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**ATTACHMENT A**

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**GENERAL FACILITY DESCRIPTION AND PROCESS INFORMATION**

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**GENERAL FACILITY DESCRIPTION AND  
PROCESS INFORMATION**

A-1 Facility Description

**Abstract**

NAME OF FACILITY:	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
OWNER and CO-OPERATOR:	U.S. Department of Energy ( <b>DOE</b> ) P.O. Box 3090 Carlsbad, NM 88221
CO-OPERATOR:	Salado Isolation Mining Contractors LLC ( <b>SIMCO</b> ) P.O. Box 2078 Carlsbad, NM 88221
RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS:	Mark Bollinger Manager, DOE/Carlsbad Field Office Ken Harrawood Program Manager, Salado Isolation Mining Contractors LLC
FACILITY MAILING ADDRESS:	U.S. Department of Energy P.O. Box 3090 Carlsbad, NM 88221
FACILITY LOCATION:	34 Louis Whitlock Road, Carlsbad, NM 88220
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	575/243-4432
U.S. EPA I.D. NUMBER:	NM4890139088
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: (WGS84)	32.3697706 -103.7913501
DATE OPERATIONS BEGAN:	November 26, 1999

## 1 A-2 Description of Activities

2 The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**) is a facility for the management, storage, and disposal of  
3 transuranic (**TRU**) mixed waste subject to regulation under 20.4.1.500 New Mexico  
4 Administrative Code (**NMAC**), incorporating Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (**CFR**)  
5 Part 264. Both contact-handled (**CH**) and remote-handled (**RH**) TRU mixed wastes are  
6 permitted for storage and disposal at the WIPP facility.

## 7 A-3 Property Description

8 The WIPP property has been divided into functional areas. The Property Protection Area (**PPA**)  
9 is surrounded by a security barrier, which encompasses approximately 34 acres without the  
10 New Filter Building (**NFB**) and approximately 44 acres with the NFB and provides security and  
11 protection for the major surface structures. A second PPA consisting of a nominal 22 acres  
12 surrounds Shaft #5. The DOE Off Limits Area encloses the PPA and is approximately 1,454  
13 acres. These areas define the DOE exclusion zone within which certain items and material are  
14 prohibited. The final zone is marked by the WIPP Site Boundary, a 16-section Federal land area  
15 (Land Withdrawal Area) under the jurisdiction of the DOE.

## 16 A-4 Facility Type

17 There are three basic groups of structures associated with the WIPP facility: surface structures,  
18 shafts and underground structures. The surface structures accommodate the personnel,  
19 equipment, and support services required for the receipt, preparation, and transfer of TRU  
20 mixed waste from the surface to the underground. There are two surface locations where TRU  
21 mixed waste is managed and stored. The first area is the Waste Handling Building (**WHB**)  
22 Container Storage Unit (**WHB Unit**) for TRU mixed waste management and storage. The WHB  
23 Unit consists of the WHB CH Bay, Room 108, and the RH Complex. The second area  
24 designated for managing and storing TRU mixed waste is the Parking Area Container Storage  
25 Unit (**PAU**), an outside container storage area which extends south from the WHB to the chain-  
26 link security fence. The PAU provides storage space for CH shipping containers referred to as  
27 CH packages and RH shipping containers referred to as RH packages on an asphalt and  
28 concrete surface. Permit Part 3 authorizes the storage and management of CH and RH TRU  
29 mixed waste containers in these two surface locations. The technical requirements of  
30 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.170 to 264.178) are applied to the operation of  
31 the WHB Unit and the PAU. Permit Attachment A1 describes the container storage units, the  
32 TRU mixed waste management facilities and operations, and compliance with the technical  
33 requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.170 to 264.178).

34 Four vertical shafts connect the surface facility to the underground. These are the Waste Shaft,  
35 the Salt Handling Shaft, the Exhaust Shaft, and the Air Intake Shaft. A fifth shaft, Shaft #5,  
36 located nominally 1,200 feet west of the Air Intake Shaft also connects the underground facility  
37 to the surface. The Waste Shaft is the only shaft used to transport TRU mixed waste to the  
38 underground. The WIPP facility underground structures are located in a mined salt bed  
39 approximately 2,150 feet below the surface. The underground facility is defined in 20.4.1.100  
40 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §260.10) as a "miscellaneous unit." As a miscellaneous unit,  
41 hazardous waste management units within the repository are subject to permitting according to  
42 20.4.1.900 and 20.4.1.901 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 270) and are regulated under  
43 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 264, Subpart X, *Miscellaneous Units*). The  
44 underground structures include the underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Units (**HWDUs**),

1 areas for future underground HWDUs, the shaft pillar area, interconnecting drifts and other  
2 areas unrelated to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. The underground HWDUs are defined  
3 as waste panels, each consisting of seven rooms and two access drifts. The WIPP facility  
4 underground area is designated as Panels 1 through 12, although only Panels 7 through 12, will  
5 be used under the terms of this Permit, because Panels 1-6 are filled and closed. Each of the  
6 seven rooms is approximately 300 feet long, 33 feet wide and 13 feet high in Panels 1-7, and  
7 approximately 300 feet long, 33 feet wide, and 16 feet high in Panel 8. Permit Part 4 authorizes  
8 the management and disposal of CH and RH TRU mixed waste containers in underground  
9 HWDUs.

10 The Disposal Phase of the WIPP Project consists of receiving loaded CH and RH packages,  
11 unloading and transporting the waste containers to the underground HWDUs, emplacing the  
12 waste in the underground HWDUs, and subsequently achieving closure of the underground  
13 HWDUs in compliance with applicable state and federal regulations. As required by 20.4.1.500  
14 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.601), the Permittees shall ensure that the environmental  
15 performance standards for a miscellaneous unit, which are applied to the underground HWDUs  
16 in the geologic repository, will be met. Permit Attachment A2 describes the underground  
17 HWDUs, the TRU mixed waste management facilities and operations, and compliance with the  
18 technical requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 264). Permit  
19 Attachments G, G1, and G2 describe the closure activities.

#### 20 A-5 Waste Description

21 Wastes destined for disposal at the WIPP facility are byproducts of nuclear weapons production  
22 and have been identified in terms of waste streams based on the processes that produced  
23 them. Waste streams identified by generators are assigned to a Waste Summary Category to  
24 reflect the final waste forms acceptable for transportation and disposal. Details regarding the  
25 Summary Category Groups and waste characterization can be found in Permit Attachment C.

26  
27 Wastes may be generated at the WIPP facility as a direct result of managing the TRU and TRU  
28 mixed wastes received from the off-site generators. Such waste may be generated in either the  
29 WHB or the underground. This waste is referred to as “derived waste,” which means its  
30 hazardous waste characteristics are derived from the off-site waste that produced it. Such  
31 derived waste will be placed in the rooms in HWDUs along with the TRU mixed waste for  
32 disposal.

33 Non-mixed hazardous wastes generated at the WIPP facility, through activities where contact  
34 with TRU mixed waste does not occur, are characterized, placed in containers, and stored (for  
35 periods not exceeding the limits specified in 20.4.1.300 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §262.17))  
36 until they are transported off site for treatment and/or disposal at a designated facility. This  
37 waste generation and accumulation activity, when performed in compliance with 20.4.1.300  
38 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 262), is not subject to RCRA permitting requirements and, as  
39 such, is not addressed in the permit, with the exception of the requirements of 20.4.1.300  
40 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 262, Subpart M), which are addressed in Permit Attachment  
41 D.

1 A-6 Chronology of Events Relevant to Changes in Ownership or Operational Control

2 December 19, 1997 The New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) received notification  
3 of a change of name/ownership from Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
4 to CBS Corporation. The WIPP facility Management and Operating  
5 Contractor (**MOC**), Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (**WID**),  
6 became a division of Westinghouse Electric Company, which in turn was  
7 a division of CBS Corporation. Notification to NMED was made by the  
8 permit applicant in a letter dated December 18, 1997. The Permit  
9 application was under review, but a draft Permit was not yet issued.

10 September 22, 1998 The NMED received notification of a pending transfer of ownership for the  
11 MOC, Westinghouse WID, from CBS Corporation to an as-yet-to-be-  
12 named limited liability company owned jointly by British Nuclear Fuels, plc  
13 and Morrison-Knudsen Corporation. The transfer of ownership was  
14 scheduled to occur on or about December 15, 1998. Notification to NMED  
15 was made by the permit applicant in a letter dated September 17, 1998.  
16 The draft Permit had been issued for public comment, but the final Permit  
17 was not yet issued.

18 March 9, 1999 The NMED again received notification of the pending divestiture of the  
19 MOC, Westinghouse WID, by CBS Corporation to the limited liability  
20 company owned jointly by British Nuclear Fuels, plc and Morrison-  
21 Knudsen Corporation known as MK/BNFL GESCO LLC. The new MOC  
22 would be renamed to Westinghouse Government Environmental Services  
23 Company LLC (**WGES**). Notification to NMED was made by the permit  
24 applicant in a letter dated March 2, 1999. The public hearing on the  
25 Permit was underway, but the final Permit was not yet issued.

26 March 26, 1999 The NMED received official notification of the divestiture of Westinghouse  
27 Electric Company by CBS Corporation to MK/BNFL GESCO LLC  
28 effective March 22, 1999. The MOC was renamed WGES, of which  
29 Westinghouse WID was a division. This transaction constituted a change  
30 of operational control under 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR  
31 §270.40). Notification to NMED was made by the permit applicant in a  
32 letter dated March 24, 1999. The public hearing on the Permit was nearly  
33 concluded, but the final Permit was not yet issued.

34 April 28, 1999 The NMED received a revised Part A Permit Application in a letter dated  
35 April 21, 1999, reflecting that the Westinghouse WID, co-operator of the  
36 WIPP facility, was now a part of WGES. However, the final Permit, issued  
37 October 27, 1999, did not reflect the change in ownership.

38 July 25, 2000 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification in a letter dated July  
39 21, 2000, changing the name in the Permit from WGES WID. This  
40 notification did not constitute the required permit modification under  
41 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40) necessary to reflect  
42 the transfer of the permit to a new operator.

- 1 December 15, 2000 The DOE announced that it had awarded a five-year contract for  
2 management and operation of the WIPP facility to Westinghouse TRU  
3 Solutions LLC, a limited liability company owned jointly by WGES LLC  
4 and Roy F. Weston, Inc. The announcement further stated that, following  
5 a brief transition period, the new contractor would assume MOC  
6 responsibilities on February 1, 2001. This transaction constituted a  
7 change of operational control under 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40  
8 CFR §270.40) requiring a Class 1 permit modification with prior written  
9 approval of NMED.
- 10 February 5, 2001 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification in a letter dated  
11 February 2, 2001, which notified NMED of an organizational name  
12 change of the MOC from WGES WID to Westinghouse TRU Solutions  
13 LLC. This notification did not constitute the required permit modification  
14 under 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40) necessary to  
15 reflect the transfer of the permit to a new operator.
- 16 December 31, 2002 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification in a letter dated  
17 December 27, 2002, which changed the name of the MOC from  
18 Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC to Washington TRU Solutions LLC  
19 (**WTS**). This notification did not constitute the required permit modification  
20 under 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40) necessary to  
21 reflect the transfer of the permit to a new operator.
- 22 February 28, 2003 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification requiring prior agency  
23 approval in a letter dated February 28, 2003, to satisfy the requirements  
24 specified in 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40) to reflect  
25 the transfer of the permit to a new operator.
- 26 September 16, 2004 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification requiring prior agency  
27 approval in a letter dated September 16, 2004, describing a change of  
28 ownership of WTS. WTS is owned jointly by WGES, managing member,  
29 and Weston Solutions, Inc. WGES had been owned jointly by Washington  
30 Group International, Inc. (**WGI**), and BNFL Nuclear Services, Inc.  
31 However, WGI has acquired BNFL's prior interest in the former  
32 Westinghouse government services businesses, which includes BNFL's  
33 prior interest in WGES.
- 34 August 6, 2007 The NMED received notification in a letter dated August 2, 2007 of the  
35 pending acquisition of WGI by URS Corporation at an unknown future  
36 date. This acquisition would be related to operational control, because  
37 WGI is the sole owner of WGES, managing member of the joint venture,  
38 along with Weston Solutions, Inc., that owns WTS, the WIPP facility  
39 MOC. This notification was submitted to assure compliance with  
40 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40(b)).
- 41 November 26, 2007 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification requiring prior agency  
42 approval in a letter dated November 19, 2007, describing a change of  
43 ownership of WTS. On November 15, 2007, WGI was acquired by URS  
44 Corporation. WTS is owned jointly by WGES, managing member, and

1 Weston Solutions, Inc. WGES, formerly owned by WGI, is now owned by  
2 URS Corporation.

3 October 1, 2012 The NMED received a Class 1 permit modification requiring prior agency  
4 approval in a letter dated June 25, 2012 describing a change in the MOC  
5 for the WIPP facility. The new MOC for the WIPP facility will be Nuclear  
6 Waste Partnership LLC. The new MOC is comprised of URS Energy &  
7 Construction, Inc. and Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Group,  
8 Inc.

9 April 1, 2014 URS announced an organizational realignment to move Global  
10 Management and Operational Services Group (GMOS) from URS Energy  
11 & Construction to URS Federal Services Division. Nuclear Waste  
12 Partnership LLC is part of GMOS and remains in this group. The MOC is  
13 comprised of URS Federal Services, Inc. and Babcock and Wilcox  
14 Technical Services Group, Inc.

15 January 5, 2015 On January 5, 2015 URS merged with AECOM. The  
16 MOC, Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC,  
17 is comprised of URS Energy & Construction, Inc. (an organization within  
18 AECOM) and Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Group, Inc. This  
19 merger is therefore not related to a change in operational control because  
20 URS Energy & Construction, Inc. continues to be 70% owner of  
21 Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC.

22 July 1, 2015 On June 8, 2015 the Babcock & Wilcox Company announced its intent to  
23 change the name to BWXT Technical Services Group, Inc. (BWXT TSG).  
24 This change was effective July 1, 2015. No changes are being made to  
25 the MOC. The MOC is comprised of URS Energy & Construction, Inc. and  
26 BWXT Technical Services Group, Inc.

27 September 19, 2016 URS Energy & Construction, Inc. changed its name to AECOM Energy &  
28 Construction, Inc. This name change was effective September 19, 2016.  
29 No changes are being made to the MOC. This is a name change only;  
30 there was no change in operational control. The MOC, Nuclear Waste  
31 partnership LLC, is comprised of AECOM Energy & Construction, Inc.  
32 and BWXT Technical Services Group, Inc. This change does not  
33 constitute the required permit modification under 20.4.1.900 NMAC  
34 (incorporating 40 CFR §270.40) necessary to reflect the transfer of the  
35 Permit to a new operator.

36 January 31, 2020 Lindsay Goldberg/American Securities purchased AECOM's  
37 Management Services group, forming a new company named Amentum.  
38 Included in that transaction was AECOM Energy & Construction, Inc.,  
39 which continues to be the legal guarantor and majority owner of the MOC,  
40 Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC. No changes are being made to the  
41 MOC. Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC is still comprised of AECOM  
42 Energy & Construction, Inc. and BWXT Technical Services Group, Inc.  
43 This is a change in ultimate parent company only; there was no change in  
44 operational control. Therefore, this change does not constitute the



1 required permit modification under 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40  
2 CFR §270.40) necessary to reflect the transfer of the permit to a new  
3 operator.

4 November 22, 2022 The Permittees submitted a Class 1 Permit modification requiring prior  
5 agency approval to the NMED describing a change in the MOC for the  
6 WIPP facility. The new MOC for the WIPP facility is Salado Isolation  
7 Mining Contractors LLC. The new MOC is a single purpose entity  
8 comprised of Bechtel National Inc.