



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 22 2018

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Todd Shrader
Manager, Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Dear Mr. Shrader:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your September 29, 2017 "Planned Change Notice Regarding the Excavation and Construction of a New Ventilation Shaft and Associated Access Drifts at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)" and two associated documents: the "Impact Assessment of an Additional WIPP Shaft", Sandia National Laboratory, dated November 17, 2014 and the "New Shaft Conceptual Drawings" (undated). Thank you for providing this information.

Your letter describes the need for the new shaft and its benefit as part of the upgrade to the underground ventilation system. It also provides additional discussion relating to your view that the WIPP will continue to meet the regulatory requirements for long-term isolation of transuranic waste. Historical analyses (e.g., the original compliance certification application) have identified that the shafts are not pathways for releases, but the Impact Assessment enclosed with your letter is dated 2014 and does not address the data and analysis issues identified in EPA's 2017 recertification Federal Register Notice (82 FR 33106).

I understand that the DOE plans to conduct a more up-to-date analysis as part of the 2019 recertification process. The EPA will look forward to fully evaluating this planned change as part of its review of the DOE 2019 WIPP recertification application.

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9448 or have your staff contact Kathleen Economy at (202) 343-9844 or economy.kathleen@epa.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann B. Veal
Director
Radiation Protection Division

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1800176	\$486.00	JAN 26 2018	T. Shrader S. Baschilvazo R. Patterson A. Ward

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