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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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PETER MAGGIORE
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PAUL R. RITZMA
DEUPTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 26, 2001

Dr. Inés Triay, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Mr. Joe Epstein, General Manager
Westinghouse Waste Isolation Division
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: 60-DAY EXTENSION FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING REPORTING REQUIREMENT
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Dr. Triay and Mr. Epstein:

On January 25, 2001, NMED received a January 18, 2001 letter from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) requesting a 60-day extension to the groundwater quality reporting requirements specified in Permit Condition V.J.2.a of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. This request stated that problems associated with high total dissolved solids in the Culebra groundwater make it difficult for the contract analytical laboratories to provide accurate, repeatable analytical results within the 60-day timeframe.

The letter also indicated that CBFO may submit a permit modification in the future if they determine that the current requirement (to report analytical results to NMED no later than sixty calendar days after the final sample is collected) will continue to be difficult to achieve. NMED has identified that such a change to the Permit would be considered a Class 2 modification according to Appendix I to §270.42, Item A.4.b. NMED encourages the Permittees to seriously consider submitting such a permit modification, and include as the supporting basis for this modification the results of your systematic evaluation of the time needed to perform the entire groundwater monitoring and reporting process.

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I spoke with Stewart Jones of Westinghouse the morning of January 24, 2001, and confirmed from him that the collection date of the final sample of Round 11 of the groundwater quality sampling program was November 30, 2000. Based upon the information provided in the extension request and this date, NMED hereby approves the request for a 60-day extension and will accept the analytical results and accompanying report from this sampling round required by Permit Condition V.J.2.a no later than March 30, 2001.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 827-1557, x1013.

Sincerely,



Steve Zappe
NMED WIPP Project Leader

cc: James Bearzi, NMED HWB
John Kieling, NMED HWB
Susan McMichael, NMED OGC
David Neleigh, EPA Region 6
Connie Walker, TechLaw
File: Red WIPP '01