



Fact Sheet



# DOE Proposes Modification To Hazardous Waste Facility Permit

## *Changes to WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit*

### **Background**

The U.S. Department of Energy Carlsbad Field Office (DOE) and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (WTS) submitted a Class 2 permit modification request to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to change the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit). NMED issued the Permit (Permit Number: NM4890139088-TSDF) in November 2010.

### **What is Proposed?**

The proposed modification submitted to NMED on January 10, 2011, is requesting specific items be added to the Permit for use at the site. The modification is requesting the addition of:

1. TRUPACT-III as a shipping package
2. Standard Large Box 2 as a storage and disposal container
3. Room 108 and Airlock 107 as part of the contact-handled (CH) bay
4. Equipment to the facility to allow for the handling of TRUPACT-III and Standard Large Box 2

The shipping package, container and handling equipment will be used to manage CH transuranic (TRU) mixed waste that is approved for shipment and disposal at the WIPP facility.

### **TRUPACT-III**

The first request would allow for the receipt of the TRUPACT-III shipping package at the WIPP facility. This package is a Nuclear Regulatory Commission certified Type B package as required for transporting TRU waste to the WIPP facility. The TRUPACT-III is designed to transport TRU waste in a large container known as the Standard Large Box 2. When loaded with TRU waste, TRUPACT-III will consist of a single Standard Large Box 2. Shipments made in TRUPACT-III will meet applicable Department of Transportation requirements.

## **Standard Large Box 2**

This container is necessary to accommodate items that exceed the volume capacity of existing TRU waste containers approved for management at the WIPP facility. These large boxes will not fit inside either the TRUPACT-II or the HalfPACT, which are currently the only two CH waste shipping containers approved for use at the WIPP facility.

## **Room 108 and Airlock 107**

Additional areas are necessary to manage TRUPACT-III in the CH Bay. These areas are designated as Airlock 107 and Room 108. These areas will increase the total area of the CH Bay by 6,156 square feet. This increase in size does not include an increase in the amount of storage capacity for TRU waste.

## **Additional Equipment for Handling TRUPACT-III and Standard Large Box 2**

- Facility Transfer Vehicle and Yard Transfer Vehicle  
The Facility Transfer Vehicle is currently described in the Permit in Table A1-2. The Yard Transfer Vehicle is an automated guided vehicle that will transport the TRUPACT-III shipping container from parking area unit into Room 108. It will travel on a pre-programmed path and will communicate with the computer guidance system via wireless transmission. There are numerous safety features on the Yard Transfer Vehicle to ensure the vehicle will not bump something or deviate from the pre-determined path.
- Bolting Robot  
The Bolting Robot is used to remove and/or install the TRUPACT-III overpack cover and closure lid bolts. The Bolting Robot is an electro-mechanical system with an end-of-arm tool used to de-tension, remove, install and re-tension the TRUPACT-III overpack cover and closure lid bolts.
- Vent Hood  
The Bolting Station has an exhaust system that consists of a vent system. The system is similar to the one used for the TRUPACT-II and HalfPACT. The system will tie into the existing exhaust system in the Waste Handling Building. The vent hood operation routes air through a high efficiency particulate air filter prior to discharging it to the atmosphere.
- Payload Transfer Station  
The Payload Transfer Station consists of a payload lifter, transfer table or Facility Transfer Vehicle with roller table and a control system. This location allows for the removal of the Standard Large Box 2 from the TRUPACT-III. The Standard Large

Box 2 sits on a pallet inside the TRUPACT-III and the pallet slides out. The SLB2 is placed on a Facility Pallet for movement to the underground.

- **Drum Age Criteria (DAC)**  
Since a new container is being added to the Permit, it is necessary to identify appropriate DAC values for the Standard Large Box 2. The Permittees have determined these DAC values for the Standard Large Box 2 and are proposing to put them into the Permit.
- **Waste Emplacement**  
The Standard Large Box 2 will be emplaced in the same manner as other TRU mixed waste containers. The SLB2 does not use slipsheets as described for smaller containers. Instead, the SLB2 is handled in the underground using a standard fork lift.

***Comments***

Comments for the record must be sent to Mr. Steve Zappe, New Mexico Environment Department, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505. They also may be e-mailed: [steve.zappe@state.nm.us](mailto:steve.zappe@state.nm.us) or faxed to 505-476-6060. Only written comments will be accepted and must be received no later than 5 p.m. (MDT) on March 17, 2011. A copy of the permit modification may be viewed or copied at the NMED offices of Mr. Zappe. To be placed on the WIPP mailing list, contact Mr. Zappe at the address above

***For more Information***

For more information about transuranic waste shipments and procedures, call the WIPP Information Center at 1-800-336-WIPP (9477). This permit modification request is available for review in the Information Repository located on the WIPP home page at [www.wipp.energy.gov](http://www.wipp.energy.gov). Comments to the Permittees regarding this permit modification may be sent to Mr. Bobby St. John, Washington TRU Solutions LLC, P.O. Box 2078, Carlsbad, NM 88221.