

**Department of Energy**

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

APR 05 2017

Mr. John E. Kieling, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Report of Implementation of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Contingency Plan* on March 24, 2017,  
Hazardous Waste Facility Permit Number NM 4890139088-TSDF


Dear Mr. Kieling:

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

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. George Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,  
**Signatures on file**

 Todd Shrader, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office

Philip J. Breidenbach, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

CC:  
R. Maestas, NMED      \*ED  
D. Biswell, NMED      ED  
CBFO M&RC  
\*ED denotes electronic distribution

**Report of Implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Facility (EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088) on March 24, 2017**

The purpose of this report is to satisfy 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 Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VI Administrator 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 operator of the WIPP facility, and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC, co-operator of the WIPP facility  
P.O. Box 3090, Carlsbad, NM 88221  
(575) 234-7300
- The name, address, and telephone number of the facility
  - Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
26 miles east of Carlsbad, in Eddy County in southeastern NM 88220  
(800) 336-9477
- The date, time, and type of incident (spill, release, fire, explosion, radiological, etc.)
  - On March 24, 2017, at approximately 9:10 a.m., a worker proceeding to change the air filter on a Portable Air Sampler (PAS) located in the WIPP underground facility observed what appeared to be a spark and a puff of smoke coming from the PAS. The PAS was located in the E-140 drift near the intersection of the E-140 and S-1950 drifts. The worker immediately unplugged the PAS. The underground was evacuated. The *RCRA Contingency Plan* was implemented on March 24, 2017, pursuant to the criteria in the Permit, Attachment D, Section D-3, *Criteria for Implementation of the RCRA Contingency Plan*:
    - *If a fire occurs in underground that results in immediate personnel evacuation or prevents normal personnel access to the underground*

Although no flame was observed, the incident was addressed as a potential fire.
- The name and quantity of material(s) involved
  - The PAS was the only item involved in the incident. There was no hazardous waste or TRU-mixed waste involved in the incident.
- The extent of injuries, if any
  - No injuries resulted from this incident.
- An assessment of actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment, where this is applicable

- There were no actual or potential hazards to human health or the environment. As a precautionary measure, personnel were evacuated from the WIPP underground and personnel access to the underground was restricted until cleared by emergency management personnel and until WIPP facility senior management authorized re-entry into the WIPP underground.
- The estimated quantity and disposition of recovered material that resulted from the incident
  - No materials required recovery or disposition.
- Any additional information/comments
  - Underground access restrictions were subsequently lifted and implementation of the *RCRA Contingency Plan* terminated at approximately 4:30 p.m. on March 24, 2017.