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NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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December 6, 2019

Kirk Lachman, Acting Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Sean Dunagan, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

**RE: TECHNICAL INCOMPLETENESS DETERMINATION OF CLASS 3 MODIFICATION
EXCAVATION OF A NEW SHAFT AND ASSOCIATED CONNECTING DRIFTS
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Lachman and Dunagan:

On August 16, 2019, the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") received the Department of Energy's ("DOE") and Nuclear Waste Partnership's ("NWP") (collectively, the "Permittees") Class 3 Permit Modification Request ("Request"), *Excavation of a New Shaft and Associated Connecting Drifts*, dated August 15, 2019. The Request proposes changes to Permit Attachments A, A2, A4, B, D, and G.

The Request is currently being processed by NMED in accordance with the requirements specified in 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.42(c)) and was determined to be administratively complete on October 28, 2019.

In its technical review of the Request, NMED has determined that additional information is needed. The attached comments list the specific additional information requested by NMED. The Permittees must respond to the information request for NMED to complete its technical review and prepare a draft Permit. The Permittees must submit responses to NMED within 60 days, no later than February 4, 2020.

Messrs. Lachman and Dunagan
December 6, 2019

If you have any question regarding this matter, please contact Ricardo Maestas of the Hazardous Waste Bureau at (505) 476-6050.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Stringer, Director
Resource Protection Division

cc: R. Maestas, NMED
D. Biswell, NMED
M. McLean, NMED
B. Masse, NMED DOE-OB
M. Brown, DOE CBFO
M. Navarrete DOE CBFO
R. Chavez, NWP
L. King, EPA Region 6
T. Peake, EPA ORIA
File: WIPP 19'

Additional Information for Class 3 Permit Modification Request

1. Acronym List: Please provide a list of the acronyms and their meanings for the various ventilation systems associated with the WIPP project (e.g., PVS, SVS, SSCVS) along with a short description for each and information on how they relate to one another including time periods of operation.
2. Affected Permit Sections: Please provide a tentative list of any additional sections of the Permit (e.g., in Attachments D, E, F, G) that will need to be updated later once the new shaft project has been completed.
3. Construction Stages and Timeline: Please provide a breakdown of the different stages of construction for the new shaft (e.g., pre-sinking activities, excavation, drift mining) along with a tentative timeline for these activities to include an estimate of when the associated drifts will be connected to the existing facility. How will operations be affected during this connection?
4. Integrating New Shaft into Ventilation System: Please provide details of how the following ventilation changeover will occur: using the New Filter Building (NFB) for ventilation with the four existing shafts and current ventilation circuits and including the new shaft in the ventilation system. How will operations be affected during this changeover?
5. Shaft Location: Please provide an explanation for the chosen location of the new shaft relative to the present facility footprint.
6. Ventilation Capacity: Please provide an explanation for increasing the ventilation capacity from the previous 425,000 cubic feet per minute to 540,000 cubic feet per minute.
7. Supplemental Analysis (SA) for the Permanent Ventilation System (PVS): Please submit the November 2017 SA for the PVS in which the NFB and the new shaft were considered together for the record.
8. Surface Water Control System: Please provide details demonstrating that control systems for surface water run-on/run-off at the surface location of the new shaft will provide adequate protection from flooding.