshop:

Formal Technical Presentations will be made to attendees during the October 14, 1999 technical session. The morning of October 15, 1999 will be reserved for technical experts to discuss information presented the previous day.

Workshop Moderators: Dr. Inés Triay, CAO Manager and Robert H. Neill, Director EEG.

Introductory Session: (8:00 a.m.)

Welcoming addresses by Dr. Inés Triay, CAO Manager and Robert Neill, EEG Director.

Technical Session: (8:20 a.m. - noon)

1. Purpose and Objectives of Air Monitoring at WIPP (20 minutes)

   Dr. Jim Mewhinney, CAO

2. WIPP Air Ventilation Program and Requirements for Underground Airflow (40 minutes)

WIPP contractor will present current methods for ventilating the underground including normal airflow scheme, airflow during waste handling, airflow during mining operations, airflow plans for underground emergencies, mine safety requirements, filtration system and requirements for maintaining HEPA-Filtration, and basic health and safety requirements.

Speaker(s): WID Engineering

3. Confinement and Defense-in-depth Strategies (60 minutes)

A. Safety Analysis Report Calculations (WIPP contractor will explain strategies for confining routine and accidental releases of radioactivity in the waste handling bay and the underground environment)

Speaker: WID

B. Emergency Preparedness (WIPP contractor will explain the current strategy for recognizing and dealing with potential acute underground release scenarios, and the importance of radiation air monitoring to these plans)

Speaker: WID

BREAK ~ 20 minutes

4. Status of WIPP Monitor (2 hours)

A. Siting and Location of Existing Radiation Air Effluent and Workplace Air Monitors (WIPP contractor will describe the current placement of radiation air monitors, their purpose and technical studies used as the basis for selecting and accepting the monitor location)

Speaker: WID

B. Current Air Monitor Location Information (Including gravimetric analyses, airflow profile studies)

Speaker: WID

C. Discussion of Salt Matrix Penetration Characteristics and Radial-entry

Dr. Mark Hoover, LRRI

D. Station-A Sampling

1. Collection of Station-A Samples and Data Analysis

   Jim Kenney, EEG

2. Collection of Station-A Samples and Data Analysis

   Joel Webb, CEMRC

Afternoon Session 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

5. Station-A Compliance Sampling (90 minutes)

A. Qualification of Station A Sampling Probes (Historical Perspective)

   John Rodgers, LANL

B. Sampling parameters potentially affecting Representative Sampling (such as sampling line cleaning and testing procedures, water in-leakage in the exhaust shaft, salt aerosol from mining).

   Dr. Andrew McFarland, Texas A&M University

C. Studies of Sampling Environment in the Main Exhaust Shaft at WIPP

   Dr. Dennis O'Neal, Texas A&M University

Discussion Session (2:00 - 4:30 p.m.) 20 minute break ~ 3:00 p.m.

Underground Air Monitoring

What are the necessary and useful criteria for establishing that underground alpha CAMs can successfully detect radioactivity and automatically initiate a switch from non-filtered to HEPA-filtered airflow?

What, if any, potential locations should be considered for alternate underground air sampling?

Station-A Air Monitoring

What are the sampling parameters that could possibly cause non-representative air sampling at Station A?

What methodological changes, if any, are necessary to insure representative sampling?

General Discussion

What are the optimal locations for independent exhaust shaft air sampling?

What is necessary to insure the public that radiological air monitoring is sufficient to detect possible chronic and acute releases from exposing the public and environment?

Friday Session (Optional)