



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

JUL 17 2001

Mr. Steve Zappe  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Bldg. 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Zappe:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I would like to request an extension of the comment period for a Class 3 Permit Modification Request submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department by the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office. The Permit Modification Request (EPA ID no. NM4890139088) was dated June 6, 2001, and applies to "Centralized Waste Confirmation" at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). We would like more time to prepare comments on this request. The Centralized Waste Confirmation effort constitutes an important development not only for the WIPP's hazardous waste permit, but also for EPA's certification of the WIPP for disposal of transuranic radioactive waste.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Monroe, Acting Director  
Center for Federal Regulation

cc: Nick Stone, EPA/R6

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