



Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

APR 28 2017

Mr. John E. Kieling, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Update to Information Provided in Sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.2 of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, Revision 2, Concerning Radiological Monitoring Equipment

Reference: Permittees' Letter from Todd Shrader, U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office, and Philip J. Breidenbach, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, to John E. Kieling, Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau, dated January 31, 2017, Update to Information Provided in Sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.2 of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, Revision 2, Concerning Radiological Monitoring Equipment, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to update the information provided in the referenced letter regarding Sections 3.2.2 and 3.3.2 of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, Revision 2 concerning radiological monitoring equipment. This is a follow-up to previous verbal notifications to the NMED on this subject.

In the referenced letter the Permittees describe radiological monitoring equipment installed pursuant to the Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan as having been moved from W-170/S-2750 and W-170/S-3080 to E-300 between S-2520 and S-2750. The E-300 drift from S-90 to the south was posted as a "prohibited access" area in February 2017 making access to monitoring equipment located in this area unsafe. As a result, the Permittees have decided to use hand-held radiological monitoring equipment to protect the worker performing work in a drift that is in the exhaust path of Panel 6. Hand-held equipment is as effective as fixed monitoring for detecting elevated airborne radioactive material levels in underground areas while workers are present.

The Permittees are in the process of installing ventilation barriers in the underground that will remove the south end of the underground, including Panel 6, from the ventilation system. Once the south end is removed from the ventilation system, Panel 6-specific real-time monitoring will no longer be needed since the ventilation barriers mitigate the likelihood of a release that would affect workers or the public.

Mr. Kieling

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We certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

If you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please call Mr. George Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Signatures on File

Todd Shrader, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Philip J. Breidenbach, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

cc:

R. Maestas, NMED * ED
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*ED denotes electronic distribution