



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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BUTCH TONGATE
Cabinet Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 23, 2017

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

Bruce C. Covert, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL EXTENSION OF STORAGE TIME
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Shrader and Covert:

On June 13, 2017, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received a Request for Additional Extension of Storage Time at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC. (NWP) (collectively the Permittees), in a letter dated June 9, 2017. The extension of storage time request was made pursuant to NMED's December 16, 2016 letter to the Permittees which approved the resumption of normal operating status at WIPP and ceased the provisions of Administrative Order 1 (AO1), dated February 24, 2014. Previous storage time extensions for waste in the Waste Handling Building (WHB) were requested and approved under the provisions of AO1. The December 16, 2016 letter directed the Permittees that if any further extensions to the storage time in the WHB was needed, the Permittees shall make the request in accordance with the Permit no later than June 16, 2017.

The Permittees have requested an extension of storage time 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 Permittees requested a one year extension for storage time of the current deadline, June 30, 2017 until June 30, 2018. The basis for the request included adequate time for the following: 1) complete the required enhanced reviews which include a chemical compatibility evaluation and a review against the new Basis of Knowledge document to evaluate potential oxidizing chemicals in waste streams; 2) obtain the required CBFO concurrence; and, 3) emplace the waste containers in the underground.

The request also indicated that all the waste in extended storage in the WHB has undergone the new enhanced reviews with the exception of the following waste streams and their respective subpopulations of payload containers:

- SR-W027-HBL-BOX (1 payload container)
- SR-MD-PAD1 (3 payload containers)
- BNINW216 (22 payload containers)

NMED hereby approves the request and extends the storage time for the specified waste in the WHB for one additional year, until June 30, 2018. If any of the above specified waste cannot be emplaced in the WIPP underground by the expiration of this deadline, the Permittees shall submit a written request to NMED, in accordance with the Permit, no later than June 15, 2018.

NMED also requests that the Permittees provide verbal notification once the enhanced reviews have been completed and again when the containers have been emplaced. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ricardo Maestas at (505) 476-6050.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: R. Maestas, NMED HWB
D. Biswell, NMED HWB
S. Lucas-Kamat, NMED DOEBOB
L. King, EPA Region 6
T. Peake, EPA ORIA
File: WIPP '17