



Department of Energy

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

MAR 30 2011

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

Subject: Notification of Last Waste Emplacement and Intent to Commence Closure of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit Panel 5

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that the Permittees intend to commence closure of Hazardous Waste Disposal Unit Panel 5 at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. This notification fulfills the requirements of the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit), NM4890139088-TSDF, Permit Requirement 6.4 and Permit Attachment G, Section G-1b, *Requirements*, to notify NMED 60 days prior to the date on which closure activities are scheduled to begin, and Permit Attachment G, Section G-1d(1), *Schedule for Panel Closure*, to notify the NMED 30 days prior to placing the final waste in a panel.

Final waste emplacement in Panel 5 is expected on or about May 21, 2011. Closure activities are expected to begin on or about June 6, 2011. The actual date is dependent on the availability of waste and may change.

We certify under penalty of law that this document and the enclosure 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.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signatures on File

Edward Ziemianski, Acting Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

M. F. Sharif, General Manager
Washington TRU Solutions LLC

cc:

S. Zappe, NMED

*ED

J. Kieling, NMED

ED

C. Walker, Trinity Engineering

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*ED denotes electronic distribution