



**Department of Energy**

Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

**MAR 23 2015**

Mr. John E. Kieling, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87508-6303

Ms. Kathryn Roberts, Director  
Resource Protection Division  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Harold Runnels Building  
1190 Saint Francis Drive, Room 4050  
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

**Subject: Written Notice Regarding Application of EPA Hazardous Waste Number D001 to Additional Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Containers**

Dear Mr. Kieling and Ms. Roberts:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you written notice that the U.S. Department of Energy, Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), Permittees of Hazardous Waste Facility Permit NM4890139088-TSDF (Permit), are provisionally applying Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Hazardous Waste Number (code) D001 for the characteristic of ignitability to seven nitrate salt bearing waste containers that have been disposed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. This is a follow-up to the verbal notifications provided to you on March 6, 2015, and March 13, 2015, at approximately 3:30 p.m. and 1:45 p.m., respectively.

The additions apply specifically to four containers from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) waste stream LA-MHD01.001 (two located in Panel 5, Room 1, and two located in Panel 6, Room 6), and to three containers from LANL waste stream LA-MIN04-S.001 (located in Panel 6, Rooms 2 and 4). Enclosure 1 contains a listing, by container number, of the seven containers to which the D001 code provisionally applies.

The application of this code is based on information provided to the Permittees by LANL resulting from ongoing extent of condition evaluations at LANL, continuing investigations into the cause of the February 14, 2014, radiological release, and the re-evaluation of Acceptable Knowledge (AK) information as required by the WIPP Permit, Attachment C4, *TRU Mixed Waste Characterization Using Acceptable Knowledge*, pursuant to 40 CFR 20.4.1.500 (incorporating 40 CFR §264.13). The regulations in 40 CFR §264.13 require the Permittees to ensure that waste characterization information is accurate and up to date. The Permittees have reason to believe that the nitrate salt bearing waste in the containers described above is an oxidizer pursuant to 40 CFR 20.4.1.200 (incorporating 40 CFR §261.21(4)), and, therefore, the D001 code should be applied to the respective containers per the updated AK information.

Because the evaluations and investigations are ongoing, the application of the D001 to these containers is considered provisional and may change to include and/or remove containers and/or waste streams in the future. Subsequent to this written notification, the Permittees will provide an additional supplement to the "Report of Implementation of the WIPP RCRA Contingency Plan" and additional information describing the records that will be updated to reflect the application of the D001 code.

In accordance with Item 17 of the New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) written comments on the WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan, dated August 5, 2014, the Permittees are required to provide updates regarding the identification of other waste streams or drums that have been identified by the WIPP, LANL, NMED, or any other regulatory agency as requiring isolation. Pursuant to the August 5, 2014 letter, the Permittees will provide the applicable updated information in a separate letter and will include the following: description of the discrepancy, discrepancy resolution, and discrepant hazardous waste manifests for the affected waste shipments.

The Permittees are continuing to operate the WIPP underground in filtration mode pursuant to the WIPP Nitrate Salt Bearing Waste Container Isolation Plan partially approved by the NMED on August 7, 2014, so that a release from any nitrate salt bearing waste containers, should it occur, will not pose a threat to human health or the environment. In addition, the Permittees are working to expedite closure of Panel 6 and Panel 7, Room 7 in order to isolate this waste.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated 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 fines and imprisonment for knowing violations.

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

Sincerely,

Signatures on File

Jose R. Franco, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office

Robert L. McQuinn, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc: w/enclosure  
R. Maestas, NMED \*ED  
J. Sales, EPA ED  
CBFO M&RC  
\*ED denotes electronic distribution