



**Department of Energy**  
Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

JUN 17 2013

Mr. John E. Kieling, Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Notification of Projected Start Date of Excavation for Panel 8

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the projected start date of excavation for underground Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit (HWDU), Panel 8. This notification is being provided in accordance with the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) Part 4, Section 4.5.2.2. which states:

*Notification Requirements - At least 30 calendar days prior to the projected start date of excavation of each Underground HWDU, the Permittees shall provide written notification to the Secretary stating the projected start date of excavation, along with supporting rationale (e.g., projected waste receipt rate, etc.). The Permittees shall post a link to the notification transmittal letter on the WIPP Home Page and inform those on the e-mail notification list as specified in Permit Section 1.11.*

Mine Operations plans to begin mining of Panel 8 on or about July 18, 2013. Mining will take approximately 26 months followed by outfitting and certification (6 months). Based on this anticipated schedule, Panel 8 preparation will require about 32 months and will be completed in March 2016, prior to the first waste emplacement in the panel. The need to begin mining of Panel 8 at this time is based on current contact-handled and remote-handled receipt rates.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Mr. John E. Kieling

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If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Mr. George T. Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Original Signatures on File

Jose R. Franco, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office

M. F. Sharif, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

cc:

T. Kliphuis, NMED \*ED

T. Skibitski, NMED ED

C. Edlund, EPA Region 6 ED

T. Peake, EPA ED

N. Stone, EPA ED

CBFO M&RC

\*ED denotes electronic distribution