



Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
JAN 28 2020

Mr. Kevin Pierard, Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Subject: Report of Implementation of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan* at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility on January 15, 2020, Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Number NM 4890139088-TSDF

Dear Mr. Pierard:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the enclosed subject report pursuant to Permit Attachment D, Section D-5, *Required Reporting*.

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 notification, please call Mr. Michael R. Brown at (575) 234-7476.

Sincerely,

Signatures on File

Gregory Sosson
Acting Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Sean Dunagan
President and Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure
R. Maestas, NMED *ED
D. Biswell, NMED ED
M. McLean, NMED ED
CBFO M&RC
*ED denotes electronic distribution

**Report of Implementation of the
Resource Conservation and Recovery
Act**

**Contingency Plan
at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

January 15, 2020

Report of Implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility (EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088) on January 15, 2020

The purpose of this report is to satisfy the requirement in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) Attachment D, *RCRA Contingency Plan*, Section D-5, *Required Reporting*, to submit a written report of the incident to the Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI Administrator within 15 days of implementing the *RCRA Contingency Plan*. The information required to be included in the report is provided below.

- The name, address, and telephone number of the Owner/Operator

United States Department of Energy, the owner and operator of the WIPP facility,
and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), co-operator of the WIPP facility
P.O. Box 3090
34 Louis Whitlock Road
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 234-7300

- The name, address, and telephone number of the facility

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
P.O. Box 3090
34 Louis Whitlock Road
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(800) 336-9477

- The date, time, and type of incident (e.g., fire, explosion or release)
 - On January 15, 2020 (Tuesday), at approximately 0859 MDT, the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented as a precautionary measure while operating staff investigated the condition of a ten-drum overpack (TDOP) in the Contact-Handled (CH) Bay of the Waste Handling Building Container Storage Unit. Verbal notification of implementation of the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was provided to the NMED on January 15, 2020 at approximately 1148 MDT.
 - The TDOP container (Container Identification Number BN10671740) was from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site and was received at the WIPP facility in shipment number IN200003. The TDOP contained six, 85-gallon drums of waste. Upon lifting the TDOP from the shipping package (TRUPACT II Number 177) on January 14, 2020, waste handling personnel observed damage to the TDOP that was identified as a potential small puncture (hole). Radiological surveys and visual inspections were performed, and results indicated there was no release from the TDOP. The TDOP was lowered back into the TRUPACT-II container.
 - Because the damaged area identified as a potential puncture (hole) in the exterior of the TDOP may increase the potential for release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents from inner containers, the following precautionary measures were taken:
 - The TDOP was placed back into the TRUPACT-II container.

- The WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented on January 15, 2020 at approximately 0859 MDT pursuant to the first paragraph in Permit Attachment D, Section D-3 *Criteria for Implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan*.

The provisions of the RCRA Contingency Plan shall be implemented immediately whenever there is a fire, an explosion, or a release of hazardous wastes or hazardous waste constituents that could threaten human health or the environment, or whenever the potential for such an event exists as determined by the RCRA Emergency Coordinator, as required under 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.51(b)).

- The name and quantity of material(s) involved
 - The TDOP (BN10671740) was shipped with six, 85-gallon drums of waste with a total weight of the loaded drums of 2,371.34 kgs (waste and packaging). The waste inside is from waste stream ID-RF-S3114, Organic Setups from the INL Site which also contains PCB waste.
- The extent of injuries, if any
 - No injuries resulted from the incident.
- An assessment of actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment, where this is applicable
 - There were no actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment. Waste handling activities in the affected TRUPACT-II Dock area were suspended. Access to the affected TRUPACT-II Dock area is being limited and controlled by the Waste Operations organization.
- The estimated quantity and disposition of recovered material that resulted from the incident
 - No materials required recovery or disposition.
- Any additional information/comments
 - Actions are being considered for disposition of the TDOP.
 - Upon conclusion of the actions to address the potential puncture (hole) in the TDOP, the Permittees will provide a letter to NMED documenting termination of the implementation of the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan*.