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CABINET SECRETARY

October 11, 2023

Mark Bollinger, Manager  
Department of Energy - Carlsbad Field Office  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Ken Harrawood, Program Manager  
Salado Isolation Mining Contractors LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

**Re: NMED Approval of the Request for Extension of Time to Submit  
the Semi-Annual Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring Report  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Bollinger and Harrawood,

On September 13, 2023, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Department of Energy's (DOE) and Salado Isolation Mining Contractors LLC's (SIMCO) (collectively, the Permittees) Request for a 120-day Extension of Time to Submit the Semi-Annual Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring Report (Request). This semi-annual report is required by the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) Part 4, Section 4.6.2.2 which states: *"The Permittees shall report to the Secretary semi-annually in April and October the data and analysis of the VOC Monitoring Plan."*

The Request was submitted pursuant to Permit Part 1, Section 1.10.3, Extension of Time which states: *"The Permittees may seek an extension of time in which to perform a requirement of this Permit, for good cause, by sending a written request for extension of time and proposed revised schedule to the Secretary. The request shall state the length of the requested extension and describe the basis for the request. The Secretary will respond in writing to any request for extension following receipt of the request. If the Secretary denies the request for extension, reasons for the denial will be stated."*

The basis for the Request was stated as follows:

*"The Permittees are requesting a 120-day extension for submittal of the October 2023 report for the following reasons:*

- *Personnel shortages and equipment malfunctions at the contract laboratory have resulted in a delay in the submittal of analytical results to the Permittees. The equipment that has malfunctioned includes the*

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*Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer.*

- *Due to procurement delays, the purchase of replacement equipment is taking longer than expected.*
- *Other available laboratories cannot meet the Permit-required method reporting limit for Methylene Chloride.*

*The above issues have caused delays in obtaining the data needed for the Semi-Annual VOC report."*

This report was due to be submitted by October 31, 2023. The proposed revised schedule is stated as a submittal date of February 28, 2024.

NMED hereby grants the 120-day Request for Extension of Time to Submit the Semi-Annual Volatile Organic Compound Monitoring Report. The Permittees have relief from submitting the report until February 28, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Megan McLean at 505-690-5654.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Maestas  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: M. McLean, NMED HWB  
A. Donahue, NMED HWB  
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File: WIPP '23