



Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
September 14, 2023

Mr. Ricardo Maestas, Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508

Subject: Report of Implementation of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan* at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility on August 30, 2023, Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Number NM 4890139088-TSDF

Dear Mr. Maestas:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the enclosed subject report pursuant to Permit Condition 1.7.13.4, referencing Permit Attachment D, Section D-5, *Required Reporting*.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and the enclosure 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, please contact Mr. Michael Gerle at (575) 988-5372.

Sincerely,

Signatures on File

Mark Bollinger
Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Ken Harrawood
Program Manager
Salado Isolation Mining Contractors

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure

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M. McLean, NMED ED

*ED denotes electronic distribution

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*ED denotes electronic distribution

**Report of Implementation of the
*Resource Conservation and Recovery
Act Contingency Plan*
at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on
August 30, 2023**

3 pages

Report of Implementation of the *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan* at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility (EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088) on August 30, 2023

This report satisfies 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 New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) 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 co-operator of the WIPP facility, and Salado Isolation Mining Contractors LLC (SIMCO), co-operator of the WIPP facility
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 243-4432

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

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
34 Louis Whitlock Road
Carlsbad, NM 88221
(575) 243-4432

- The date, time, and type of incident (e.g., fire, explosion, or release)

- This incident did not involve a fire, explosion, or release to the environment. The WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented as a precautionary measure.

On August 30, 2023 (Wednesday), at approximately 1530 hours, the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented as a precautionary measure. While emplacing waste in Panel 8, Room 6, a forklift with a Brudi push/pull attachment made contact with a 55-gallon drum (container) which had already been emplaced. This contact resulted in a puncture of the external surface of the container. This container has a rigid liner and plastic liner bag inside that remained intact.

Verbal notification of implementation of the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was provided to the NMED on August 30, 2023, at approximately 1540 hours. A follow-up conference call with the NMED occurred August 31, 2023. The NMED was provided information regarding the container of concern and the potential path forward.

- Actions taken:
 - The equipment and payload were placed in a safe configuration.
 - Waste handling activities were suspended at the WIPP facility on August 30, 2023.

- Radiological Control Technicians performed radiological surveys of the area, equipment, and personnel. The radiological surveys identified there was no radiological contamination or release of radioactivity.
 - As an interim measure, tape was used to cover the small puncture site.
 - No airborne release was detected by the Continuous Air Monitors (CAMs) operating in the underground, i.e., they did not alarm nor was radiological contamination detected at the Station A air monitoring station.
 - The underground ventilation system has been in filtration mode as a precautionary measure since the incident occurred.
 - Although there has been no fire, explosion or a release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to the environment, the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented as a precautionary measure pursuant to Permit Attachment D, Section D-3, *Criteria for Implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan*, which states the following:

If, after waste emplacement, one or more containers of TRU mixed waste in an active room has been breached
- The name and quantity of material(s) involved
 - The WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented due to a container being breached after waste emplacement. The container (55-gallon drum) contains waste from INL TRU mixed waste stream IN-BN-ID-SDA-Sludge, *Homogenous Solids from Subsurface Disposal Area*.
 - Container Number
 - 10684225
 - There was no radiological airborne or surface contamination identified.
 - The WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented due to a container being breached after waste emplacement.
- The extent of injuries, if any
 - No injuries resulted.
- An assessment of actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment, where this is applicable
 - Because there was no fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to the environment there were no actual or potential hazards to assess.
- The estimated quantity and disposition of recovered material that resulted from the incident

- Because there was no fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to the environment, there were no materials that required recovery or disposition.
- Any additional information/comments
 - The Permittees repaired the container on September 6, 2023, pursuant to Permit Attachment A1, Section A1-1d(2), CH TRU Mixed Waste Handling.
 - Based upon the results of the above evaluations, the Permittees terminated implementation of the WIPP *RCRA Contingency Plan* on September 7, 2023.