



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

OCT 07 2016

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

Subject: Notification of Trend Towards Adverse Conditions

Reference: DOE Letter CBFO:EPD:GTB:MN:15-1419:UFC 5486.00 from Mr. J. R. Franco and Mr. R. L. McQuinn to Mr. John Kieling, dated February 9, 2015, subject: Transmittal of Notification of Adverse Conditions

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update notification to the reference submitted pursuant to Permit Part 4, Section 4.6.1.3., *Notification of Adverse Conditions*; and Permit Attachment A2, Section A2-5b(2)(a), *Description of the Geomechanical Monitoring System*. This notification is being provided because although Panels three, four, five and six are filled (i.e., no longer receiving Transuranic mixed waste for disposal) they have not been closed with a final panel closure.

In the eighteen months since our first letter concerning a trend towards adverse conditions, several areas in the underground have been posted as prohibited, meaning entry is not allowed. As discussed with your staff earlier this week, two of these prohibited areas have recently experienced rock falls. These areas have been prohibited for many months so there were no personnel who were at risk during the time of the rock falls.

The notification provides information with regard to the geotechnical conditions in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) underground. The Permittees continue to implement their ground control program to monitor and inspect areas in the underground in order to continue to provide a safe environment for our workers and to identify areas that should not be entered without remediation.

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.

Mr. John E. Kieling

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If you should have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Mr. George Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Original Signatures on File

Todd Shrader, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Philip J. Breidenbach, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure

K. Roberts, NMED *ED

R. Maestas, NMED ED

C. Smith, NMED ED

CBFO M&RC

*ED denotes electronic distribution