
**Title 40 CFR Part 191
Subparts B and C
Compliance Recertification Application 2014
for the
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

**Content of Compliance
Recertification Application(s)
(40 CFR § 194.15)**



**United States Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**

**Carlsbad Field Office
Carlsbad, New Mexico**

Compliance Recertification Application 2014
Content of Compliance
Recertification Application(s)
(40 CFR § 194.15)

Table of Contents

15.0 Content of Compliance Recertification Application(s) (40 CFR § 194.15) 15-1

 15.1 Requirements 15-1

 15.2 Background 15-1

 15.3 1998 Certification Decision 15-2

 15.4 Changes in the CRA-2004 15-2

 15.5 EPA’s Evaluation of Compliance for the 2004 Recertification 15-2

 15.6 Changes or New Information Between the CRA-2004 and the CRA-2009 (Previously: Changes or New Information Since the 2004 Recertification) 15-2

 15.7 EPA’s Evaluation of Compliance for the 2009 Recertification 15-3

 15.8 Changes or New Information Since the CRA-2009 15-3

 15.8.1 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(1) 15-5

 15.8.1.1 Geologic Information 15-5

 15.8.1.2 Geophysical Information 15-5

 15.8.1.3 Geochemical Information 15-6

 15.8.1.4 Hydrologic Information 15-7

 15.8.1.5 Meteorological Information 15-7

 15.8.2 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(2) 15-12

 15.8.3 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(3) 15-12

 15.8.3.1 WIPP Repository Conditions, Chemistry, and Processes 15-13

 15.8.3.2 Waste Shear Strength Experiments 15-13

 15.8.3.3 MgO Studies and Characterization 15-13

 15.8.3.4 Actinide Investigations 15-14

 15.8.3.5 Iron and Lead Corrosion Experiments 15-14

 15.8.4 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(4) 15-14

 15.8.4.1 Status of Underground Excavation 15-14

 15.8.4.2 Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Emplacement 15-15

 15.8.4.3 Proposed RH-TRU Waste Container Modifications 15-17

 15.8.4.4 Neutrino Experiments in the WIPP Underground Repository 15-17

 15.8.4.5 Planned Change Notice Submittals 15-18

 15.8.4.6 Planned Change Request Submittals 15-19

 15.8.5 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(5) 15-20

 15.8.5.1 Status of Waste Emplacement 15-20

 15.8.5.2 Waste Characteristics and Components Important to Demonstration of Compliance 15-20

 15.8.6 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(6) 15-21

 15.8.7 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(7) 15-21

 15.8.8 40 CFR § 194.15(b) 15-21

 15.8.9 Status of Compliance with 40 CFR § 194.15 15-21

 15.9 References 15-21

List of Figures

Figure 15-1. Monthly Average, Maximum, and Minimum Precipitation for the WIPP Site, 1990-2011* 15-9

Figure 15-2. 2007 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site* 15-10

Figure 15-3. 2008 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site* 15-10

Figure 15-4. 2009 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site* 15-11

Figure 15-5. 2010 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site* 15-11

Figure 15-6. 2011 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site* 15-12

Figure 15-7. Status of Mining and Waste Emplacement as of December 31, 2012 15-16

List of Tables

Table 15-1. Routine Reports 15-4

Table 15-2. Seismic Events in the Delaware Basin* 15-6

Table 15-3. Annual Average, Maximum, and Minimum Temperatures* 15-8

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASER	Annual Site Environmental Report
ATWIR	Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report
CARD	Compliance Application Review Document
CCA	Compliance Certification Application
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH	contact-handled
COMP	compliance monitoring parameter
CRA	Compliance Recertification Application
DM	dark matter
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EXO	Enriched Xenon Observatory
ft	foot/feet
km	kilometer
LBRE	Low Background Radiation Experiment
LWA	Land Withdrawal Act
m	meter(s)
MEGA	Multiple Element Germanium Array
mi	mile
PA	performance assessment
PCN	Planned Change Notice
PCR	Planned Change Request
RH	remote-handled
SEGA	Segmented Enriched Germanium Assembly
SDDI	Salt Defense Disposal Investigations
SDI	Salt Disposal Investigations
TPC	Time Projection Chamber
TRU	transuranic
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Elements and Chemical Compounds

Am	americium
MgO	magnesium oxide
Nd	neodymium
Pu	plutonium
U	uranium

1 **15.0 Content of Compliance Recertification Application(s) (40 CFR**
2 **§ 194.15)**

3 **15.1 Requirements**

§ 194.15 Content of Compliance Recertification Application(s)

(a) In submitting documentation of continued compliance pursuant to section 8(f) of the WIPP LWA, the previous compliance application shall be updated to provide sufficient information for the Administrator to determine whether or not the WIPP continues to be in compliance with the disposal regulations. Updated documentation shall include:

- (1) All additional geologic, geophysical, geochemical, hydrologic, and meteorological information;
- (2) All additional monitoring data, analyses and results;
- (3) All additional analyses and results of laboratory experiments conducted by the Department or its contractors as part of the WIPP program;
- (4) An identification of any activities or assumptions that deviate from the most recent compliance application;
- (5) A description of all waste emplaced in the disposal systems since the most recent compliance certification or re-certification application. Such description shall consist of a description of the waste characteristics and waste components identified in § 194.24(b)(1) and § 194.24(b)(2);
- (6) Any significant information not previously included in a compliance certification or re-certification application related to whether the disposal system continues to be in compliance with the disposal regulations; and
- (7) Any additional information requested by the Administrator or the Administrator's authorized representative.

(b) To the extent that information required for a re-certification of compliance remains valid and has been submitted in previous certification or re-certification applications(s), such information need not be duplicated in subsequent applications; such information may be summarized and referenced.

4

5 **15.2 Background**

6 Information documented in each Compliance Recertification Application (CRA) is prescribed in
7 40 CFR § 194.15 (U.S. EPA 1996). These documentation requirements parallel the requirements
8 of 40 CFR § 194.14 (U.S. EPA 1996), which apply to the original application, the Compliance
9 Certification Application (CCA) (U.S. DOE 1996). The focus of section 194.15 is to ensure that
10 each CRA includes documentation regarding any changes to the disposal system that may have
11 occurred since the previous certification or recertification. Updated information regarding
12 relevant aspects of the waste and the disposal system is documented. However, in cases where
13 information and assumptions have not changed, no new information needs to be documented; a
14 CRA may reference or summarize such unchanged information.

15 Each CRA must identify relevant systems and program changes implemented during the
16 preceding five-year period. Any activity or assumption that deviates from what was described in
17 the most recent recertification application would be considered a change. Each CRA also
18 documents changes reviewed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
19 in the preceding five-year period (through modification of the certification or other processes).
20 Each CRA documents instances where new baseline program elements were established as a
21 result of changes.

1 **15.3 1998 Certification Decision**

2 The CCA, Chapters 2.0 and 3.0 and Appendices GCR, HYDRO, and MASS, include general
3 information about the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site and disposal system design and
4 specifically support section 194.14. Other site characteristics, design, location, and construction
5 information is primarily provided in the CCA, Chapter 7.0 and Appendices BACK, DEL, PCS,
6 and SEAL, which also specifically support section 194.14. All other chapters and appendices of
7 the CCA are not specifically relevant to section 194.14. After its review, the EPA concluded that
8 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) adequately addressed the geology, geophysics,
9 hydrogeology, hydrology, meteorology, climatology, and effects of waste and geochemistry of
10 the disposal system and its vicinity, and how these conditions are expected to change and interact
11 over the regulatory time frame (Compliance Application Review Document [CARD] 14, U.S.
12 EPA 1998a). The EPA reviewed the DOE's CCA and additional information submitted by the
13 DOE and determined that the DOE complied with each of the criteria of section 194.14. A
14 complete description of the EPA's 1998 Certification Decision for section 194.14 can be found
15 in U.S. EPA 1998b, as well as CARD 14 (U.S. EPA 1998a).

16 **15.4 Changes in the CRA-2004**

17 Baseline documentation for section 194.14 was established at the time of the original EPA
18 certification. Information on changes to section 194.14 topics that occurred since the original
19 certification is required to be documented by section 194.15. Changes that occurred during the
20 five-year period following the original certification are documented in the CRA-2004 (U.S. DOE
21 2004), which was submitted by the DOE and reviewed by the EPA under the requirements of
22 section 194.15.

23 During public review of the CRA-2004, the EPA received comments regarding karst features,
24 vertical fracturing, and transport through the Magenta Dolomite Member. The EPA assessed
25 these comments and concluded that the DOE has demonstrated continued compliance. The EPA
26 responses to comments on the CRA-2004 are documented in CARD 14/15, Appendix 15-A (U.S.
27 EPA 2006a).

28 **15.5 EPA's Evaluation of Compliance for the 2004 Recertification**

29 Based on a review and evaluation of the CRA-2004 and supplemental information provided by
30 the DOE (available for review in EPA Docket A-98-49), the EPA determined that the DOE
31 continued to comply with the disposal standards (U.S. EPA 2006b).

32 **15.6 Changes or New Information Between the CRA-2004 and the CRA-2009** 33 **(Previously: Changes or New Information Since the 2004** 34 **Recertification)**

35 Baseline documentation for section 194.14 was established at the time of the original EPA
36 certification. Information on changes to section 194.14 topics that occurred since the CCA was
37 documented in the CRA-2004 (U.S. DOE 2004). Changes that occurred during the five-year
38 period following the CRA-2004 were documented in Section 15 of the CRA-2009 (U.S. DOE

1 2009a), which was submitted by the DOE and reviewed by the EPA under the requirements of
2 40 CFR 194.15.

3 The EPA provided opportunities for public comment throughout the recertification process.
4 Public comments received during the CRA-2009 public comment period, along with the EPA's
5 responses, are documented in CARD 14/15, Appendix 15-C (U.S. EPA 2010a). The EPA
6 responses to hydrologic comments are documented in CARD 14/15, Appendix 15-B (U.S. EPA
7 2010a).

8 **15.7 EPA's Evaluation of Compliance for the 2009 Recertification**

9 Based on a review and evaluation of the CRA-2009 and supplemental information provided by
10 the DOE (available for review in Federal Document Management System Docket ID No EPA-
11 HQ-OAR-2009-0330, Air Docket A-98-49) the EPA determined that the DOE continued to
12 comply with the disposal standards (U.S. EPA 2010b). The EPA assessed all of the public
13 comments received and concluded that the DOE demonstrated continued compliance.

14 **15.8 Changes or New Information Since the CRA-2009**

15 To document that the WIPP continues to comply with the disposal standards in each five-year
16 recertification cycle, changes and new information and their impacts on compliance since the
17 previous recertification must be described. Changes and new information since the CRA-2009
18 related to 40 CFR 194.15 are either described below, or references are provided to other sections
19 or appendices of the CRA-2014 that provide the necessary information.

20 Much of the information provided in this section was obtained from routinely published reports.
21 Table 15-1 lists these reports and summarizes the type of information contained in each report.
22 The specific reports referenced in Table 15-1 are the latest annual or biennial versions submitted
23 to the EPA or published for the EPA's review before this CRA's cutoff date of December 31,
24 2012.

Table 15-1. Routine Reports

Description	Summary	Frequency	Reference ^a
WIPP Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER)	Describes compliance status with applicable environmental laws and regulations and environmental monitoring performed during the year at the WIPP. Highlights any significant monitoring results or findings.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012a
Geotechnical Analysis Report	Reports data related to the geotechnical performance of the various underground facility components, including the shafts, shaft stations, access drifts, and waste disposal areas. Volume 1 describes the overall program; Volume 2 provides a compilation of the collected data.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012b
Annual Change Report	Provides information each year on any change in conditions or activities related to the disposal system, as required by 40 CFR § 194.4(b)(4) ^b . The majority of the items reported are inspections, reports, and modifications to written plans and procedures. In addition, the Annual Change Report provides updates on waste volumes of several parameters and radionuclides upon which the EPA imposes limits.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012c
Delaware Basin Monitoring Annual Report	Lists changes in drilling including rates for shallow and deep drilling; pipeline activity; borehole plugging; injection wells; potash, sulfur, and solution mining; and any other new activity related primarily to human intrusion. This report generates data needed to demonstrate compliance with 40 CFR 194.33.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012d
Compliance Monitoring Parameter (COMP) Assessment	The DOE uses Performance Assessment (PA) to simulate the expected long-term performance of the WIPP. COMPs are used to indicate conditions that are not within expected PA data ranges or conceptual model assumptions, and to alert the project to unexpected conditions. These assessments, in part, demonstrate compliance with 40 CFR 194.42 monitoring requirements. Examples of COMPs include waste activity, changes in groundwater conditions, and creep closure rate.	Annual	Sandia National Laboratories 2012
WIPP Subsidence Monument Leveling Survey	Includes determination of the elevation of each of the existing subsidence monuments and the WIPP baseline survey, and of the National Geodetic Survey's vertical control points.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012e
Annual Transuranic Waste Inventory Report (ATWIR)	Documents the total inventory (stored and projected) of transuranic (TRU) waste as defined by the TRU waste sites to provide current TRU waste inventory information.	Annual	U.S. DOE 2012f
WIPP Biennial Environmental Compliance Report	As required by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (LWA), this document reports the status of the project's compliance with a variety of environmental protection laws and regulations.	Biennial	U.S. DOE 2012g

^aThe entry in this column is the most recent report available.

^bU.S. EPA 1996

1 **15.8.1 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(1)**

2 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(1) requires the submittal of “all additional geologic, geophysical,
3 geochemical, hydrologic, and meteorological information.” Information related to this
4 requirement is provided in Sections 15.8.1.1 through 15.8.1.5.

5 **15.8.1.1 Geologic Information**

6 Since the preparation of the CRA-2009, no new geologic mapping has been reported and no new
7 WIPP monitoring wells have been drilled at new locations. Existing WIPP monitoring wells in
8 deteriorated condition have been replaced and/or plugged and abandoned, as discussed in
9 Appendix HYDRO-2014. The information collected during drilling of replacement wells did not
10 provide new geologic information. In 2011, two exploratory potash boreholes were drilled by
11 The Mosaic Company in township 22S range 31E sections 9 and 10 immediately north of the
12 WIPP Land Withdrawal Boundary. The cuttings and geophysical logs collected from these
13 boreholes (MOS-20 and MOS-21) confirmed the stratigraphy of the geologic units above the
14 Salado Formation, as observed in nearby monitoring wells.

15 **15.8.1.2 Geophysical Information**

16 As described in Appendix SCR-2014, the DOE continues to screen out the impacts of all
17 tectonic-, magmatic-, and structural-related geophysical processes on the basis of probability
18 and/or consequence. Tectonic activity was used as the siting criterion and for the purposes of
19 determining seismic design parameters for the facility. The intent was to avoid tectonic
20 conditions such as faulting and igneous activity that would jeopardize waste isolation over the
21 long term and to avoid areas where earthquake size and frequency could impact facility design
22 and operations.

23 The purpose of continued monitoring of seismic activity is to maintain a database from which to
24 trend ground motions that the WIPP repository may be subjected to in the near and distant future.
25 The concern about seismic effects in the near future, i.e., during the operational period, pertains
26 mainly to the design requirements for surface and underground structures for providing
27 containment during seismic events. The concern about effects occurring over the long term, after
28 the repository has been decommissioned and sealed, pertains more to relative motions (faulting)
29 within the repository and possible effects of faulting on the integrity of the salt beds and/or shaft
30 seals.

31 During the CRA-2014 monitoring period (October 2007 through December 2012) there were 543
32 seismic events recorded within approximately 300 kilometers (km) (187 miles (mi)) of the WIPP
33 site. One notable seismic event occurred on March 18, 2012, with a magnitude of 2.4, as
34 recorded by the WIPP’s seismic array. This seismic event was associated with a potash mine
35 roof fall that caused cracks and subsidence on the surface. This seismic event occurred 14 km (9
36 mi) from the WIPP site, and caused no observable damage at the WIPP.

37 The Delaware Basin Drilling Surveillance Program collects seismic information on areas within
38 and outside of the Delaware Basin (defined in 40 CFR 194.2). However, only the Delaware
39 Basin is used as the defining area for data collection and input into PAs. Recorded events that

1 have occurred within the Delaware Basin between 1971 and December 2012 are listed in Table
 2 15-2, Seismic Events in the Delaware Basin.

3 Earthquake catalogs are usually divided into categories according to the magnitude registered for
 4 each event. Most catalogs have a section detailing seismic events with a magnitude greater than
 5 3.0 because this is the point at which most seismic events can be felt. Below the magnitude of
 6 3.0, most events are very seldom or barely felt. Only 62 seismic events have been reported with
 7 a magnitude greater than 3.0 within 300 km (187 mi) of the WIPP site. Of these 62 events, only
 8 four have occurred in the Delaware Basin. The closest seismic event with a magnitude of 3.2
 9 occurred on October 19, 1997, 14 km (9 mi) from the WIPP site, and was the result of a roof fall
 10 in one of the local potash mines.

Table 15-2. Seismic Events in the Delaware Basin*

County	No. of Events	Earliest Event	Latest Event	Smallest Magnitude	Largest Magnitude
Culberson	15	10/27/1992	06/28/2007	1.1	2.4
Eddy	19	11/28/1975	03/18/2012	-1.3	3.7
Lea	1	06/23/1993	06/23/1993	2.1	2.1
Loving	3	02/04/1976	04/28/1997	1.1	1.6
Pecos	19	01/30/1975	03/10/2010	1.0	2.6
Reeves	21	02/19/1976	10/09/2012	0.6	2.4
Ward	50	09/03/1976	07/01/2009	0.3	2.8
Winkler	9	09/24/1971	10/19/2007	0.0	3.0

Key:

Magnitude

Less than 2 Very seldom felt

2.0 to 3.4 Barely felt

3.5 to 4.2 Felt as a rumble

4.3 to 4.9 Shakes furniture; objects may fall and break

5.0 to 5.9 Dislodges heavy objects; cracks walls

6.0 to 6.9 Considerable damage to buildings

7.0 to 7.3 Major damage to buildings; breaks underground pipes

7.4 to 7.9 Great damage; destroys masonry and frame buildings

Above 8.0 Complete destruction; ground moves in waves

*Source: seismic events for calendar years 1990 through 2012 compiled from (U.S. DOE 2008a; U.S. DOE 2009b; U.S. DOE 2010a; U.S. DOE 2011a; U.S. DOE 2012d).

11

12 **15.8.1.3 Geochemical Information**

13 New hydrogeochemical information has been collected and summarized since the CRA-2009.
 14 This new information is described in detail by Domski et al. (Domski et al.2011) and in
 15 Appendix HYDRO-2014. Groundwater sampling for the geochemical evaluation has been
 16 performed in replacement wells and selected older wells. The last major geochemical evaluation
 17 of the Culebra Dolomite Member groundwater was performed by Domski and Beauheim
 18 (Domski and Beauheim 2008) based on samples from 59 wells. The more recent Culebra
 19 analyses in Domski et al. (Domski et al.2011) are an update of Domski and Beauheim (Domski
 20 and Beauheim 2008). Domski et al. (Domski et al.2011) provides some updated Culebra

1 information, confirming the distribution of Culebra geochemical facies, and primarily contains
2 geochemical analysis for the other hydrologic units above the Salado Formation present near the
3 WIPP site. The spatial distribution of these facies is consistent with the locations of the Rustler
4 Formation halite margins, the distribution of transmissivity in the Culebra, and the areas of
5 known or suspected recharge to the Culebra.

6 **15.8.1.4 Hydrologic Information**

7 No new monitoring well locations have been added to the WIPP monitoring network since the
8 CRA-2009, but several old monitoring wells have either been plugged and abandoned or
9 plugged, abandoned and replaced. Updated hydrologic data and well construction and
10 replacement information are provided in Appendix HYDRO-2014. Appendix HYDRO-2014
11 describes the new information collected since 2007; a brief summary is provided below.

12 The Culebra monitoring network optimization study was revised (Kuhlman 2010) to identify
13 locations where new Culebra monitoring wells would be of greatest value and to identify wells
14 that could be removed from the network with little loss of information. Details are provided in
15 Appendix HYDRO-2014, Section 9.0.

16 The WIPP groundwater monitoring program has continued monthly water-level measurements
17 with continuous (nominally hourly) fluid-pressure measurements using downhole pressure
18 gauges in all Culebra wells except for the Water Quality Sampling Program wells. Continuous
19 monitoring now also includes Magenta, Bell Canyon Formation, and Santa Rosa
20 Formation/Dewey Lake Redbeds Formation wells. The high-frequency monitoring network
21 continues to provide information about the temporal fluctuations of water levels in the Culebra,
22 due to both natural and human-caused events. Details regarding the WIPP groundwater
23 monitoring activities are described in Appendix HYDRO-2014, Section 7.0.

24 **15.8.1.5 Meteorological Information**

25 The Meteorological Monitoring Program measures atmospheric data for the WIPP site. This
26 section provides a brief description of the program and updated meteorological data covering the
27 years 2007 through 2011. No anomalous weather events or changes in climatic conditions
28 occurred during that time period. Information related to recent meteorological conditions is
29 provided below.

30 The annual average, maximum, and minimum temperatures from 1990 through 2011 are listed in
31 Table 15-3.

32

1

Table 15-3. Annual Average, Maximum, and Minimum Temperatures*

Year	Annual Average Temperature		Maximum Temperature		Minimum Temperature	
	(°C)	(°F)	(°C)	(°F)	(°C)	(°F)
1990	17.8	64.0	46.1	115.0	-13.9	7.0
1991	17.2	63.0	42.8	109.0	-7.8	18.0
1992	17.2	63.0	42.8	109.0	-10.0	14.0
1993	17.8	64.0	42.8	109.0	-18.9	-2.0
1994	17.8	64.0	50.0	122.0	-14.4	6.0
1995	17.0	63.0	42.0	107.0	-7.0	19.0
1996	17.0	63.0	41.0	106.0	-7.0	19.0
1997	16.3	61.4	38.6	101.5	-11.4	11.4
1998	18.3	64.9	41.6	106.9	-10.8	12.6
1999	18.1	64.6	40.9	105.6	-7.9	17.8
2000	17.4	63.3	40.2	104.4	-6.8	19.7
2001	17.5	63.5	39.5	103.2	-7.8	18.0
2002	17.2	62.3	40.8	105.5	-10.4	13.3
2003	18.1	64.6	39.2	102.7	-9.1	15.6
2004	16.8	62.2	38.6	101.5	-12.0	10.4
2005	16.8	62.2	39.8	103.6	-13.0	8.6
2006	18.3	65.0	39.6	103.3	-6.0	21.1
2007	17.0	62.7	38.8	101.9	-6.9	19.6
2008	17.7	63.8	40.6	105.0	-8.6	16.6
2009	17.7	63.8	38.1	100.6	-6.1	21.1
2010	17.3	63.2	41.3	106.3	-8.0	17.7
2011	18.9	66.0	41.7	107.0	-16.6	2.1
Average	17.5	63.5	41.2	106.2	-10.0	13.9

*Source: monthly average based on meteorological data in the WIPP Met database from the WIPP Meteorological Station, 10 meters above the ground.

2

1 Monthly average, maximum, and minimum precipitation data recorded at the WIPP site from
 2 1990 through 2011 are provided in Figure 15-1. Data are from the WIPP ASERs.

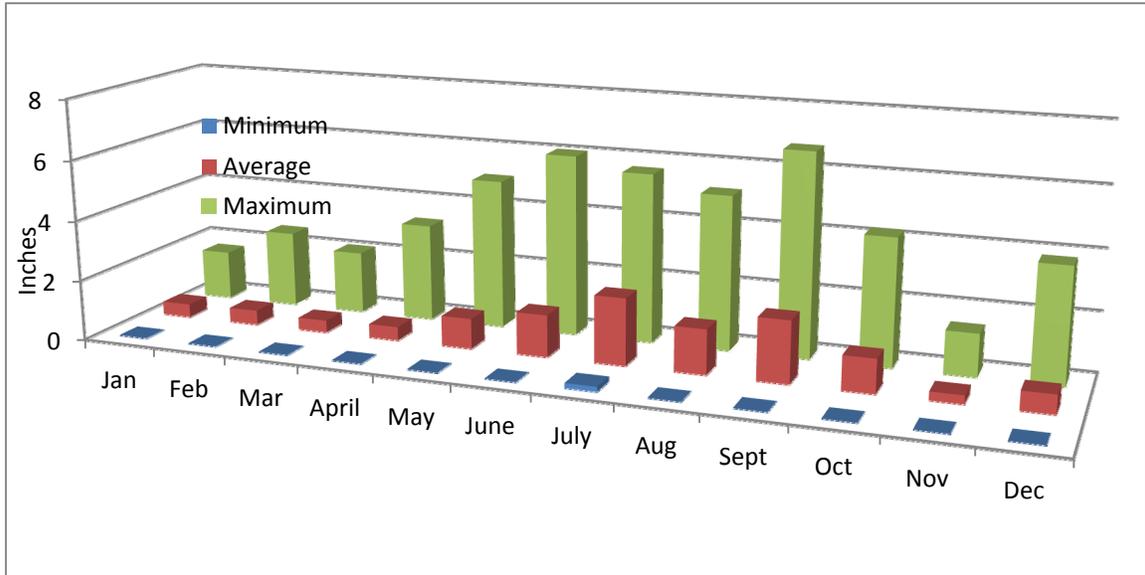


Figure 15-1. Monthly Average, Maximum, and Minimum Precipitation for the WIPP Site, 1990-2011*

*Source: precipitation data for calendar years 1990 through 2011 compiled from (U.S. DOE 2008b; U.S. DOE 2009c; U.S. DOE 2010b; U.S. DOE 2011b; U.S. DOE 2012a).

3
 4 Wind rose plots at 10 meters (m) (33 feet [ft]) indicating the frequency of wind speeds and
 5 directions at the WIPP site from 2007 through 2011 are provided as Figure 15-2, Figure 15-3,
 6 Figure 15-4, Figure 15-5 and Figure 15-6. Data are from the WIPP ASERs.

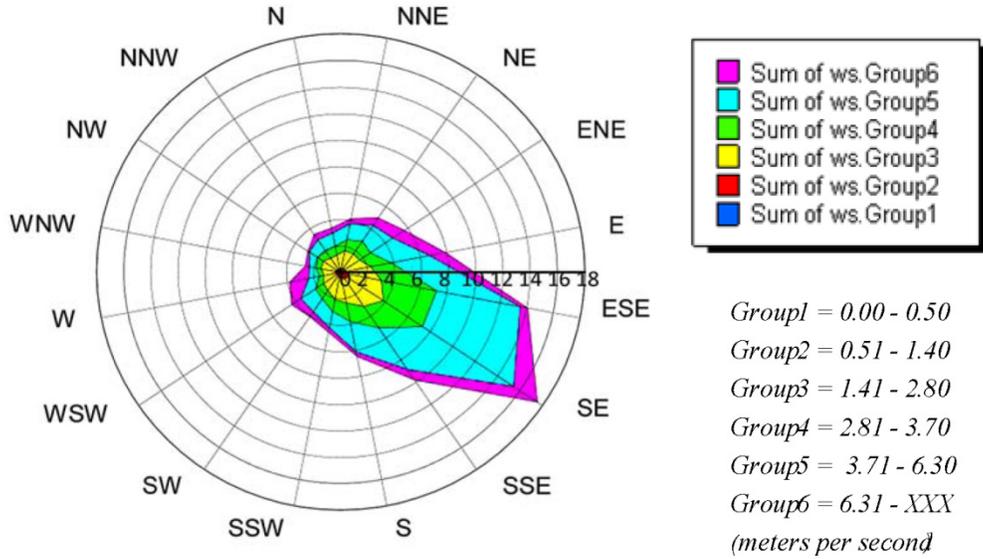


Figure 15-2. 2007 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site*

*Source: U.S. DOE 2008b

1

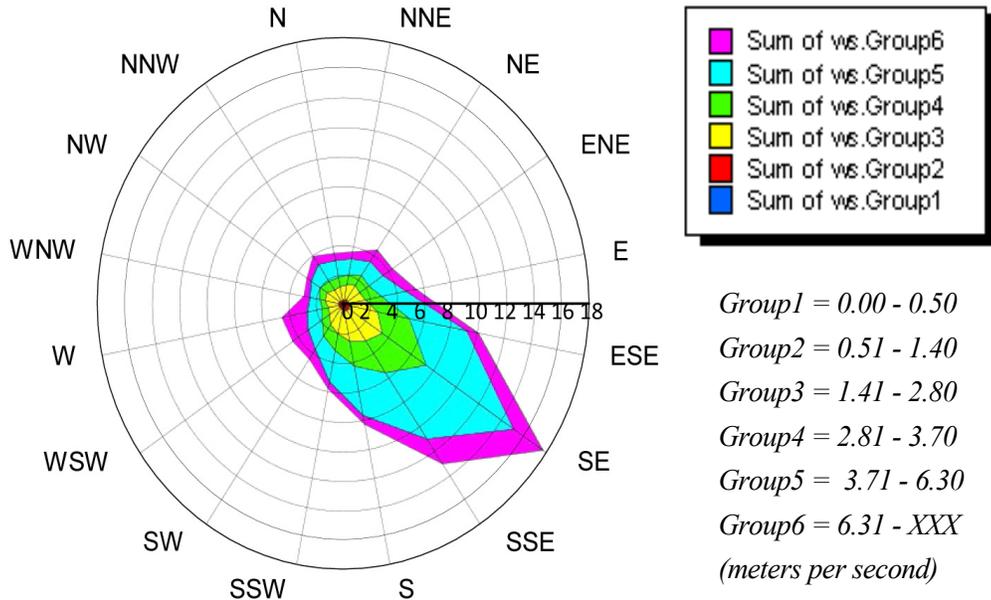


Figure 15-3. 2008 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site*

*Source: U.S. DOE 2009c

2

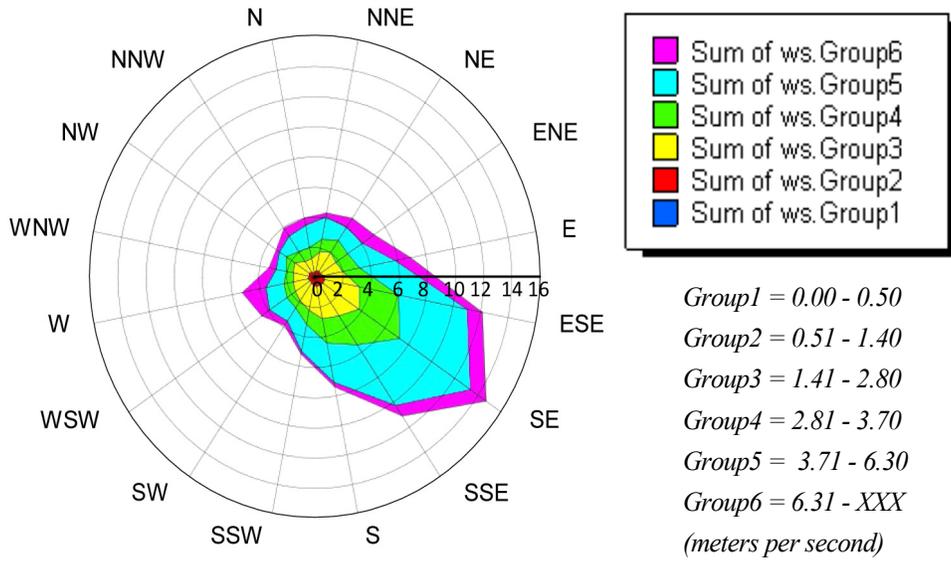


Figure 15-4. 2009 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site*

*Source: U.S. DOE 2010b

1

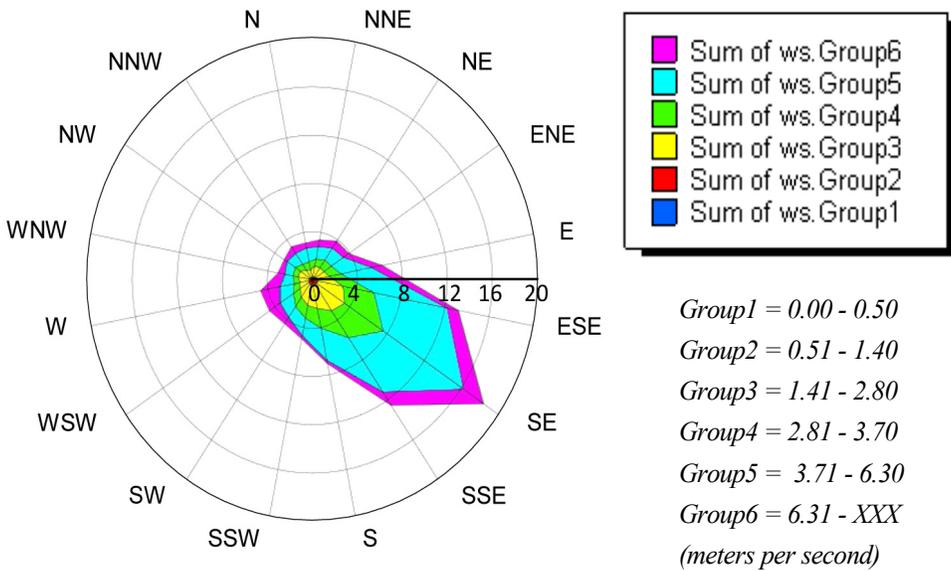


Figure 15-5. 2010 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site*

*Source: U.S. DOE 2011b

2

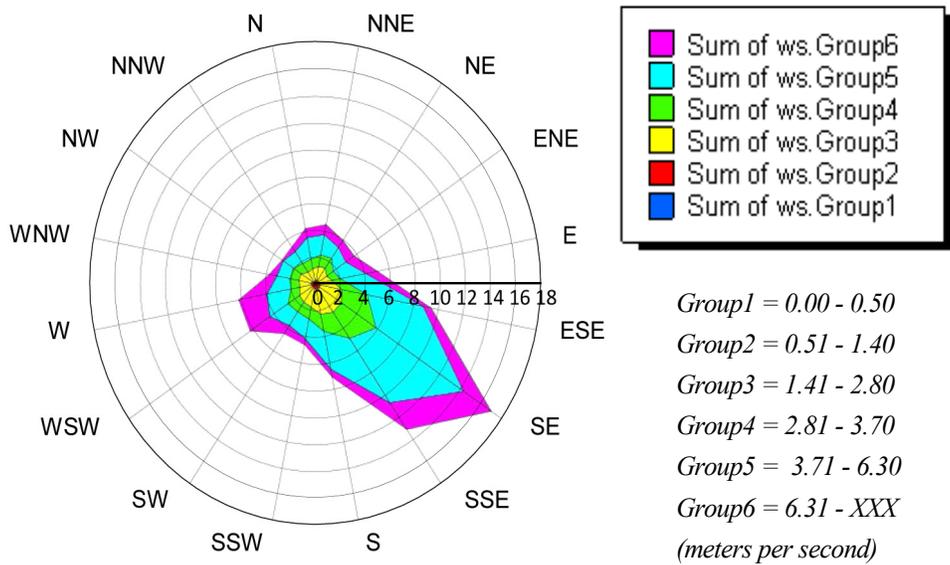


Figure 15-6. 2011 Annual Wind Rose at 10-m (33-ft) Height at the WIPP Site*

*Source: U.S. DOE 2012a

1

2 **15.8.2 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(2)**

3 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(2) requires the submittal of “all additional monitoring data, analyses, and
 4 results.” Information related to this requirement is provided below.

5 The DOE has implemented and/or continued several experimental activities designed to address
 6 specific issues and needs of the WIPP repository. In addition, other investigations were initiated
 7 to examine the impacts of planned changes.

8 Environmental monitoring programs and references to relevant reports are included in Appendix
 9 MON-2014 and Appendix DATA-2014. Data on parameters required for pre-closure and post-
 10 closure monitoring, including programs for geotechnical and geoscience monitoring, are
 11 described in Appendix MON-2014, which focuses on parameters that may be relevant to the
 12 long-term performance of the repository. Appendix DATA-2014, Sections DATA-2.0 and
 13 DATA-3.0, describe the data collection procedures and reference the reports related to
 14 parameters in the Delaware Basin, including drilling rates, oil and gas production activities, and
 15 subsidence monitoring. Appendix DATA-2014, Attachment A, WIPP Borehole Update,
 16 provides an updated list of boreholes in the vicinity of the WIPP.

17 **15.8.3 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(3)**

18 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(3) requires the submittal of “all additional analyses and results of laboratory
 19 experiments conducted by the Department or its contractors as part of the WIPP program.”
 20 Sections 15.8.3.1 through 15.8.3.5 describe experimental work conducted since the CRA-2009 in

1 the areas of WIPP repository conditions and parameters, waste shear strength experiments,
2 magnesium oxide (MgO) characterization and chemistry, actinide studies, and iron and lead
3 corrosion experiments.

4 **15.8.3.1 WIPP Repository Conditions, Chemistry, and Processes**

5 There were no significant changes in the WIPP repository conditions, chemistry assumptions, or
6 subsurface processes used in PA to establish compliance since the CRA-2009. Appendix
7 DATA-2014, Section DATA-9.0 provides references that describe waste shear strength
8 experiments, actinide chemistry experiments, and iron and lead corrosion experiments and their
9 results with respect to the impact on PA that occurred after the CRA-2009. A detailed
10 description of the current conditions and assumptions used in PA is provided in Appendix
11 MASS-2014.

12 **15.8.3.2 Waste Shear Strength Experiments**

13 The limits of the range of values for the hydrodynamic waste shear strength have been debated
14 since the Cuttings model was introduced in 1992 (Berglund 1992). Since the Performance
15 Assessment Verification Test, the lower limit has been based on a literature review and the upper
16 limit based on a waste particle size analysis, both being chosen based on a lack of experimental
17 results on a suitable surrogate waste material. (Hansen et al. 1997) developed a surrogate
18 material believed to represent an extreme state of degradation, far weaker than any possible
19 future state of the waste, and used this material to develop the material parameter values used in
20 the Spallings model. The DOE again used this material for a series of tests in a vertical flume to
21 assess the lower limit of the waste shear strength. Based on experimental results that realistically
22 simulate the effect of a drilling intrusion using an accepted surrogate waste material, the DOE
23 proposed that the waste shear strength parameter values have a range of 2.22 – 77.0 Pascals and
24 a uniform distribution (Herrick et al. 2012; Herrick and Kirchner 2013). This range and
25 distribution type is used in CRA-2014.

26 **15.8.3.3 MgO Studies and Characterization**

27 On July 10, 2007, the DOE submitted a letter in response to the EPA's questions pertaining to
28 the efficacy of the MgO supplied to the WIPP (Patterson 2007). The letter included documents
29 which demonstrate the stability of the MgO product in terms of both the stability of the feedstock
30 and of the statistical data on the composition of the product. On February 11, 2008, the EPA
31 approved the DOE's Planned Change Request (PCR) to reduce the safety factor from 1.67 to 1.2
32 with two conditions: 1) the DOE must continue to calculate and track both the carbon disposed
33 and the required MgO needed on a room-by-room basis; and 2) the DOE must annually verify
34 the reactivity of MgO and ensure that it is maintained at 94% or greater as assumed in supporting
35 documentation (Reyes 2008).

36 On March 16, 2009, the DOE submitted a notification to the EPA of implementation of the 1.2
37 excess factor for MgO emplacement and verification of 94% or greater reactivity (Patterson
38 2009). A description of the change in MgO emplacement is given in CRA-2014, Engineered
39 Barriers, Section 44.8.1. The DOE continues to implement the 1.2 excess factor of MgO on a

1 room-by-room basis and to ensure the MgO emplaced in the WIPP has a minimum reactivity of
2 94%.

3 **15.8.3.4 Actinide Investigations**

4 Experimental investigations to establish the speciation and solubility of actinides under WIPP-
5 related conditions were reinitiated after the CRA-2004 and have continued through the CRA-
6 2014. These investigations initially focused on three areas: (1) the solubility of neodymium, Nd
7 (III), as an analogue for the plutonium, Pu (III), and americium, Am (III), oxidation states, in
8 simulated WIPP brine; (2) the reduction of higher valent Pu (V/VI) by iron to form lower-
9 solubility Pu (III/IV) phases; and (3) the solubility of uranium, U (VI), in carbonate-free WIPP
10 brine. Since the CRA-2009, this has expanded to include various aspects of actinide-relevant
11 brine chemistry, microbial effects, and actinide colloid studies. The details of these experimental
12 studies are given in Appendix SOTERM-2014, Sections SOTERM-2 and SOTERM-3. All
13 results reported in these studies support the existing PA assumptions for geochemistry and did
14 not lead to conceptual model changes in the CRA-2014 PA, although a number of parameters
15 were updated.

16 **15.8.3.5 Iron and Lead Corrosion Experiments**

17 Since the CRA-2009, a new series of steel and lead corrosion experiments has been conducted
18 (Roselle 2009; Roselle 2010; Roselle 2011a; Roselle 2011b; Roselle 2013). The purpose of
19 these experiments has been to determine steel and lead corrosion rates under more WIPP-
20 relevant conditions. The results of these experiments have led to a revised iron corrosion rate
21 parameter (Roselle 2013). No other changes have been made as a result of these experiments.
22 Appendix MgO-2014, Section MgO-5.3.2.1 provides a description of the effects of MgO on gas
23 generation from anoxic corrosion of steels and other iron-based alloys, while Appendix
24 SOTERM-2014, Section SOTERM-2.3.4 describes the iron chemistry and corrosion assumptions
25 that are implemented in the CRA-2014 PA.

26 **15.8.4 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(4)**

27 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(4) requires that the DOE “identify any activities or assumptions that deviate
28 from the most recent compliance application.” Information related to this requirement is
29 provided in Sections 15.8.4.1 through 15.8.4.6.

30 **15.8.4.1 Status of Underground Excavation**

31 The status of mining in the WIPP underground repository is shown in Figure 15-7. As of
32 December 31, 2012, Panels 1 through 7 had been mined completely and Panels 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
33 were completely filled with waste. Waste was being emplaced in Panel 6 and mining of Panel 7
34 was completed on December 28, 2012.

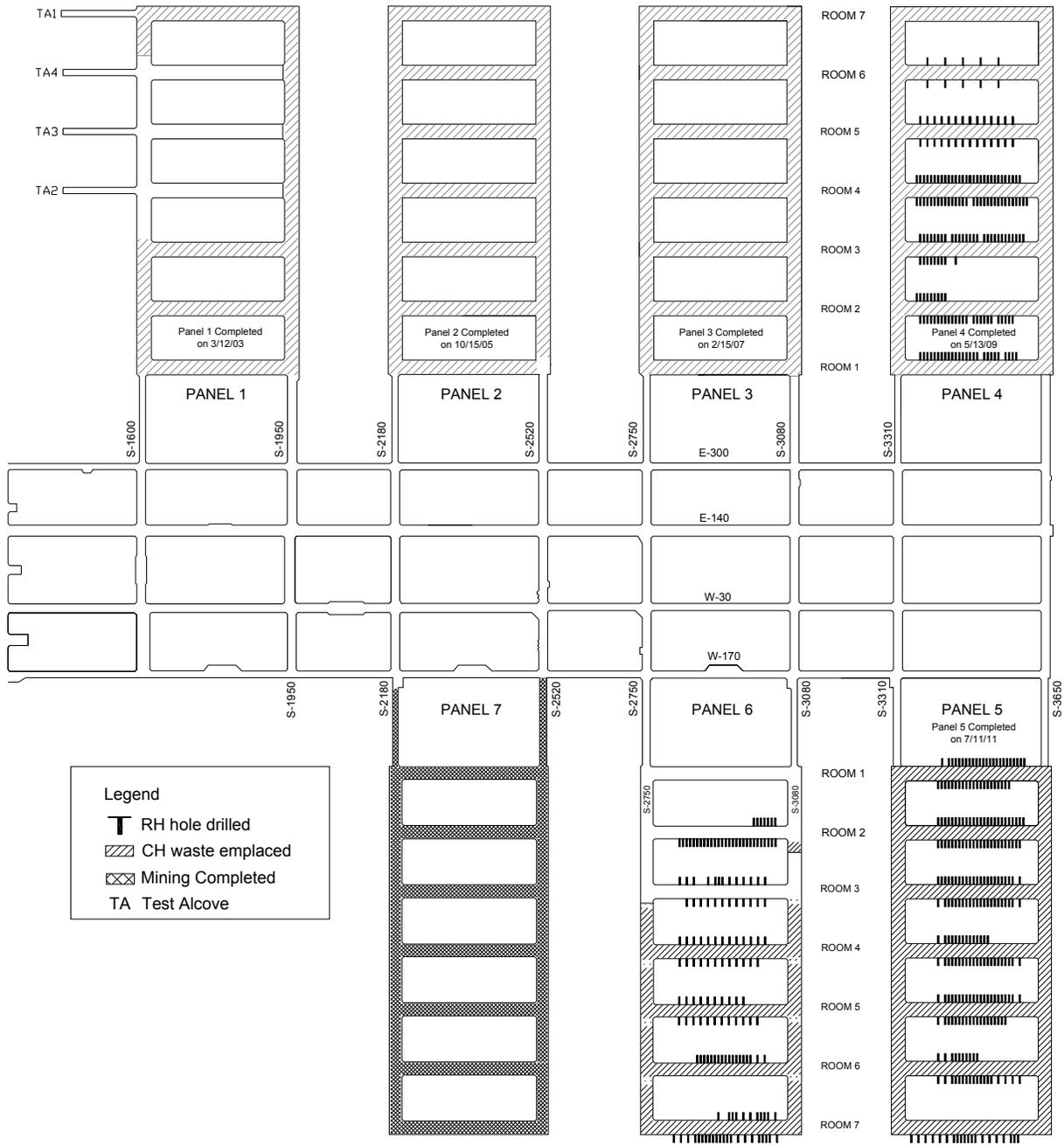
35 The geotechnical analysis reports from 2008 through 2012 show that no major ground control
36 problems or events have occurred since the CRA-2009 (U.S. DOE 2008c ; U.S. DOE 2009d;
37 U.S. DOE 2010c; U.S. DOE 2011c; U.S. DOE 2012b). As expected, slow deterioration of
38 ground conditions has occurred in the WIPP underground repository as a result of aging, but this

1 has been mitigated by routine maintenance and the implementation of engineered systems, as
2 needed.

3 **15.8.4.2 Remote-Handled Transuranic Waste Emplacement**

4 The original plans for waste emplacement included the placement of remote-handled TRU (RH-
5 TRU) waste in horizontal boreholes in the walls of waste-emplacement rooms, followed by the
6 emplacement of contact-handled TRU (CH-TRU) waste in containers on the floor of each room.
7 This configuration was planned to be used in all panels in the underground repository. Because
8 CH-TRU waste disposal was approved about six years before RH-TRU waste approval, RH-
9 TRU waste was emplaced in Panels 4, 5, and 6, but not in Panels 1, 2, and 3 (see Figure 15-7).

Emplacement and Mining Completed as of December 31, 2012



Legend
 T RH hole drilled
 CH waste emplaced
 Mining Completed
 TA Test Alcove

1
 2
 3

Figure 15-7. Status of Mining and Waste Emplacement as of December 31, 2012

1 **15.8.4.3 Proposed RH-TRU Waste Container Modifications**

2 On November 15, 2007, the DOE submitted a PCR to the EPA for approval to emplace a portion
3 of the RH-TRU waste in shielded containers in the WIPP (Moody 2007). The shielded container
4 has approximately the same exterior dimensions as a 55-gallon drum. It has 1-inch thick lead
5 shielding placed between a double-walled steel shell. The external steel wall is 1/8-inch thick,
6 and the internal steel wall is 3/16-inch thick. The lid and the bottom of the containers are made
7 of carbon steel and are 3 inches thick. The containers are designed to hold a 30-gallon container
8 filled with RH-TRU waste, and would be shipped to the WIPP in HalfPACT transportation
9 containers. The shielded container would be handled and emplaced like CH-TRU waste
10 containers because the surface dose rate for a shielded container would be no higher than 200
11 millirem/hour. Even though the RH-TRU waste in shielded containers will be handled as if it
12 were CH-TRU waste, these containers will still be recorded as RH-TRU waste in the WIPP
13 Waste Data System, and the volume of the waste will be counted against the limit of 250,000
14 cubic feet (7,080 cubic meters) of RH-TRU waste, as set by the Consultation and Cooperation
15 Agreement between the DOE and the State of New Mexico.

16 On December 7, 2007, the EPA sent the DOE its first letter with the results of a preliminary
17 review and comments on the shielded container PCR and requested additional documentation
18 (Reyes 2007). The DOE submitted supplemental information on April 30, 2008, and October 29,
19 2008, in response to the EPA's request (Moody 2008a and Moody 2008b).

20 On March 25, 2011, the EPA determined that the DOE had fulfilled all documentation
21 requirements set forth by the EPA and had demonstrated that the use of shielded containers in the
22 repository would not affect facility compliance with either 40 CFR Part 191 or 40 CFR Part 194
23 (Edwards 2011a). The EPA proposed the approval of the shielded container assembly for use at
24 the WIPP, pending the solicitation and resolution of public comments.

25 The EPA opened an informal 60-day comment period, which was later extended to 90 days at the
26 request of the stakeholders and closed on June 24, 2011. The EPA considered all comments
27 submitted and found that no new technical issues had been raised.

28 On August 8, 2011, the EPA issued its technical approval of the DOE's PCR for the
29 emplacement of RH-TRU waste in shielded containers with one condition (Edwards 2011b):
30 prior to shipping shielded containers to the WIPP, the DOE will demonstrate a consistent
31 complex-wide procedure to ensure that shielded containers containing RH-TRU waste remain
32 below the WIPP LWA surface dose rate limit for CH-TRU waste of 200 millirem per hour.

33 **15.8.4.4 Neutrino Experiments in the WIPP Underground Repository**

34 Several new research projects have been initiated at the WIPP. Although these projects are not
35 related to the expected performance of the repository, they are described here because they are
36 being performed in the WIPP underground facility. The WIPP underground repository is a
37 desirable location for these experiments because it provides an environment shielded from
38 cosmic radiation that would otherwise interfere with the experiments. Equipment used during
39 these experiments will be removed before closure of the repository.

1 The Segmented Enriched Germanium Assembly (SEGA) and the Multiple Element Germanium
2 Array (MEGA) projects are being performed to investigate double-beta decay, a rare type of
3 nuclear decay that provides information on the mass of the neutrino. The SEGA and MEGA
4 projects are being performed by a collaboration of several universities, with Stanford University
5 serving as the lead. The SEGA and MEGA experiments have been ongoing since 2008.

6 Los Alamos National Laboratory is leading the Enriched Xenon Observatory (EXO) project, also
7 in the WIPP underground repository. This project is investigating neutrinoless double-beta
8 decay. The first two clean room modules for the EXO project were successfully placed in the
9 WIPP underground in 2007. The detector for the EXO project, called the Time Projection
10 Chamber (TPC), was installed in January 2010. Data-taking mode began when the EXO detector
11 was filled with xenon containing 80% xenon-136. Construction of the EXO is approximately
12 90% complete. Experimental modules continue to be assembled, outfitted, tested and emplaced
13 in the WIPP underground.

14 On May 28, 2009, the DOE submitted to the EPA the notification of intent to emplace the Dark
15 Matter (DM) TPC in the northern part of the North Experimental Area in the WIPP underground
16 (Moody 2009a). The EPA approved the DM-TPC on July 23, 2009 (Edwards 2009a). The
17 experiment was assembled in the WIPP underground in 2010. The DM-TPC continues to
18 operate safely and reliably.

19 On January 8, 2009, the DOE submitted to the EPA the notification of intent to begin the Low
20 Background Radiation Experiment (LBRE) (Moody 2009b). The LBRE is designed to examine
21 the effects of very low background radiation on bacteria. The EPA approved the intent to begin
22 the LBRE on January 28, 2009 (Edwards 2009b). Experimental protocols were developed and
23 incubators were emplaced above ground and underground. Experiments have been ongoing in
24 the WIPP underground since 2009.

25 **15.8.4.5 Planned Change Notice Submittals**

26 A Planned Change Notice (PCN) is a formal submittal of information to the EPA that describes
27 minor, insignificant changes to activities and conditions at the WIPP that are different from those
28 described in the compliance baseline. A summary of the PCNs submitted since the CRA-2009 is
29 provided below.

30 Planned Change Notice for Salt Disposal Investigations

31 On August 11, 2011, the DOE submitted to the EPA a PCN to initiate mining activities for the
32 Salt Disposal Investigations (SDI) project in the WIPP underground (Ziemianski 2011a). The
33 objective of the SDI experiment is to investigate thermal and hydro-geochemical responses to
34 temperature sources in excess of 160° Celsius located in bedded salt.

35 On November 17, 2011, the EPA agreed that the DOE may conduct the initial preparatory phase
36 of the SDI program and found that the mining phase of the SDI activities will not adversely
37 impact the WIPP's waste handling activities, air monitoring, disposal operations, or long-term
38 repository performance (Edwards 2011c). The initial preparatory phase of the mining project
39 began on December 1, 2011.

1 On June 20, 2012, the DOE notified the EPA (Franco 2012a) that an additional component, and
2 possible alternative to the SDI project, had been developed entitled the Salt Defense Disposal
3 Investigations (SDDI). The SDDI project would test an in-drift emplacement concept with
4 thermal loads more closely aligned with the DOE defense high-level waste canisters.

5 Planned Change Notice for RH-72B Neutron Shielded Canister

6 On May 21, 2010, the DOE submitted to the EPA a PCN to employ a polyethylene liner inside
7 some standard RH-TRU waste canisters to shield neutron-emitting waste destined for disposal at
8 the WIPP (Moody 2010).

9 Planned Change Notice for Placement of Magnesium Oxide

10 On February 14, 2012, the DOE submitted a PCN, based on operating experience and historical
11 data, to inform the EPA that a process was being instituted to emplace MgO on every other row
12 of waste containers, in contrast to emplacing MgO on every waste stack (Franco 2012b).
13 Historical data showed the MgO excess factor on a per room basis to range from 1.22 to 2.85
14 when MgO was placed on every stack of waste. These values were higher than the excess factor
15 of 1.2 mandated by the EPA's letter dated February 11, 2008 (Reyes 2008). The PCN also
16 described the process that requires the Waste Handling Engineer to continue to calculate the
17 excess factor at the end of each shift and to direct the placement of additional MgO if the excess
18 factor dropped below 1.2. The EPA agreed to this operational change in an email from Peake to
19 Franco dated July 13, 2012. Details regarding this change can be found in Appendix MgO,
20 Section MgO-2.1.4.

21 **15.8.4.6 Planned Change Request Submittals**

22 A PCR is a formal submittal of information to the EPA that describes and requests approval for
23 the implementation of more complex changes to activities and conditions at the WIPP that are
24 different from those described in the compliance baseline. A summary of the PCRs submitted
25 since the CRA-2009 is provided below.

26 Planned Change Request for Repository Reconfiguration

27 On August 30, 2011, the DOE submitted a Repository Reconfiguration PCR to the EPA to
28 relocate Panels 9 and 10 from the main north-south access drift to south of the existing Panels 4
29 and 5 (Ziemianski 2011b). The DOE stated that relocating Panels 9 and 10 to south of the
30 existing Panels 4 and 5 will enhance worker safety and reduce maintenance requirements by
31 providing a more stable geotechnical environment for the two new waste emplacement panels in
32 the repository.

33 Planned Change Request for Panel Closure Redesign

34 On September 28, 2011, the DOE submitted to the EPA a PCR for panel closure redesign
35 (Ziemianski 2011c). The DOE has requested that the EPA modify Condition 1 of the Final
36 Certification Decision for 40 CFR Part 194 by replacing the current approved panel closure
37 design, "Option D," with the proposed design, Run-of-Mine Panel Closure.

1 Condition 1 of the Final Certification Decision for 40 CFR Part 194 specifies that the panel
2 closure system to be used in the WIPP repository be “Option D,” as specified in the CCA (U.S.
3 DOE 1996). “Option D” specified that certain components be constructed using Salado Mass
4 Concrete. In 2007, the DOE initiated hydrogen and methane monitoring to gather data to
5 determine more realistic accumulation rates for these gases in filled panels. More realistic
6 accumulation rates for hydrogen and methane could be used to establish a panel closure design
7 that would be less complex than the Option D design.

8 On December 22, 2011, the EPA provided a set of initial questions and comments to the DOE
9 focusing on the justification for Run-of-Mine Panel Closure representation and its parameters in
10 the reconfiguration PCR PA that were different from those in the 2009 Performance Assessment
11 Baseline Calculation (Perrin 2011).

12 On April 17, 2012, the DOE replied to the initial set of review questions and comments related to
13 the PCR for replacing the current “Option D” panel closure system (Franco 2012c).

14 In 2012, the DOE submitted a PA, Panel Closure System-2012, for the proposed panel closure
15 redesign. The results of the PA demonstrated that the WIPP will remain in compliance with the
16 containment requirements found in 40 CFR §191.13.

17 **15.8.5 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(5)**

18 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(5) requires that the CRA-2014 include “a description of all waste emplaced
19 in the disposal system since the most recent compliance certification or recertification
20 application. Such description shall consist of a description of the waste characteristics and waste
21 components identified in § 194.24(b)(1) and § 194.24(b)(2).” Information related to these
22 requirements is provided in Sections 15.8.5.1 and 15.8.5.2.

23 **15.8.5.1 Status of Waste Emplacement**

24 The status of waste emplacement in the WIPP underground repository is illustrated in Figure 15-
25 7. Additional detail is provided in Section 24, Waste Characterization.

26 **15.8.5.2 Waste Characteristics and Components Important to Demonstration of** 27 **Compliance**

28 Section 24 provides an updated waste inventory of waste anticipated to be emplaced in the WIPP
29 and waste that has already been emplaced since the CRA-2009. Section 24 also reports an
30 analysis of the impacts of waste inventory on the performance of the WIPP disposal system.
31 Information about the limits imposed by the DOE on significant components or characteristics of
32 the waste to ensure that they are consistent with assumptions made for the CRA-2014 PA is also
33 provided in Section 24.

34 There have been five inventory updates (ATWIR-2008, ATWIR-2009, ATWIR-2010, ATWIR-
35 2011 and ATWIR-2012) since the CRA-2009. The DOE used the ATWIR-2012 data for the
36 CRA-2014 inventory, after it was scaled for PA. The scaled inventory was documented in the
37 Performance Assessment Inventory Report - 2012 (Van Soest 2012).

1 **15.8.6 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(6)**

2 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(6) requires the submittal of “any significant information not previously
3 included in a compliance certification or recertification application related to whether the
4 disposal system continues to be in compliance with the disposal regulations.”

5 The information required by this section of the certification criteria is provided in the sections
6 and appendices of the CRA-2014. The DOE believes that this information demonstrates that the
7 WIPP continues to comply with the disposal regulations.

8 **15.8.7 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(7)**

9 40 CFR § 194.15(a)(7) requires the submittal of “any additional information requested by the
10 Administrator or the Administrator’s authorized representative.”

11 There currently are no outstanding requests from the EPA for additional information. As such,
12 the DOE is in compliance with this certification criterion.

13 **15.8.8 40 CFR § 194.15(b)**

14 40 CFR § 194.15(b) states, “To the extent that information required for a re-certification of
15 compliance remains valid and has been submitted in previous certification or re-certification
16 applications(s), such information need not be duplicated in subsequent applications; such
17 information may be summarized and referenced.”

18 The DOE has followed this direction in the preparation of this recertification application. To the
19 extent appropriate, information from the CCA, the CRA-2004, and the CRA-2009 that remains
20 valid and unchanged is not repeated in this recertification application; instead, it is summarized
21 and incorporated by reference.

22 **15.8.9 Status of Compliance with 40 CFR § 194.15**

23 The information in this section and in the other sections and appendices of the CRA-2014
24 establishes that the DOE continues to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of section
25 194.15.

26 **15.9 References**

27 (*Indicates a reference that has not been previously submitted.)

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