



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

November 14, 2023

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

Subject: Notification of the Projected Start Date of Excavation for Panel 11

Dear Mr. Maestas:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the projected start date of excavation for underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit (HWDU), Panel 11. This notification is being provided in accordance with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) Part 4, Section 4.5.2.2, which states:

Notification Requirements - At least 30 calendar days prior to the projected start date of excavation of each Underground HWDU, the Permittees shall provide written notification to the Secretary stating the projected start date of excavation, along with supporting rationale (e.g., projected waste receipt rate, etc.). The Permittees shall post a link to the notification transmittal letter on the WIPP Home Page and inform those on the e-mail notification list as specified in Permit Section 1.11.

December 2023 is the projected start date of Panel 11 excavation. Mining is estimated to take approximately 20 months, followed by outfitting and certification (approximately 8 months). Based on this anticipated schedule, Panel 11 mining activities will require approximately 28 months and is estimated to be completed in 2026. The need to begin mining of Panel 11 is based on projected waste receipt rates. We will keep you informed of the progress of Panel 11 mining activities.

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 Gerle at (575) 988-5372.

Sincerely,

//Signatures on File//

Mark Bollinger
Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Ken Harrawood
Program Manager
Salado Isolation Mining Contractors

Mr. Ricardo Maestas

-2-

November 14, 2023

cc:

A. Donahue, NMED

*ED

M. McLean, NMED

ED

E. Christensen, EPA Region 6

ED

T. Peake, EPA

ED

*ED denotes electronic distribution