

**ATTACHMENT A**

**GENERAL FACILITY DESCRIPTION  
AND PROCESS INFORMATION**

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1 A-2 Description of Activities  
2

3 The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) is a facility for the management, storage and disposal of  
4 transuranic (TRU) mixed waste. Only contact-handled (CH) TRU mixed waste is permitted for storage  
5 or disposal at the WIPP facility. No remote-handled (RH) TRU mixed waste will be accepted at the  
6 facility under this permit.  
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8 A-4 Facility Type  
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10 There are three basic groups of structures associated with the WIPP facility: surface structures, shafts and  
11 underground structures.  
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13 A-4a Surface Structures  
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15 A-4a(1) Permitted Storage Areas  
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17 The surface structures accommodate the personnel, equipment, and support services required for the  
18 receipt, preparation, verification, examination and transfer of TRU mixed waste from the surface to the  
19 underground. There are two surface locations where TRU mixed waste will be stored managed. The first  
20 includes the Waste Handling Building Unit (WHB Unit), a portion of (Figure M1-1). The second is the  
21 Parking Area Unit (see Figure M1-2) the Waste Handling Building (WHB), of which 33,175 square feet  
22 is designated as the WHB Container Storage Unit (WHB Unit) for TRU mixed waste management. The  
23 second area designates for managing TRU mixed waste is the Parking Area Container Storage Unit  
24 (Parking Area Unit), an outside container storage area, which extends south from the WHB to the rail  
25 siding. The Parking Area Unit provides storage space for up to 12 loaded Contact Handled Packages on  
26 an asphalt and concrete surface encompassing approximately 115,000 square feet.  
27

28 A-4a(2) Staging Areas  
29

30 Also included in the facility surface structures are staging areas in the Parking Area, within the WHB,  
31 and TRUPACT Maintenance Facility (TMF). The Parking Area Staging Areas are shown in Figure M1-  
32 2. The WHB Staging Areas are shown in Figure M1-1. Use of staging areas is specified in Permit  
33 Attachment M1-1c(1)  
34

35 The indoor Container Staging Areas include the TRUDOCK Area, Room 108 and Airlock 107, and the  
36 WHB Staging Area in the WHB and the TMF. These areas are used for the processing of incoming  
37 waste for no more than ten (10) days. If the containers are non-compliant, they may be held in the staging  
38 areas for an additional sixty (60) days.  
39

40 When verification and examination of CH TRU mixed waste involves radiography, this may occur in the  
41 TMF. There is sufficient floor space in the TMF to allow containment of liquids from containers which  
42 have been brought into the TMF for verification and examination. The capacities of staging areas are



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**Tables**

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<b><u>Table A-1 - WHB/TMF Staging Areas</u></b>			
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Capacity</u></b>	<b><u>Container Equivalent</u></b>
<b><u>TRUDOCK Staging Area</u></b>	<b><u>4,734 ft<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>(440 m<sup>2</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>640 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>(18.1 m<sup>3</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>Contents of 4 Contact-Handled Packages</u></b>
<b><u>WHB Staging Area</u></b>	<b><u>6,026 ft<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>(560.4 m<sup>2</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>2,560 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>(72.8 m<sup>3</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>8 loaded facility pallets</u></b>
<b><u>TRUPACT Maintenance Facility</u></b>	<b><u>9,081 ft<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>(844.5 m<sup>2</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>4,480 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>(125.4 m<sup>3</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>14 loaded facility pallets</u></b>
<b><u>Room 108 and Airlock 107 Staging Areas</u></b>	<b><u>6,744 ft<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>(627.2 m<sup>2</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>3,929 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>(111.3m<sup>3</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>2 Contact Handled Packages and 6 loaded facility pallets</u></b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>--</u></b>	<b><u>8,409 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>(236.7m<sup>3</sup>)</u></b>	<b><u>=</u></b>

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<b><u>Table A-2 - Parking Area Staging Area</u></b>			
<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Area</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Capacity</u></b>	<b><u>Container Equivalent</u></b>
<b><u>Parking Area Staging Area</u></b>	<b><u>156,656 ft<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>14,569 m<sup>3</sup></u></b>	<b><u>7,160 ft<sup>3</sup></u></b> <b><u>202.5 m<sup>3</sup></u></b>	<b><u>50 Contact-Handled Packages and 14 Remote -Handled Packages Containing Waste</u></b>