



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Telephone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RYAN FLYNN
Cabinet Secretary
BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 1, 2015

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

Robert L. McQuinn, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

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

Dear Messrs. Franco and McQuinn:

The New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") is in receipt of the April 22, 2015 request from the Department of Energy ("DOE") and Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC ("NWP") (collectively the "Permittees"), concerning an additional extension of storage time for TRU mixed waste in the Waste Handling Building ("WHB") in accordance with NMED's Administrative Order ("Order") dated February 27, 2014, and NMED letter dated November 7, 2014. The April 22, 2015 letter requests an extension of storage time until June 30, 2016 based on the findings of the AIB Phase 2 Report issued in April 2015 and the DOE approved Interim Performance Baseline Schedule.

NMED hereby extends the storage time for TRU mixed waste that is currently stored in the WHB to June 30, 2016 from the previously approved May 6, 2015 extension. If the TRU mixed waste stored in the WHB cannot be placed in the WIPP underground by the expiration of this deadline, the Permittees shall submit a written proposal to NMED that reevaluates the alternative storage options no later than June 16, 2016 (14 days before deadline). The submittal shall, at a minimum: address any new or updated information related to potential impacts to human health and the environment; information about alternative storage options that includes a thorough

Messrs. Franco and McQuinn
May 1, 2015
Page 2

analysis of the Permittees' issues with returning waste to generator sites; and a description of any options or plans for emplacement of the waste in the underground.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ricardo Maestas, at (505) 476-6050, or John Kieling, at (505) 476-6035.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Roberts
Director
Resource Protection Division

cc: J. Kendall, General Counsel NMED
J. Kieling, NMED HWB
R. Maestas, NMED HWB
S. Lucas-Kamat, NMED DOEOB
L. King, EPA Region 6
T. Peake, EPA ORIA
Reading and File: WIPP 2015