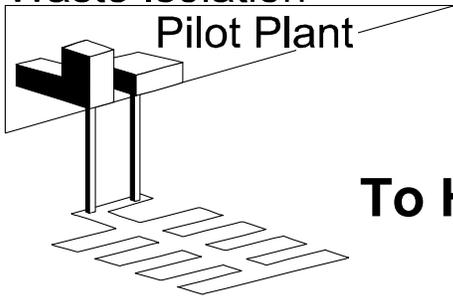


Waste Isolation Pilot Plant



Fact Sheet

DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit



Changes to WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

Background The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (DOE) and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) submitted three proposed Class 2 permit modification requests to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to change the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit). NMED issued WIPP's Permit (Permit Number: NM4890139088-TSDF) in October 1999.

What is Proposed? The purpose of the proposed modifications, submitted to NMED on January 7, 2010, is to clarify language in the permit. Modification is requested for the following items:

1. Clarify language regarding the liquid prohibition in the Permit.
2. Clarify language regarding the use of the visual examination method to characterize waste
3. Clarify the requirements regarding nonconformance reports.

The first modification request clarifies Permit language related to the amount of liquids acceptable in containers for disposal at the WIPP facility. Specifically, the modification proposes four items:

1. Change the liquid prohibition and clarify the associated language.
 - a. Retain an overall one percent liquid limit for each waste container.
 - b. Define the acceptable amount of liquid for small internal containers.
 - c. Prohibit overpacking and redistribution of untreated liquid as a means to comply with the liquid limit.
2. Define or clarify the following terms that are associated with the implementation of the liquid prohibition:
 - a. Observable liquid
 - b. Internal container
 - c. Payload container
 - d. Inner container

e. Residual liquid

3. Make editorial changes related to this modification request.

The second modification request regards the use of the visual examination method and proposes the following changes:

1. Clarify language related to visual examination to create more detailed and consistent requirements.
2. Add language to the Permit requiring justification for the selection of radiography or VE as the appropriate method for waste characterization. The justification will be included in the Characterization Information Summary and will require Permittees approval.

The third modification request addresses the requirements for dispositioning a nonconformance report (NCR) and proposes the following changes:

1. Clarify that any waste container for which a NCR has been written will not be shipped to the WIPP facility unless the condition that led to the NCR for that container has been corrected in accordance with the Permittees Quality Assurance Program Document.
2. Add the requirement that for each container selected for confirmation in accordance with Permit Attachment B7, the Permittees will examine respective NCR documentation to verify the reports have been corrected.
3. Make editorial changes.
4. Change the notification requirement from five calendar days to seven calendar days for non-administrative nonconformances identified at the Site Project Manager level in Permit Attachment B3.

Comments

Comments for the record must be sent to Mr. Steve Zappe, New Mexico Environment Department, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. They also may be e-mailed: steve.zappe@state.nm.us or faxed to 505-476-6060. Only written comments will be accepted and must be received no later than 5 p.m. (MDT) on March 15, 2010. A copy of the permit modification may be viewed or copied at the NMED offices of Mr. Zappe. To be placed on the WIPP mailing list, contact Mr. Zappe at the address above.

***For more
Information***

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). You also may visit the WIPP home page at <http://www.wipp.energy.gov>. Comments to the Permittees regarding this permit modification may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, Washington TRU Solutions LLC, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221.