



Department of Energy
 Carlsbad Field Office
 P. O. Box 3090
 Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
FEB 12 2004

ENTIRE



Ms. Sandra Martin, Bureau Chief
 Hazardous Waste Bureau
 New Mexico Environment Department
 2905 E. Rodeo Park Dr. East Bldg. 1
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

**Subject: Transmittal of Additional Information Regarding the January 22-23, 2004,
 WIPP Inspection by the NMED**

Dear Ms. Martin:

The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information regarding the container in the underground at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) that collects drainage from the waste shaft water rings. This drum was noted during the January 22 and 23, 2004, inspection of the WIPP by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Bureau of Hazardous Waste.

Samples of the water in the drum were collected on Wednesday, January 28, 2004. The samples were taken to an independent environmental laboratory for analysis. The samples were analyzed for Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Procedure (TCLP) metals. Analytical results showed that the water is non-hazardous for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act metals. In addition, the samples were also analyzed for TCLP volatiles and TCLP semi-volatiles. All results confirm the water is not hazardous waste. As such, the drum has been relabeled as non-hazardous waste.

In the future, drums used to collect water will be labeled as "solid waste, analysis pending". When full, containers will be sampled and characterized to determine appropriate management of their contents.

Following the suggestion of the inspectors, the configuration of the container has been modified. A metal fitting is now used to secure the pipe into the bung of the drum and a clamp secures the hose to the fitting. A photograph showing the new configuration is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this data transmittal, please contact Mr. Jody Plum at (505) 234-7462.

Sincerely,

R. Paul Detwiler, Acting Manager
 Carlsbad Field Office
 U.S. Department of Energy

S. D. Warren, General Manager
 Washington TRU Solution, LLC

Enclosure



Ms. Sandra Martin

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cc: w/o enclosure
S. Zappe, NMED
J. Kieling, NMED