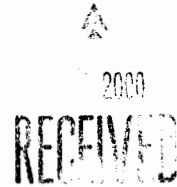




Department of Energy

Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
April 5, 2000



Mr. John E. Kieling
New Mexico Environment Department
Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau
2044-A Galisteo
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Subject: Request for Approval for Submittal of a Sampling and Analysis Plan

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The U. S. Department of Energy/Carlsbad Area Office (DOE/CAO) and Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division (WID) requests a letter from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Hazardous & Radioactive Materials Bureau, HRMB). The letter should state that submittal of a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) for the WIPP Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern (SWMUs/AOCs) will constitute compliance with the requirements in Module VII (VII.M) of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Permit requirements for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan.

As defined in the *WIPP Facility Work Plan for Solid Waste Management Units and Areas of Concern* submitted to the NMED on February 24, 2000, the DOE/CAO and WID plan to follow the HRMB guidance as an alternative to the RFI Work plan. Current NMED guidance identifies an Accelerated Corrective Action Approach (ACAA) that may be used for any SWMU or AOC (HRMB Manual, 1998). This accelerated approach is used to replace the standard RFI Work Plan and report sequence with a more flexible decision-making approach. The ACAA allows a Facility to exit the schedule of compliance contained in the Facility's Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) permit module and proceed on an accelerated time frame. Thus, the ACAA process can be entered either before or after an RFI Work Plan. According to NMED's guidance, a facility can prepare an RFI Work Plan or a SAP for any SWMU or AOC, and, thereby, fulfills the permit requirements.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please call Mr. Jody Plum at (505) 234-7462 or Ms. Cynthia A. Zvonar at (505) 234-7495.

Sincerely,

Dr. Inés R. Triay
Manager

cc:
Steve Zappe, NMED-HRMB
L. Frank-Supka, WID
WID Hazardous Waste Permit Files



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