



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

**JUL 13 2017**

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

**Subject: Notification of Planned Change to the Permitted Facility Regarding the  
Excavation and Construction of Shaft and Associated Drifts, Hazardous Waste  
Facility Permit, Number: NM4890139088-TSDF**

Dear Mr. Kieling:

The purpose of this letter is to provide notification to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) of a planned change to the permitted facility in accordance with Permit Part 1, Section 1.7.11. (20.4.1.900 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) incorporating Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §270.30(l)). The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC (NWP), collectively referred to as the Permittees, intend to upgrade the Underground Ventilation System (UVS) by adding an additional shaft with surface fans and connecting drifts to the underground facility. The new shaft will be referred to as Shaft Number 5 (S#5). Additionally, the existing Air Intake Shaft (AIS) will be converted to an unfiltered exhaust shaft and equipped with a stack to provide a means for salt particle dispersion. The UVS and shafts are broadly described in Permit Attachment A, Section A-4 and Permit Attachment A2, Sections A2-2a (2), and A2-2a (3).

Shaft Number 5 will be located approximately 1,200 feet west of the existing AIS. Surface-mounted fans are planned to be used to downcast air into the underground via S#5. The air from the S#5 will primarily be used to ventilate the Construction and Disposal Circuits through the new connecting drifts. Exhaust air from the North Disposal and Waste Shaft Station Circuits are planned to be exhausted through the existing Exhaust Shaft. Exhaust air from the Construction Circuit is planned to be routed through the existing AIS. The enclosed document provides the conceptual drawings of S#5 and associated facilities.

The Permittees anticipate that the excavation of S#5 will start in calendar year 2018. Upon completion of the modification, the Permittees will provide the NMED a letter with a New Mexico registered professional engineer's statement that S#5, drifts, and associated appurtenances have been modified in compliance with the Permit and provide the NMED the opportunity to inspect the modified portion of the facility pursuant to Permit Part 1, Section 1.7.11. The Permittees anticipate submitting a Permit modification to revise descriptive text to address changes to the UVS.

Mr. Kieling

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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 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.

Please contact Mr. George T. Basabilvazo at (575) 234-7488 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Signatures on File**

Todd Shrader, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office

Bruce C. Covert, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

Enclosure

cc:

R. Maestas, NMED \* ED

D. Biswell, NMED ED

CBFO M&RC

\*ED denotes electronic distribution