

**ATTACHMENT L**

**WIPP GROUNDWATER DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM PLAN**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS/UNITS

|                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bell Canyon<br>bgs                                                                                   | Bell Canyon Formation<br>below ground surface                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Castile<br>cm<br>Culebra<br>CofC/RFA<br>°C<br>%C                                                     | Castile Formation<br>centimeter(s)<br>Culebra Member of the Rustler Formation<br>chain of custody/request for analysis<br>degree(s) Celsius<br>percent completeness                                                                                            |
| Dewey Lake<br>DI<br>DMP<br>DMW<br>DOE<br>DQO                                                         | Dewey Lake Redbeds Formation<br>deionized<br>Detection Monitoring Program<br>Detection Monitoring Well<br>U.S. Department of Energy<br>data quality objectives                                                                                                 |
| EPA                                                                                                  | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| ft<br>ft <sup>2</sup><br>ft <sup>2</sup> /d                                                          | foot (feet)<br>square foot (square feet)<br>square feet per day                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| g/cm <sup>3</sup>                                                                                    | gram(s) per cubic centimeter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| HWDU                                                                                                 | hazardous waste disposal unit(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| km<br>km <sup>2</sup>                                                                                | kilometer(s)<br>square kilometer(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| L<br>lb/in. <sup>2</sup><br>LCS<br>LCSD<br>Los Medaños<br>LWA                                        | liter(s)<br>pound(s) per square inch<br>laboratory control samples<br>lab control sample duplicate<br>Los Medaños Member of the Rustler Formation<br>Land Withdrawal Act                                                                                       |
| m<br>M&DC<br>m <sup>2</sup><br>Magenta<br>mg/L<br>mi<br>mi <sup>2</sup><br>mL<br>molal<br>MOC<br>MPa | meter(s)<br>monitoring and data collection<br>square meter(s)<br>Magenta Member of the Rustler Formation<br>milligram(s) per liter<br>mile(s)<br>square mile(s)<br>milliliter(s)<br>moles per kilogram<br>Management and Operating Contractor<br>megapascal(s) |

|                   |                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| m/s               | meters per second                               |
| m <sup>2</sup>    | square meters                                   |
| m <sup>2</sup> /s | square meters per second                        |
| mV                | millivolt(s)                                    |
| NIST              | National Institute for Standards and Technology |
| NMAC              | New Mexico Administrative Code                  |
| NMED              | New Mexico Environment Department               |
| QA                | quality assurance                               |
| QA/QC             | quality assurance/quality control               |
| QAO               | Quality Assurance Objective                     |
| QC                | quality control                                 |
| PABC              | Performance Assessment Baseline Calculation     |
| RCRA              | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act          |
| RPD               | relative percent difference                     |
| Rustler           | Rustler Formation                               |
| %R                | percent recovery                                |
| Salado            | Salado Formation                                |
| SAP               | Sampling and Analysis Plans                     |
| SC                | specific conductance                            |
| SOP               | standard operating procedure                    |
| TDS               | total dissolved solids                          |
| TOC               | total organic carbon                            |
| TRU               | transuranic                                     |
| TSDF              | treatment, storage, and disposal facilities     |
| UTLV              | upper tolerance limit value                     |
| VOC               | volatile organic compound                       |
| WIPP              | Waste Isolation Pilot Plant                     |
| WLMP              | WIPP Groundwater Level Monitoring Program       |
| µg/L              | microgram(s) per liter                          |
| µm                | micrometers                                     |

## ATTACHMENT L

### WIPP GROUNDWATER DETECTION MONITORING PROGRAM PLAN

#### L-1 Introduction

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**) facility is subject to regulation under Title 20 of the New Mexico Administrative Code (**NMAC**), Chapter 4, Part 1 (20.4.1.500 NMAC). As required by 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.601), the Permittees shall demonstrate that the environmental performance standards for a miscellaneous unit, which are applied to the hazardous waste disposal units (**HWDUs**) in the underground, will be met.

The WIPP facility is located in Eddy County in southeastern New Mexico (Figure M-57), within the Pecos Valley section of the southern Great Plains physiographic province. The facility is 26 miles (mi) (42 kilometers [km]) east of Carlsbad, New Mexico, in an area known as Los Medaños (the dunes). Los Medaños is a relatively flat, sparsely inhabited plateau with little water and limited land uses.

The WIPP facility (Figure M-66) consists of 16 sections of federal land in Township 22 South, Range 31 East. The 16 sections of federal land were withdrawn from the application of public land laws by the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act (**LWA**), Public Law 102-579 (as amended). The WIPP LWA transferred the responsibility for the administration of the 16 sections from the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to the U.S. Department of Energy (**DOE**). This law specified that mining and drilling for purposes other than support of the WIPP project are prohibited within this 16-section area with the exception of Section 31. Oil and gas drilling activities are restricted in Section 31 from the surface down to 6,000 feet.

The WIPP facility includes a mined geologic repository for the disposal of transuranic (**TRU**) mixed waste. The disposal horizon is located 2,150 feet (ft) (655 meters [m]) below the land surface in the bedded salt of the Salado Formation (**Salado**). At the WIPP facility, water-bearing units occur both above and below the disposal horizon. Groundwater monitoring of the uppermost aquifer below the facility is not required because the water-bearing unit, which is the Bell Canyon Formation (**Bell Canyon**), is not considered a credible pathway for a release from the repository. This is because the repository horizon and water-bearing sandstones of the Bell Canyon are separated by over 2,000 ft (610 m) of very low-permeability evaporite sediments (Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2009)). No natural credible pathway has been established for contaminant transport to water-bearing zones below the repository horizon, as there is no hydrologic communication between the repository and underlying water-bearing zones. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) concluded in 1990 that natural vertical communication does not exist based on review of numerous studies (EPA, 1990). Furthermore, drilling boreholes for groundwater monitoring through the Salado and the Castile Formation (**Castile**) into the Bell Canyon would compromise the isolation properties of the repository medium.

Groundwater monitoring at the WIPP facility focuses on the Culebra Member (**Culebra**) of the Rustler Formation (**Rustler**) because it represents the most significant hydrologic contaminant migration pathway to the accessible environment. The Culebra is the most transmissive water-bearing unit lying above the repository. Groundwater movement in the Culebra, based-on

results from the basin-scale groundwater model, is discussed in detail in Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a, (DOE, 2009).

This monitoring plan addresses requirements for sample collection, Culebra groundwater surface elevation monitoring, Culebra groundwater flow direction and rate determination, data management, and reporting of Culebra groundwater monitoring data. It also identifies indicator parameters and hazardous constituents selected to assess Culebra groundwater quality for the WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program (**DMP**). Because quality assurance is an integral component of the groundwater sampling, analysis, and reporting process, quality assurance/quality control (**QA/QC**) elements and associated data acceptance criteria are included in this plan.

Procedures are required for each aspect of the Culebra groundwater monitoring and sampling processes, including Culebra groundwater surface elevation measurement, Culebra groundwater flow direction and rate determination, sampling equipment installation and operation, field water-quality measurements, and sample collection. Instructions for performing field activities that will be conducted in conjunction with this DMP are provided in the WIPP Standard Operating Procedures (**SOPs**) (see Table L-3), which are maintained in facility files and which comply with the applicable requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR § 264.97 (d)). Data required by this plan will be collected by qualified personnel in accordance with SOPs (Table L-3).

#### L-1a Geologic and Hydrologic Characteristics

##### L-1a(1) Geology

The WIPP facility is situated within the Delaware Basin bounded to the north and east by the Capitan Reef, which is part of the larger Permian Basin, located in western Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Three major evaporite-bearing formations were deposited in the Delaware Basin (see Figures M-67 and M-68 and Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-1 (DOE, 2009) for more detail):

- The Castile, which consists of interbedded anhydrites and halite. Its upper boundary is at a depth of about 2,825 ft (861 m) below ground surface (**bgs**), and its thickness at the WIPP facility is 1,250 ft (381 m).
- The Salado, which is the host formation of the repository and overlies the Castile and resulted from prolonged desiccation that produced predominantly halite, with some carbonates, anhydrites, and clay seams. Its upper boundary is at a depth of about 850 ft (259 m) bgs, and it is about 2,000 ft (610 m) thick in the repository area.
- The Rustler, which was deposited in a lagoonal environment during a major freshening of the basin and consists of carbonates, anhydrites, and halites. Its beds consist of clay and anhydrite and contain small amounts of brine. The Rustler's upper boundary is about 500 ft (152 m) bgs, and it ranges up to 350 ft (107 m) in thickness in the repository area.

These evaporite-bearing formations lie between two other formations significant to the geology and hydrology of the WIPP facility. The Dewey Lake Redbeds Formation (**Dewey Lake**) overlying the Rustler is dominated by nonmarine sediments and consists almost entirely of

mudstone, claystone, siltstone, and interbedded sandstone (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-1c(6) (DOE, 2009)). This formation forms a 500-ft (152-m) thick barrier of fine-grained sediments that retard the downward percolation of water into the evaporite units below. The Bell Canyon is the first water-bearing unit below the repository (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-1c(2) (DOE, 2009)) and is confined above by the thick evaporite deposits of the Castile. It consists of 1,200 ft (366 m) of interbedded sandstone, shale, and siltstone.

The Salado was selected to host the WIPP repository for several reasons. First, it is regionally extensive, underlying an area of more than 36,000 square mi (**mi**<sup>2</sup>) (93,240 square kilometers [**km**<sup>2</sup>]). Second, its permeability is extremely low. Third, salt behaves mechanically in a plastic manner under pressure (the lithostatic pressure at the disposal horizon is approximately 2,200 pounds per square inch [**lb/in.**<sup>2</sup>] or 14.9 megapascals [**MPa**]) and eventually deforms to fill any opening (referred to as creep). Fourth, any fluid remaining in small fractures or openings is saturated with salt, is incapable of further salt dissolution, and has probably remained in place since deposition. Finally, the Salado lies between the Rustler and the Castile (Figure M-68), both of which contain very low-permeability layers that help confine and isolate waste within and keep water outside of the WIPP repository (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-1c(5) and L1-1c(3) (DOE, 2009)).

#### L-1a(2) Groundwater Hydrology

The general hydrogeology of the area surrounding the WIPP facility is described in this section starting with the first geologic unit below the Salado. Addendum L1, Section L1-2a of Amended Renewal Application (DOE, 2009) provides more detailed discussions of the local and regional hydrogeology. Relevant hydrological parameters for the various rock units, above the Salado at the WIPP facility are summarized in Table L-1.

##### L-1a(2)(i) The Castile

The Castile is a basin-filling evaporite sequence of sediments surrounded by the Capitan Reef. The Castile represents a major regional groundwater aquitard that effectively prevents upward migration of water from the underlying Bell Canyon. Fluid present in the Castile is very restricted because evaporites do not readily maintain pore space, solution channels, or open fractures at depth. Drill-stem tests conducted in the Castile during construction of the WIPP facility determined its permeability to be lower than detection limits; however, the hydraulic conductivity has been conservatively estimated to be less than 10<sup>-8</sup> feet (**ft**) per day or 3.5 × 10<sup>-14</sup> meters per second (**m/s**). A description of the Castile brine reservoirs outside the WIPP facility area is provided in Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(2)(b) of the Amended Renewal Application (DOE, 2009).

##### L-1a(2)(ii) The Salado

The Salado is an evaporite sequence that filled the remainder of the Delaware Basin and lapped extensively over the Capitan Reef and the back-reef sediments beyond. The Salado consists of approximately 2,000 ft (610 m) of bedded halite, with interbeds or seams of anhydrite, clay, and polyhalite. It acts hydrologically as a regional confining bed. The porosity of the Salado is very low and naturally interconnected pores are probably nonexistent in halite at the depth of the disposal horizon. Fluids associated with the Salado occur mainly as very small fluid inclusions in the halite crystals and also occur between crystal boundaries (interstitial fluid) of the massive

crystalline salt formation; fluids also occur in clay seams and anhydrite beds. Permeabilities measured from the surface in the area of the WIPP facility range from 0.01 to 25 microdarcys ( $9.9 \times 10^{-17}$  square meters [ $\text{m}^2$ ]). The most reliable value, 0.3 microdarcy ( $3.0 \times 10^{-19} \text{ m}^2$ ), was obtained from well DOE-2. The results of permeability testing at the disposal horizon are within the range of 0.001 to 0.01 microdarcy ( $9.9 \times 10^{-22}$  to  $9.9 \times 10^{-21} \text{ m}^2$ ).

#### L-1a(2)(iii) The Rustler

The Rustler has been the subject of extensive characterization activities because it contains the most transmissive hydrologic units overlying the Salado. Within the Rustler, five members have been identified. Of these, the Culebra is the most transmissive and has been the focus of most of the Rustler hydrologic studies.

The Culebra is the first continuous water-bearing zone above the Salado and is up to approximately 30 ft (9 m) thick. Water in the Culebra is usually present in fractures and is confined by overlying gypsum or anhydrite and underlying clay and anhydrite beds. The hydraulic gradient within the Culebra in the area of the WIPP facility is approximately 20 ft per mi (3.8 m per km) and becomes much flatter south and southwest of the site (Figure M-69). Culebra transmissivities in the Nash Draw range up to 1,250 square ft ( $\text{ft}^2$ ) per day ( $\text{ft}^2/\text{d}$ ) ( $1.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2$  per second ( $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ); closer to the WIPP facility, they are as low as 0.007 to 74  $\text{ft}^2/\text{d}$  ( $7.5 \times 10^{-9}$  to  $8.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$ ).

The two primary types of field tests that are being used to characterize the flow and transport characteristics of the Culebra are hydraulic tests and tracer tests.

The hydraulic tests consist of pump, injection, and slug testing of wells across the study area (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)). The most detailed hydraulic test data exist for the WIPP hydropads (e.g., H-19). The hydropads generally comprise a network of three or more wells located within a few tens of meters of each other. Long-term pumping tests have been conducted at hydropads H-3, H-11, and H-19 and at well WIPP-13 (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)). These pumping tests provided transient pressure data both at the hydropad and over a much larger area. Tests often included use of automated data-acquisition systems, providing high-resolution (in both space and time) data sets. In addition to long-term pumping tests, slug tests and short-term pumping tests have been conducted at individual wells to provide pressure data that can be used to interpret the transmissivity at that well (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)). Detailed cross-hole hydraulic testing has been conducted at the H-19 hydropad (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)).

Pressure data were collected during hydraulic tests for estimation of hydrologic characteristics such as transmissivity, permeability, and storativity. The pressure data from long-term pumping tests and the interpreted transmissivity values for individual wells were used to develop the conceptual model for incorporation into flow models. Some of the hydraulic test data and interpretations are also important for the interpretation of transport characteristics. For instance, the permeability values interpreted from the hydraulic tests at a given hydropad were needed for interpretations of tracer test data at that hydropad.

There is strong evidence that the permeability of the Culebra varies spatially and varies sufficiently that it cannot be characterized with a uniform value or range over the region that

affects the WIPP facility. The transmissivity of the Culebra varies spatially over ten orders of magnitude from east to west in the vicinity of the WIPP facility. Transmissivities have been calculated at  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  ft<sup>2</sup>/d ( $1 \times 10^{-13}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s) at well SNL-15 east of the WIPP site to  $1 \times 10^3$  ft<sup>2</sup>/d ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$  m<sup>2</sup>/s) at well H-7 in Nash Draw (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)).

Transmissivity variations in the Culebra are believed to be controlled by the relative abundance of open fractures (secondary porosity) rather than by primary porosity (i.e., depositional) of the unit (Roberts, 2007). Holt and Powers (1988) examined available Culebra cores at and near the WIPP site and integrated observations with shaft mapping at the site. These cores were not all complete through the Culebra. Culebra thickness varies somewhat in the site area. The Culebra varies vertically, but Holt and Powers (1988) described consistent sedimentary features across the area. The Culebra did not reveal facies changes over the site and surrounding area that indicate changes in depositional environments.

Holt (1997) described transport processes through the Culebra, concluding that at the regional scale the Culebra will behave as a double-porosity unit. Fractures were related to depth and dissolution of underlying Salado halite by Holt (Holt and Yarbrough, 2002; Powers et al., 2003). It was also noted by Holt (1997) that halite bounding the Culebra (especially to the east of the WIPP site) was likely to further decrease the porosity of the Culebra. Culebra core from monitoring well SNL-15 (Powers et al., 2006) provided evidence of halite filling Culebra porosity where halite beds overlie and underlie the dolomite (Holt and Powers, 2010). Gypsum precipitated in porosity in some areas of the Culebra may further decrease porosity (Beauheim and Holt, 1990). The Culebra conceptual model was revised based on the relationship of transmissivity to the three factors of overburden thickness, dissolution of salt from below the Culebra, and the presence of halite below and above the Culebra (Holt et al., 2005).

Geochemical and radioisotope characteristics of the Culebra have been studied. There is considerable variation in groundwater geochemistry in the Culebra. The variation has been described in terms of different hydrogeochemical facies that can be mapped in the Culebra. A halite-rich hydrogeochemical facies exists in the region of the WIPP site and to the east, approximately corresponding to the regions in which halite exists in units above and below the Culebra, and in which a large portion of the Culebra fractures are gypsum filled. An anhydrite-rich hydrogeochemical facies exists west and south of the WIPP site, where there is relatively less halite in adjacent strata and where there are fewer gypsum-filled fractures. Isotopic signatures suggest that the age of the groundwater in the Culebra is on the order of 10,000 years or more (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2009)). More recent data indicate Krypton-81 model ages on the order of 130,000 years for high-transmissivity zones of the Culebra (Sturchio et al., 2014).

The radiogenic ages of the Culebra groundwater and the geochemical differences provide information potentially relevant to the groundwater flow directions and groundwater interaction with other units and are important constraints on conceptual models of groundwater flow (see Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-4b (DOE, 2020)).

The Permittees have proposed a conceptualization of groundwater flow that explains observed geochemical facies and groundwater flow patterns. The conceptualization, referred to as the basin-scale groundwater model, offers a three-dimensional approach to treatment of Supra-Salado rock units, and assumes vertical leakage (albeit very slow) between rock units of the Rustler exists (where a hydraulic head is present).

Flow in the Culebra is considered transient. The model assumes that the groundwater system is dynamic and is responding to climate drying that has persisted since the late Pleistocene period. The Permittees assumed that recharge rates during the late Pleistocene period were sufficient to maintain the water table near land surface but has since dropped significantly. Therefore, the impact of local topography on groundwater flow was greater during wetter periods, with discharge from the Rustler in the vicinity of the WIPP facility to the west toward Nash Draw; flow is currently dominated by more regional topographic effects during drier times, with flow in the Rustler from the vicinity of the WIPP facility towards the Balmorhea-Loving Trough to the south.

Using data from 22 wells, Siegel et al. (1991) originally defined four hydrochemical zones (A, B, C, and D) for Culebra groundwater based primarily on ionic strength and major constituents. With the data available from 59 wells, Domski and Beauheim (2008) defined transitional A/C and B/C facies, as well as a new Zone E for high-moles per kilogram (molal) Na-Mg Cl brines. These hydrochemical zones/facies include the following:

- Zone B - Dilute (ionic strength  $\leq 0.1$  molal)  $\text{CaSO}_4$ -rich groundwater, from southern high-transmissivity area. Mg/Ca molar ratio 0.32 to 0.52.
- Facies B/C - Ionic strength 0.18 to 0.29 molal, Mg/Ca molar ratio 0.4 to 0.6.
- Zone C - Variable composition waters, ionic strength 0.3 to 1.0 molal, Mg/Ca molar ratio 0.4 to 1.1.
- Facies A/C - Ionic strength 1.1 to 1.6 molal, Mg/Ca molar ratio 0.5 to 1.2.
- Zone A - Ionic strength  $> 1.66$  molal, up to 5.3 molal, Mg/Ca molar ratio 1.2 to 2.4.
- Zone D - Defined based on inferred contamination related to potash refining operations. Ionic strength 3 molal, K/Na weight ratios of  $\sim 0.2$ .
- Zone E - Wells east of the mudstone-halite margins, ionic strength 6.4 to 8.6 molal, Mg/Ca molar ratio 4.1 to 6.6.

The low-ionic-strength ( $\leq 0.1$  molal) Zone B waters contain more sulfate than chloride and are found southwest and south of the WIPP site within and down the Culebra hydraulic gradient from the southernmost closed catchment basins, mapped by Powers (2006), in the southwest arm of Nash Draw. These waters reflect relatively recent recharge through gypsum karst overlying the Culebra. However, with total dissolved solids (**TDS**) concentrations in excess of 3,000 mg/L, the Zone B waters do not represent modern-day precipitation rapidly reaching the Culebra. They must have residence times in the Rustler sulfate units of thousands of years before reaching the Culebra.

The higher-ionic-strength (0.3-1 molal) Zone C brines have differing compositions, representing meteoric waters that have dissolved  $\text{CaSO}_4$ , overprinted with mixing and localized processes. Zone A brines (ionic strength 1.6 - 5.3 molal) are high in NaCl and are clustered along the extent of halite in the middle of the Tamarisk Member of the Rustler Formation. Zone A represents old waters (long flow paths) that have dissolved halite and/or connate brine, or a mixture of the two from Zone E. The Zone D brines, as identified by Siegel et al. (1991), are high-ionic-strength solutions found in western Nash Draw with high K/Na ratios representing

waters contaminated with effluent from potash refining operations. Similar water is found at shallow depth (<36 ft (11 m)) in the upper Dewey Lake at SNL-1, just south of the Intrepid East tailings pile. The newly defined Zone E waters are very high ionic strength (6.4 - 8.6 molal) NaCl brines with high Mg/Ca ratios. The Zone E brines are found east of the WIPP site, where Rustler halite is present above and below the Culebra, and halite cements are present in the Culebra. They represent primitive brines present since deposition of the Culebra and immediately overlying strata.

In a previous (earlier) conceptual model, the geochemistry of Culebra groundwater was not correlated with flow direction. It was assumed the Zone C water must transform to Zone B water (e.g., become “fresher”), which is inconsistent with the observed flow direction. It is now believed that the observed geochemistry and flow directions can be explained with different recharge areas and Culebra travel paths (Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2009) and Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2020)).

Head distribution in the Culebra (see Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2009) and Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2020)) is now consistent with basin-scale groundwater basin modeling results indicating that the generalized groundwater flow direction in the Culebra is currently north to south. However, the fractured nature of the Culebra, coupled with variable fluid densities, can cause localized flow patterns to differ from general flow patterns.

Groundwater levels in the Culebra in the region around the WIPP facility have been measured in numerous wells. Water-level rises have been observed and are attributed to causes discussed in Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009) and Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-4d (DOE, 2020). The extent of changes in water levels observed at a particular well depends on several factors, but the proximity of the observation point to the cause of the water-level change appears to be a primary factor. Water level decreases have been observed due to anthropogenic causes, such as pumping water wells by a local rancher and well pumping from the oil and gas industry for hydraulic fracking (Thomas et al., 2017)

Hydrological investigations conducted from 2003 through 2007 provided new information, some of it confirming long-held assumptions and some offering new insight into the hydrological system around the WIPP site. A Culebra monitoring network optimization study was completed by McKenna (2004) and updated by Kuhlman (2010) to identify locations where new Culebra monitoring wells would be of greatest value and to identify wells that could be removed from the network with little loss of information.

As discussed in Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009) and Renewal Application Addendum L1 (DOE, 2020), extensive hydrological testing has been performed in the new wells. This testing has involved both short-term single-well tests, which provide information on local transmissivity and heterogeneity, and long-term (19 to 32 days) pumping tests that have created observable responses in wells up to 5.9 mi (9.5 km) away.

Inferences about vertical flow directions in the Culebra have been made from well data collected by the Permittees. Beauheim (1987) reported flow directions towards the Culebra from both the underlying Los Medaños Member (**Los Medaños**) of the Rustler and the overlying Magenta

Member (**Magenta**) of the Rustler across the WIPP site, indicating that the Culebra acts as a drain for the units around it. This is consistent with results of basin-scale groundwater modeling.

Use of water from the Culebra in the WIPP facility area is quite limited because of its varying yields and high salinity. The Culebra is not used for water supply in the immediate WIPP facility vicinity. Its nearest use is approximately 7 mi (11 km) southwest of the WIPP facility, where salinity is low enough to allow its use for livestock watering.

## L-2 General Regulatory Requirements

Because geologic repositories such as the WIPP facility are defined under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (**RCRA**) as land disposal facilities and as miscellaneous units, the groundwater monitoring requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.600 through 264.603) shall be addressed. The requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.90 through 264.101) apply to miscellaneous unit treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (**TSDF**) only if groundwater monitoring is needed to satisfy 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.601 through 264.603) environmental performance standards.

The New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) has concluded that groundwater monitoring in accordance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 264, Subpart F) at the WIPP facility is necessary to meet the requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.601 through 264.603).

## L-3 WIPP Detection Monitoring Program (DMP)—Overview

### L-3a Scope

This DMP plan governs groundwater sampling events conducted to meet the applicable requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR Part 264 Subpart F) and ensures that such data are gathered in accordance with these and other applicable requirements. Analytical results collected during the DMP are compared to the baseline established in Permit Part 5, Table 5.6 to determine whether or not a release has occurred.

There are two separate components of the Groundwater Monitoring Program, the **DMP** and the Water Level Monitoring Program (**WLMP**). The first component consists of a network of six Detection Monitoring Wells (**DMWs**). The DMWs (WQSP 1-6) were constructed to be consistent with the specifications provided in the Groundwater Monitoring Technical Enforcement Guidance Document and constitute the RCRA groundwater monitoring network specified in the DMP (Figure M-69). The DMWs were used to establish background groundwater quality in accordance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§ 264.97 and 264.98(f)). The second component of the Culebra Groundwater Monitoring Program is the WLMP, which is used to determine the groundwater surface elevation and flow direction. Table L-4 is a list of the wells used in the WLMP. The list of wells is subject to change due to plugging and abandonment and drilling of new wells.

### L-3b Current WIPP DMP

Wells WQSP-1, WQSP-2, and WQSP-3 are located upgradient (north) of the WIPP shaft area.

Wells WQSP-4, WQSP-5, and WQSP-6 are located downgradient (south) of the WIPP shaft area. All three Culebra downgradient wells (WQSP-4, -5, and -6) were sited to be located generally in the flow path of contaminants that might be released from the shaft area in the Culebra. Well WQSP-4 was also specifically located to monitor the zone of higher transmissivity, which may represent a faster flow path away from the WIPP shaft area to the LWA boundary (Amended Renewal Application Addendum L1, Section L1-2a(3)(a)(ii) (DOE, 2009)).

The compliance point is defined in 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.95) as the vertical plane immediately downgradient of the hazardous waste management unit area (i.e., at the downgradient footprint of the WIPP repository). Permit Part 5 specifies the point of compliance as “the vertical surface located at the hydraulically downgradient limit of the Underground HWDUs that extends to the Culebra Member of the Rustler Formation.” Wells WQSP-4, 5, and 6 are situated to demonstrate that during the operating life of the facility (including closure), there will be no releases of hazardous waste constituents that may have an adverse effect on human health and the environment due to the migration of waste constituents in the groundwater or subsurface environment.

Transport modeling suggests that travel times from the Waste Handling Shaft to the LWA boundary could be on the order of thousands of years. This assumes conditions where hazardous constituents migrate from the sealed repository (post closure) to the Culebra via the sealed shafts.

Potentiometric surfaces and groundwater flow directions defined for the Culebra prior to large-scale pumping in the WIPP facility area and the excavation of WIPP facility shafts suggests that flow was generally to the south-southeast from the waste disposal and shaft areas (Mercer, 1983; Davies, 1989). Potentiometric surface maps of the Culebra adjusted for density differences show very similar characteristics. Water levels used to determine the potentiometric surface of the Culebra are measured monthly and listed in Table L-4.

#### L-3b(1) Detection Monitoring Well Construction Specification

Diagrams of the six DMP wells are shown in Figures M-71 through M-76. Detailed descriptions of geology and construction methods are found in DOE (1995).

The six DMP Culebra wells were drilled between September 13 and October 16, 1994. The total depth of each well is shown in Table L-5. The wells were drilled through the Culebra into the Los Medaños as shown in Table L-5. The wells were drilled to the top of the Culebra using compressed air as the drilling fluid and a 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. drill bit. The wells were then cored using a 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. core bit to cut 4-in. (0.1-m) diameter core to total depth. See Table L-5 for the drilling and coring intervals for each well. After coring, DMP wells were reamed to 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. (0.3 m) in diameter to total depth. After reaming, wells were cased from the surface to total depth with 5-in. (0.1-m) (0.28-in. [0.7-centimeter (**cm**)] wall) blank fiberglass casing with in-line 5-in.- (0.1-m) diameter fiberglass 0.02-in. (0.1-cm) slotted screen across the Culebra interval as shown in Table L-5. The annulus between the borehole wall and the casing/screen is packed from total depth to surface with 8/16 Brady gravel, followed by sand, bentonite, and cement as indicated in Table L-5.

#### L-4 Monitoring Program Description

The WIPP DMP has been designed to meet the groundwater monitoring requirements of 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§264.90 through 264.101). The following sections of the monitoring plan specify the components of the DMP.

##### L-4a Monitoring Frequency

Groundwater surface elevations are monitored in each of the six DMWs on a monthly basis. The groundwater surface elevation in each DMW are measured prior to each annual sampling event. The groundwater surface elevation measurements in the WLMP wells are also monitored on a monthly basis when accessible. The characteristics of the DMW (sampling frequency, location) are evaluated for significant changes in the groundwater flow direction or gradient.

##### L-4b Analytical Parameters and Hazardous Constituents

The parameters listed in Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.a, and hazardous constituents listed in Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.b, are measured as part of the DMP.

Additional hazardous constituents may be identified through changes to the list of hazardous waste numbers authorized for disposal at the WIPP facility. If hazardous constituents are identified, these will be added to Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.b, unless the Permittees provide justification for their omission (e.g., hazardous constituent not in 40 CFR Part 264, Appendix IX), and this omission is approved by the NMED.

##### L-4c Groundwater Surface Elevation Measurement, Sample Collection and Laboratory Analysis

Groundwater surface elevations will be measured in each DMW prior to groundwater sample collection. Data will be collected until groundwater field indicator parameters stabilize or three well bore volumes, whichever occurs first, after which the final sample for complete analysis will be collected. Final samples will then be analyzed for the parameters and constituents in Permit Part 5, Tables 5.4.a and 5.4.b.

##### L-4c(1) Groundwater Surface Elevation Monitoring Methodology

The WLMP activities are conducted in accordance with the WIPP facility SOPs listed in Table L-3.

Groundwater surface elevation measurements will be taken monthly at each of the six DMWs and prior to the annual sampling event. Additionally, groundwater surface elevation measurements will be taken monthly in the other Culebra wells as listed in Table L-4, when accessible. Well locations are shown in Figure M-77. If a cumulative groundwater surface elevation change of more than 2 feet is detected in any DMP well over the course of one year, and the change in elevation is not attributable to site tests or natural stabilization of the site hydrologic system, the Permittees will notify the NMED in writing and discuss the origin of the changes in the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report specified in Permit Part 5. Abnormal, unexplained changes in groundwater surface elevation will be evaluated to determine if they indicate changes in site recharge/discharge, which could affect the assumptions regarding

DMW placement and constitute new information as specified in 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.41(a)(2)).

Groundwater surface elevation monitoring will continue through the post-closure care period specified in Permit Part 7. The Permittees may temporarily increase the frequency of monitoring to effectively document naturally occurring or artificial perturbations that may be imposed on the hydrologic systems at any point in time. This will be conducted in selected key wells by increasing the frequency of the manual groundwater surface elevation measurements or by monitoring water pressures with the aid of electronic pressure transducers and remote data-logging systems. The Permittees will include such additional data in the reports specified in Section L-5c.

Interpretation of groundwater surface elevation measurements and corresponding fluctuations over time is complicated at the WIPP facility by spatial variation in fluid density. To monitor the hydraulic gradients of the hydrologic flow systems accurately, actual groundwater surface elevation measurements will be monitored at the frequencies specified in Table L-2, and the Culebra groundwater densities, in the wells listed in Table L-4, will be calculated annually. The fluid density calculated for well H-19b0 will be used to correct for freshwater head for the other wells on H-19 pad (H-19b2, H-19b3, H-19b4, H-19b5, H-19b6, and H-19b7).

Measured Culebra water surface elevation data can be converted to equivalent freshwater head from knowledge of the density of the borehole fluid, using the following formula.

$$p = \rho \gamma h$$

where

$p$  = freshwater head (length of freshwater head)  
 $\gamma$  = average specific gravity of the borehole fluid (unitless ratio of borehole fluid density to density of fresh water)  
 $\rho$  = freshwater density (mass/volume)  
 $h$  = fluid column height above the datum (length)

Density calculations are performed annually. Density for the DMWs will be expressed as specific gravity as measured in the field during sampling events using a hydrometer or pressure transducers. Freshwater head for Culebra wells will be calculated as described above from fluid density.

#### L-4c(1)(i) Field Methods and Data Collection Requirements

To obtain an accurate groundwater surface elevation measurement, a calibrated water-level measuring device will be lowered into a test well and the depth to water recorded from a known reference point. An SOP will be used when making water-level measurements for this program. The SOP will specify the methods to be used in obtaining groundwater-level measurements, and provide general instructions including prerequisites, safety precautions, performance frequency, quality assurance, data management, and records.

#### L-4c(1)(ii) Groundwater Surface Elevation Records and Document Control

Groundwater surface elevation measurement data will be processed in a manner that ensures data integrity. The data management process for groundwater surface elevation measurement data will begin with completion of the field data sheets. Date, time, tape measurement, unique equipment identification number, initials of the field personnel, and equipment/comments will be recorded on the field data sheets. If, for some unexpected reason, a measurement is not possible (e.g., a test is under way that blocks entry to the well bore), then a notation as to why the measurement was not taken will be recorded in the comment column. Personnel will also use the comment column to report any security observations (e.g., well lock missing, casing damage).

Data recorded on the field data sheets and submitted by field personnel will be subject to applicable SOPs (see Table L-3). These procedures specify the processes for administering and managing such data. The data will be entered onto a computerized work sheet. The work sheet program calculates groundwater surface elevation in both feet and meters relative to the top of the casing and also relative to mean sea level. The work sheet program adjusts groundwater surface elevations to equivalent freshwater heads.

A check print will be made of the work sheet printout. The check print will be used to verify that data taken in the field were properly reported on the database printout. A minimum of 10 percent of the spreadsheet calculations will be randomly verified on the check print to ensure that calculations are being performed correctly. If errors are found, the work sheet will be corrected. Groundwater surface elevation data and equivalent freshwater heads for the Culebra wells in Table L-4 will be ~~transmitted to the NMED by May 31 and November 30~~ submitted to the NMED with the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report as specified in Permit Part 5. Semi-annual groundwater reports ~~The Annual Culebra Groundwater Report~~ will also include annotated hydrographs and trend analysis.

#### L-4c(2) Groundwater Sampling

##### L-4c(2)(i) Groundwater Pumping and Sampling Systems

The groundwater pumping and sampling systems used to collect a groundwater sample from the six DMWs will provide continuous and adequate production of water so that a representative groundwater sample can be obtained.

The type of pumping and sampling system to be used in a well depends primarily on the aquifer characteristics of the Culebra and well construction. The DMWs are individually equipped with dedicated submersible pumping assemblies. Each well has a submersible pump matched to the ability of the well to yield water during pumping. The down-hole submersible pumps are controlled by a variable electronic flow controller to match the production capacity of the formation at the well.

As recommended in the "RCRA Ground-Water Monitoring Technical Enforcement Guidance Document" (EPA, 1986) the wells will be purged no more than three well bore volumes or until field indicator parameters have stabilized, whichever comes first. Well purging will be performed in accordance with an SOP in conjunction with field parameter analysis to determine when the groundwater chemistry stabilizes and is therefore representative of undisturbed groundwater.

The DMWs are cased and screened through the production interval with materials (fiberglass-reinforced plastic) that do not yield contamination to the aquifer or allow the production interval to collapse under stress. An electric, submersible pump installation without the use of a packer is used in this instance. The largest amount of discharge from the submersible pump takes place from a discharge pipe. In addition to this main discharge pipe, a dedicated sample line running parallel to the discharge pipe is used. The sampling line is manufactured from a chemically inert material. Cumulative flow is measured using a totalizing flow meter. Flow from the discharge pipe is routed to a discharge tank for disposal.

The dedicated sampling line is used to collect the water sample that will undergo analysis. By using a dedicated sample line, the water will not be contaminated by the metal discharge pipe. The sample line will branch from the main discharge pipe a few inches above the pump. Flow from the sample line will be routed into the sample collection area. Flow through the sample collection line is regulated by a flow-control valve. The sample line is insulated at the surface to minimize temperature fluctuations.

#### L-4c(2)(ii) Field Parameter Analysis

Field parameter analysis is the measurement of data from temperature, specific conductivity, and pH meters installed in a flow-through cell for the purpose of determining when the groundwater chemistry stabilizes and is therefore representative of undisturbed groundwater. The Permittees' SOP for field parameter analysis will provide criteria for determining when a final sample should be taken. Each DMW will be purged to three well bore volumes, or until field parameters stabilize, whichever occurs first. Well stabilization occurs when the field-analyzed parameters are within  $\pm 5\%$  for three consecutive measurements. A well bore volume is defined as the volume of water from static water level to the bottom of the well sump. The Permittees will provide an explanation of why the sample was collected when field indicator parameters were not stabilized and place that explanation in the WIPP facility Operating Record.

Field parameters will be analyzed to detect and monitor the chemical variation of the groundwater as a function of the volume of water pumped. Once data collection begins, the duration at which field parameters are analyzed will be left to the discretion of the Permittees.

The Permittees will use appropriate field methods to identify stabilization of the following field indicator parameters: pH, temperature, specific conductance (**SC**), and specific gravity.

The three field indicator parameters of temperature, specific conductance, and pH will be determined by either an "in-line" technique, using a self-contained flow cell, or an "off-line" technique, in which the samples will be collected from a sample line at atmospheric pressure. Because of the lack of sophisticated weights and measures equipment available for field density assessments, field density evaluations will be expressed in terms of specific gravity, which is a unitless measure. Density is expressed as unit weight per unit volume.

New polyethylene containers, that are certified clean by the laboratory, will be used to collect the final samples from the sample line.

#### L-4c(2)(iii) Final Samples

The final sample will be collected once the measured field indicator parameters have stabilized (refer to Section L-4(c)(2)(ii)). Collected data will be analyzed for each day of pumping until final sampling. This is to ensure that samples collected for laboratory analysis are still representative of stable conditions. Sample preservation, handling, and transportation methods will maintain the integrity and representativeness of the final samples.

Prior to collecting the final samples, the collection team shall consider the analyses to be performed so that proper shipping or storage containers can be assembled. Table L-6 presents the sample containers, volumes, and holding times for laboratory samples collected as part of the DMP.

The monitoring system will use dedicated pumping systems and sample collection lines from the sampled formation to the well head.

Sample integrity will be ensured through appropriate decontamination procedures. Laboratory glassware will be washed after each use with a solution of nonphosphorus detergent and deionized (**DI**) water and rinsed in DI water. Sample containers will be new, certified clean containers that will be discarded after one use. Groundwater surface elevation measurement devices will be rinsed with fresh water after each use. Non-dedicated sample collection manifold assemblies will be rinsed in accordance with SOPs after each use. The exposed ends will be capped off during storage. Prior to the next use of the sampling manifold, it will be rinsed a second time with DI water.

Water samples will be collected at atmospheric pressure using either the filtered or unfiltered sampling lines. Detailed protocols, in the form of SOPs (see Table L-3) define how final samples will be collected in a consistent and repeatable fashion for analyses.

Final samples will be collected in the appropriate type of container for the specific analysis to be performed. The samples will be collected in new and unused glass and plastic containers (refer to Table L-6). For each parameter analyzed, a sufficient volume of sample will be collected to satisfy the volume requirements of the analytical laboratory (as specified by laboratory SOPs). This includes an additional volume of sample water necessary for maintaining quality control standards. Final samples will be treated, handled, and preserved as required for the specific type of analysis to be performed. Details about sample containers, preservation, and volumes required for individual types of analyses are found in the applicable SOPs generated, approved, and maintained by the contract analytical laboratory.

Final samples will be sent to the analytical laboratories and analyzed for parameters and hazardous constituents specified in Permit Part 5, Tables 5.4.a and 5.4.b.

Duplicates of the final sample will be provided to WIPP Project oversight agencies when requested.

Wastes resulting from the sampling and field analysis of groundwater are disposed of in accordance with the WIPP SOPs (see Table L-3).

#### L-4c(2)(iv) Sample Preservation, Tracking, Packaging, and Transportation

Many of the chemical constituents measured by the DMP are not chemically stable and require preservation and special handling techniques. Samples requiring acidification will be treated as requested by the analytical laboratory.

The analytical laboratory receiving the samples will prescribe the type and amount of preservative, the container material type, the required sample volumes that shall be collected, and the shipping requirements. This information will be recorded on the Final Sample Checklist for use by field personnel when final samples are being collected. The Permittees will follow the EPA "RCRA Ground-Water Monitoring Technical Enforcement Guidance Document," Table 4-1 (EPA, 1986), when laboratory SOPs do not specify sample container, volume, or preservation requirements. Waste Isolation Pilot Plant SOPs (see Table L-3) provide instructions to ensure proper sample preservation and shipping.

The sample tracking system at the WIPP facility uses uniquely numbered chain of custody / request for analysis (**CofC/RFA**) forms. The primary consideration for storage or transportation is that samples shall be analyzed within the prescribed holding times for the analytes of interest. WIPP SOPs (see Table L-3) provide instructions to ensure proper sample tracking protocol.

#### L-4c(2)(v) Sample Documentation and Custody

To ensure the integrity of samples from the time of collection through reporting date, sample collection, handling, and custody shall be documented. Sample custody and documentation procedures for sampling and analysis activities are detailed in WIPP facility SOPs (see Table L-3).

Standardized forms used to document samples will include sample identification numbers, sample labels, custody tape, the sample tracking data, and CofC/RFA form.

##### Sample Numbers and Labels

A unique sample identification number will be assigned to each sample sent to the laboratory for analysis. The sample identification numbers will be used to track the sample from the time of collection through data reporting. Every sample container sent to the laboratory for analysis will be identified with a label affixed to it. Sample label information will be completed in indelible ink and will contain the following information: sample identification number with sample matrix type; sample location; analysis requested; time and date of collection; preservative(s), if any; and the sampler's name or initials.

##### Custody Seals

Custody seals or custody tape will be used to detect unauthorized sample tampering from collection through analysis. For example, custody seals that are adhesive-backed strips are destroyed when removed or when the container is opened. The seal will be dated, initialed, and affixed to the sample container in such a manner that it is necessary to break the seal to open the container. Seals will be affixed to sample containers in the field immediately after collection. Upon receipt at the laboratory, the laboratory custodian will inspect the seal for integrity; a broken seal will invalidate the sample.

### Sample Identification and Tracking

Sample tracking information will be completed for each sample collected. The sample tracking information includes the following information: CofC/RFA form number; date sample(s) were sent to the lab; laboratory name; acknowledgment of receipt or comments; well name and round number. Sample codes will indicate the well location; the geologic formation where the water was collected from, the sampling round number; and the sample number. The code is broken down as follows:

WQ6<sup>1</sup>C<sup>2</sup>R2<sup>3</sup>N1<sup>4</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Well identification (e.g., WQSP-6 in this case)
- <sup>2</sup> Geologic formation (e.g., the Culebra in this case)
- <sup>3</sup> Sample round no. (Round 2)
- <sup>4</sup> Sample no. (N1)

To distinguish duplicate samples from other samples, a “D” is added as the last digit to signify a duplicate. Sample tracking information will be completed in the field by the sampling team.

Sample tracking is monitored and documented with the CofC/RFA form and the shipping airbill. Both of these documents are included in the data packets. Receipt at the analytical laboratory may be monitored, if necessary, via the shipper’s website tracking application. Samples are considered complete when a copy of the original CofC/RFA form is merged with the Field-Lab copy of the same document.

### Chain of Custody and Request for Analysis

A CofC/RFA form will be completed during or immediately following sample collection and will accompany the sample through analysis and disposal. The CofC/RFA form will be signed and dated each time the sample custody is transferred. A sample will be considered to be in a person’s custody if: the sample is in his/her physical possession; the sample is in his/her unobstructed view; and/or the sample is placed, by the last person in possession of it, in a secured area with restricted access. During shipment, the carrier’s air bill number serves as custody verification. Upon receipt of the samples at the analytical laboratory, the laboratory sample custodian acknowledges possession of the samples by signing and dating the CofC/RFA form. The completed original (top page) of the CofC/RFA will be returned to the Permittees with the laboratory analytical report and becomes part of the permanent record of the sampling event. The CofC/RFA form also contains specific instructions to the analytical laboratory for sample analysis, potential hazards, and disposal instructions.

### L-4c(3) Laboratory Analysis

Analysis of samples will be performed using methods selected to be consistent with EPA recommended procedures in SW-846 (EPA, 2015). Additional detail on analytical techniques and methods will be given in laboratory SOPs. In Permit Part 5, Tables 5.4.a and 5.4.b presents the analytical parameters and hazardous constituents for the WIPP DMP.

The Permittees will establish the criteria for laboratory selection, including the stipulation that the laboratory follow the procedures specified in SW-846 and that the laboratory follow EPA protocols unless alternate methods or protocols are approved by the NMED. The analytical

laboratory shall demonstrate, through laboratory SOPs that it will follow appropriate EPA SW-846 requirements and the requirements specified by the EPA protocols unless alternate methods or protocols are approved by the NMED. The analytical laboratory shall also provide documentation to the Permittees describing the sensitivity of laboratory instrumentation. This documentation will be retained in the WIPP facility Operating Record. Instrumentation sensitivity needs to be considered because of regulatory requirements governing constituent concentrations in groundwater and the complexity of brines associated with the Culebra groundwater.

The laboratory will maintain documentation of sample handling and custody, analytical results, and internal QC data. Additionally, the laboratory will analyze QC samples in accordance with this plan and its own internal QC program for indicators of analytical accuracy and precision. Data generated outside of laboratory acceptance limits will trigger an evaluation and, if appropriate, corrective action as directed by the Permittees. The laboratory will report the results of the environmental sample and QC sample analyses and any necessary corrective actions that were performed. In the event that more than one analytical laboratory is used (e.g., for different analyses), each one will have the responsibilities specified above. A copy of the laboratory SOPs will be maintained in WIPP facility files. The Permittees will provide the NMED with an initial set of applicable laboratory SOPs for information purposes and provide the NMED with updated SOPs upon request.

Data validation will be performed and reported in the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report and will be maintained in the WIPP facility Operating Record.

#### L-4d Calibration

##### L-4d(1) Sampling and Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Equipment Calibration

The equipment used to collect data for this DMP will be calibrated in accordance with SOPs. The Permittees will be responsible for calibrating needed equipment on schedule and for maintaining current calibration records for each piece of equipment.

##### L-4d(2) Groundwater Surface Elevation Monitoring Equipment Calibration Requirements

The equipment used in taking groundwater surface elevation measurements will be maintained in accordance with WIPP facility SOPs (see Table L-3). The Permittees will be responsible for ensuring equipment is calibrated on schedule in accordance with SOPs. The Permittees will also be responsible for maintaining copies of records of the most recent calibration for each piece of equipment.

#### L-4e Statistical Analysis of Laboratory Analytical Data

Analytical data collected as part of the DMP will be evaluated using appropriate statistical techniques. The following specifies the statistical analysis to be performed by the Permittees.

##### L-4e(1) Temporal and Spatial Analysis

Temporal and spatial analyses of the data were completed as part of establishing the water quality baseline (Crawley and Nagy, 1998; IT, 2000). As a result, the Permittees determined to evaluate changes relative to baseline on an individual location basis and to report the

concentrations of constituents as a time series, either in tabular form or as time plots. No particular seasonal variations have been noted in the concentrations of groundwater samples collected during the spring and autumn; therefore, continuing temporal analysis is not required.

The analytical results for constituents will be reported as time series, either in tabular form or as time plots or both and compared to the 95th percentile values or reporting limits identified in Permit Part 5, Table 5.6.

#### L-4e(2) Distributions and Descriptive Statistics

Techniques were established to compare detection monitoring data generated during the baseline studies. A 95th upper tolerance limit value (**UTLV**) or 95<sup>th</sup> percentile was determined from those data sets where target analytes were measured at concentrations above the method detection limits. The UTLV is provided for normal or lognormal distributions and a 95<sup>th</sup> percentile confidence interval is provided for data sets that are nonparametric or have greater than 15 percent non-detects. For analytes with only a few detects (greater than 95 percent non-detects), an accurate 95<sup>th</sup> percentile cannot be calculated. For these analytes, the maximum detected concentration is used as the baseline value. For the analytes that are non-detect in all the samples, the method reporting limit was used as the baseline value.

#### L-4e(3) Action Levels

Using baseline distributions, actions levels were identified in accordance with methodologies described in the baseline documents. Action levels are based on the 95th percentile or reporting limits identified in the baseline. If the groundwater concentration of a constituent identified in Permit Part 5, Table 5.6, is found to exceed an action level, a test for outliers is performed in accordance with the methodologies specified in "Statistical Analysis of Groundwater Monitoring Data at RCRA Facilities" (EPA, 2009).

#### L-4e(4) Comparisons and Reporting

Prior to TRU mixed waste receipt, measurements were made to establish a background concentration for each groundwater quality hazardous constituent specified in Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.b, at each DMW. These measurements were made during each of the ten background sampling events (with the exception of trans-1,2-dichloroethylene and vanadium that were added after TRU mixed waste disposal began). These measurements serve as a statistical baseline (Permit Part 5, Table 5.6) that is used for evaluating the significance of the results of subsequent sampling events during detection monitoring. Time-trend control charts with associated screening values for each hazardous constituent are used for this evaluation. The Permittees will compare the results from groundwater hazardous constituents of ongoing annual groundwater sample analysis to these baseline values in accordance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.97(h)(4)). If the comparisons show that a constituent statistically exceeds the baseline of the DMWs (as defined in 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.98(f))), the well shall be resampled and an analysis performed as soon as possible, in accordance with 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.98(g)(3)). The results of the statistical comparison will be reported annually to the NMED in the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report ~~by November 30~~, as required under 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §264.98(g)).

## L-5 Reporting

### L-5a Laboratory Data Reports

Laboratory data will be provided in electronic and hard copy reports to the Permittees and will contain the following information for each analytical report:

- A brief narrative summarizing laboratory analyses performed, date of issue, deviations from the analytical method, technical problems affecting data quality, laboratory quality checks, corrective actions (if any), and the project manager's signature approving issuance of the data report.
- Header information for each analytical data summary sheet including: sample number and corresponding laboratory identification number; sample matrix; date of collection, receipt, preparation and analysis; and analyst's name.
- Parameter and hazardous constituents, analytical results, reporting units, reporting limit, analytical method used.
- Results of QC sample analyses for all concurrently analyzed QC samples.

Analytical results will be provided to the NMED as specified in the Permit Part 5.

### L-5b Statistical Analysis and Reporting of Results

Analytical results for hazardous constituents from annual groundwater sampling activities will be compared and interpreted by the Permittees through generation of statistical analyses as specified in Section L-4e. The Permittees will perform statistical analyses; the results will be included in the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report in summary form, and will also be provided to the NMED as specified in Permit Part 5.

### L-5c ~~Semi-Annual Groundwater Surface Elevation Report and~~ Annual Culebra Groundwater Report

Data collected from this DMP will be reported to the NMED as specified in Permit Part 5 in the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report. The report will include information that may affect the comparison of background groundwater quality and groundwater surface elevation data through time. This information will include but is not limited to:

- DMW and WLMP well configuration changes that may have occurred from the time of the last measurement (i.e., plug installation and removal, packer removal and reinstallation, or both; and the type and quantity of fluids that may have been introduced into the test wells).
- Pumping activities that may have taken place since publication of the last annual report (i.e., related to groundwater quality sampling, hydraulic testing, and shaft installation or grouting) that may have taken place since the last annual groundwater report.
- A discussion of the origins of abnormal unexpected changes in the groundwater surface elevation, which are not attributable to site tests or natural stabilization of the site

hydrologic system that exceeds 2 ft in a DMP well over the course of the period covered by the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report (this may indicate changes in recharge/discharge which would affect the assumptions regarding DMP well placement and constitute new information as specified in 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §270.41(a)(2)).

- The results of the annual measurements of densities.
- Annotated hydrographs.
- Groundwater flow rate and direction.
- Potentiometric surface map generated using the following steps:
  - Examine hydrographs to identify month having the largest number of Culebra water levels available with the fewest wells affected by pumping or other anthropogenic events.
  - Convert water levels from subject month to equivalent freshwater heads using fluid densities appropriate to the date.
  - Fit trend surface through freshwater heads.
  - Extrapolate the trend surface to the boundaries of the model domain used for the current Performance Assessment Baseline Calculations (**PABCs**) and define initial fixed-head boundary conditions based on the trend surface.
  - Using the ensemble-average Culebra transmissivity field used for the current PABC, optimize the model boundary heads to improve the fit of the model to the freshwater heads at the wells using optimization software interactively with MODFLOW.
  - Run MODFLOW with optimal boundary conditions fit.
  - Contour MODFLOW head results on WIPP site.
  - Compute particle path and travel time from the Waste Handling Shaft to the LWA Boundary.
  - Data analysis that will accompany the potentiometric surface map will include:
    - Measured versus modeled scatter plot diagram
    - Frequency of modeled head residuals
    - Modeled residual freshwater head at each well
    - Explanations for modeled misfit residuals greater than 16.4 feet (5 meters).

- ~~Semi-annual groundwater~~Groundwater surface elevation results will be reported as specified in Permit Part 5, Section 5.10.2.2.

The DMP data used in generating the Annual Culebra Groundwater Report will be maintained as part of the WIPP facility Operating Record and will be provided to the NMED for review as specified in the permit.

#### L-6 Records Management

Records generated during groundwater sampling and water level monitoring will be maintained in either project files at the Permittees facility or the Operating Record. Project files will include, but are not limited to:

- Sampling and Analysis Plans (**SAPs**)
- SOPs
- Field Data Entry Sheets
- CofC/RFA forms
- Analytical Laboratory Data Reports
- Variance Logs and Nonconformance Reports
- Corrective Action Reports.

Detection Monitoring Program monitoring, testing, and analytical data and WLMP data will be maintained in the WIPP facility Operating Record.

#### L-7 Quality Assurance Requirements

Quality Assurance requirements specific to the DMP are presented in this section.

##### L-7a Data Quality Objectives and Quality Assurance Objectives

###### L-7a(1) Data Quality Objectives

Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) are qualitative and quantitative statements that specify the quality of data required to support project decisions. DQOs have been established to ensure that the data collected will be of a sufficient and known quality for their intended uses. The overall DQOs for this DMP are shown in the following sections.

###### L-7a(1)(i) Detection Monitoring Program

Collect accurate and defensible data of known quality that will be sufficient to assess the concentrations of constituents in the groundwater underlying the WIPP facility.

###### L-7a(1)(ii) Water Level Monitoring Program

Collect accurate and defensible data of known quality that will be sufficient to assess the groundwater flow direction and rate at the WIPP facility.

## L-7a(2) Quality Assurance Objectives

Quality Assurance Objectives (**QAOs**) for measurement data have been specified in terms of accuracy, precision, completeness, representativeness, and comparability.

### L-7a(2)(i) Accuracy

Accuracy is the closeness of agreement between a measurement and an accepted reference value. When applied to a set of observed values, accuracy is a combination of a random component and a common systematic error (bias) component. Measurements for accuracy will include analysis of calibration standards, laboratory control samples, matrix spike samples, and surrogate spike recoveries. The bias component of accuracy is expressed as percent recovery (%R). Percent recovery is expressed as follows:

$$\%R = \frac{(\text{measured sample concentration})}{\text{true concentration}} \times 100$$

#### L-7a(2)(i)(A) Accuracy Objectives for Field Measurements

Field measurements will include pH, SC, temperature, specific gravity, and static groundwater surface elevation. Field measurement accuracy will be determined using calibration standards. Thermometers used for field measurements will be calibrated to the National Institute for Standards and Technology (**NIST**) traceable standard on an annual basis to ensure accuracy. Accuracy of groundwater surface elevation measurements will be checked before each measurement period by verifying calibration of the device within the specified schedule. Waste Isolation Pilot Plant document WP 13-1 outlines the basic requirements for field equipment use and calibration. Waste Isolation Pilot Plant facility SOPs contains instructions that outline protocols for maintaining current calibration of groundwater surface elevation measurement instrumentation.

#### L-7a(2)(i)(B) Accuracy Objectives for Laboratory Measurements

Analytical system accuracy will be quantified using the following laboratory accuracy QC checks: calibration standards, laboratory control samples (**LCS**), laboratory blanks, matrix and surrogate spike recoveries. Single LCSs and matrix spike and surrogate spike sample analyses will be expressed as %R. Laboratory analytical accuracy is parameter dependent and will be prescribed in the laboratory SOP.

### L-7a(2)(ii) Precision

Precision is the agreement among a set of replicate measurements without assumption or knowledge of the true value. Precision data will be derived from duplicate field and laboratory measurements. Precision will be expressed as relative percent difference (**RPD**), which is calculated as follows:

$$RPD = \left( \frac{|V_1 - V_2|}{\frac{V_1 + V_2}{2}} \right) \times 100$$

Where

*RPD* = relative percent difference

*V*<sub>1</sub> = sample 1 measured value

*V*<sub>2</sub> = sample 2 measured value

#### L-7a(2)(ii)(A) Precision Objectives for Field Measurements

Specific conductance, pH, and temperature will be measured during well purging. Specific conductance measurements will be precise to ±10% pH to 0.10 standard unit, specific gravity to 0.01 by hydrometer and temperature to 0.10 degrees Celsius (°C). Water-level measurements will be precise to ± 0.01 ft. The precision of water density measurements, calculated using down-hole pressure-transducer data, will be determined on a well-by-well basis and will result in no more than a ± 2 ft of error in the derived fresh-water head.

#### L-7a(2)(ii)(B) Precision Objectives for Laboratory Measurements

Precision of laboratory analyses will be determined by analyzing an LCS and a lab control sample duplicate (**LCSD**) or by analyzing one of the field samples in duplicate depending on the requirements of the particular standard method. The precision is measured as the RPD of the recoveries for the spiked LCS/LCSD pair or the RPD of the duplicate sample analysis results. Laboratory analytical precision is also parameter dependent and will be prescribed in laboratory SOPs.

#### L-7a(2)(iii) Contamination

In addition to measurements of precision and bias, QC checks for contamination will be performed. QC samples including trip blanks, field blanks, and method blanks will be analyzed to assess and document contamination attributable to sample collection equipment, sample handling and shipping, and laboratory reagents and glassware. Trip blanks will be used to assess volatile organic compound (**VOC**) sample contamination during shipment and handling and will be collected and analyzed at a frequency of one sample per sample shipment. Field blanks will be used to assess field sample collection methods and will be collected and analyzed at a minimum frequency of one sample per 20 samples (five percent of the samples collected). Method blanks will be used to assess contamination resulting from the analytical process and will be analyzed at a minimum frequency of one sample per 20 samples, or five percent of the samples collected. Evaluation of sample blanks will be performed following U.S. EPA "National Functional Guidelines for Organic Data Review" (EPA, 1999) and "National Functional Guidelines for Evaluating Inorganics Analyses" (EPA, 2004). Only method blanks will be analyzed via wet chemistry methods. The criteria for evaluating method blanks will be established as follows: If method blank results exceed method reporting limits, then that value will become the detection limit for the sample batch. Detection of analytes of interest in method blank samples may be used to disqualify some samples, requiring resampling and additional analyses on a case-by-case basis.

#### L-7a(2)(iv) Completeness

Completeness (%C) is a measure of the amount of usable valid data resulting from a data collection activity, given the sample design and analysis. Completeness (%C) may be affected by unexpected conditions that may occur during the data collection process.

Occurrences that reduce the amount of data collected include sample container breakage during sample shipment or in the laboratory and data generated while the laboratory was operating outside prescribed QC limits. All attempts will be made to minimize data loss and to recover lost data whenever possible. The completeness objective for analysis of Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.a parameters will be 90 percent and 100 percent analysis of Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.b hazardous constituents. If the completeness objective for Permit Part 5, Table 5.4.b hazardous constituents is not met, the Permittees will determine the need for resampling on a case-by-case basis. Numerical expression of the completeness (%C) of data is as follows:

$$\%C = \frac{\text{number of accepted samples}}{\text{total number of samples collected}} \times 100$$

#### L-7a(2)(v) Representativeness

Representativeness is the degree to which sample analyses accurately and precisely represent the media they are intended to represent. Data representativeness for this DMP will be accomplished through implementing approved sampling procedures and the use of validated analytical methods. Sampling procedures will be designed to minimize factors affecting the integrity of the samples. Groundwater samples will only be collected after well purging criteria have been met. The analytical methods selected will be those that will most accurately and precisely represent the true concentration of analytes of interest.

For water levels and density, representativeness is a qualitative term that describes the extent to which a sampling design adequately reflects the environmental conditions of a site. The SOPs for measurement ensure that samples are representative of site conditions.

#### L-7a(2)(vi) Comparability

Comparability is the extent to which one data set can be compared to another. Comparability will be achieved through reporting data in consistent units and collection and analysis of samples using consistent methodology. Aqueous samples will consistently be reported in units of measures dictated by the analytical method. Units of measure include:

- Milligrams per liter (mg/L) for alkalinity, inorganic compounds and metals and
- Micrograms per liter (µg/L) for VOCs and semivolatile organic compounds (**SVOCs**).

Culebra groundwater surface elevation measurements will be expressed as equivalent freshwater elevation in feet above mean sea level.

#### L-7b Design Control

The approved design for the DMP is specified in this Attachment. Modifications to the DMP will be processed in accordance with 20.4.1.900 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR §§ 270.42).

#### L-7c Instructions, Procedures, and Drawings

The preparation and use of instructions and procedures at the WIPP facility are outlined in the WIPP facility document WP 13-1 (see Table L-3). Activities performed for the DMP that may affect groundwater data quality will be performed in accordance with approved procedures which comply with the Permit.

#### L-7d Document Control

Permittees will ensure that the latest approved versions of WIPP facility SOPs will be used in performing groundwater monitoring functions and that obsolete materials will be adequately identified or removed from work areas.

#### L-7e Inspection and Surveillance

Inspection and surveillance activities will be conducted as outlined in WIPP document WP 13-1 (see Table L-3). The Permittees will be responsible for performing the applicable WIPP facility SOPs.

#### L-7f Control of Monitoring and Data Collection Equipment

WIPP document WP 13-1 (see Table L-3) outlines the basic requirements for control and calibrating monitoring and data collection (**M&DC**) equipment. M&DC equipment shall be properly controlled, calibrated, and maintained according to WIPP facility SOPs (see Table L-3) to ensure continued accuracy of groundwater monitoring data. Results of calibrations, maintenance, and repair will be documented. Calibration records will identify the reference standard and the relationship to national standards or nationally accepted measurement systems. Records will be maintained to track uses of M&DC equipment. If M&DC equipment is found to be out of tolerance, the equipment will be tagged and removed from service until corrections have been made.

#### L-7g Control of Nonconforming Conditions

In accordance with WP 13-1 (see Table L-3), equipment that does not conform to specified requirements will be controlled to prevent use. The disposition of defective items will be documented on records traceable to the affected items. Prior to final disposition, faulty items will be tagged and segregated. Repaired equipment will be subject to the original acceptance inspections and tests prior to use.

#### L-7h Corrective Action

Requirements for the development and implementation of a system to determine, document, and initiate appropriate corrective actions after encountering conditions adverse to quality at the WIPP facility are outlined in WIPP document WP 13-1 (see Table L-3). Conditions adverse to acceptable quality will be documented and reported in accordance with corrective action procedures and corrected as soon as practical. Immediate action will be taken to control work performed under conditions adverse to acceptable quality and its results to prevent quality degradation.

## L-7i Quality Assurance Records

Standard operating procedure WP 13-1 (see Table L-3) outlines the policy that will be used at the WIPP facility regarding identification, preparation, collection, storage, maintenance, disposition, and permanent storage of QA records.

Records to be generated in the DMP will be specified by procedure. Quality Assurance (**QA**) and RCRA Operating Records will be identified. This will be the basis for the labeling of records as “QA” or “RCRA Operating Record” on the Environmental Monitoring Records Inventory and Disposition Schedule.

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## TABLES

**Table L-1**  
**Hydrological Parameters for Rock Units above the Salado at the WIPP Site**

| Unit       |             | Hydraulic Conductivity                                                                                                | Storage                                       | Thickness   | Hydraulic Gradient |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Santa Rosa |             | $2 \times 10^{-8}$ to $2 \times 10^{-6}$ m/s (1) (2)                                                                  |                                               | 0 to 91 m   | 0.001 (5)          |
| Dewey Lake |             | $10^{-8}$ m/s                                                                                                         | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 152 m       | 0.001 (5)          |
| Rustler    | Forty-niner | $1 \times 10^{-13}$ to $1 \times 10^{-11}$ m/s (anhydrite)<br>$1 \times 10^{-9}$ m/s (mudstone) (2)                   | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 13 to 23 m  | NA (6)             |
|            | Magenta     | $1 \times 10^{-8.5}$ to $1 \times 10^{-6.5}$ m/s (2)                                                                  | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 7 to 8.5 m  | 3 to 6             |
|            | Tamarisk    | $1 \times 10^{-13}$ to $1 \times 10^{-11}$ m/s (anhydrite)<br>$1 \times 10^{-9}$ m/s (mudstone) (2)                   | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 26 to 56 m  | NA (6)             |
|            | Culebra     | $1 \times 10^{-7.5}$ to $1 \times 10^{-5.5}$ m/s (2)                                                                  | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 4 to 11.6 m | 0.003 to 0.007 (5) |
|            | Los Medaños | $6 \times 10^{-15}$ to $1 \times 10^{-13}$ m/s<br>$1.5 \times 10^{-11}$ to $1.2 \times 10^{-11}$ m/s (basal interval) | Specific storage $1 \times 10^{-5}$ (1/m) (2) | 29 to 38 m  | NA (6)             |

Matrix characteristics relevant to fluid flow include values used in this table such as permeability, hydraulic conductivity, gradient, etc.)

Table Notes:

- (1) The Santa Rosa Formation is not present in the western portion of the WIPP site. It was combined with the Dewey Lake in three-dimensional regional groundwater flow modeling (Corbet and Knupp, 1996), and the range of values entered here are those used in that study for the Dewey Lake/Triassic hydrostratigraphic unit.
- (2) Values or ranges of values given for these entries are the values used in three-dimensional regional groundwater flow modeling (Corbet and Knupp, 1996). Values are estimated based on literature values for similar rock types, adjusted to be consistent with site-specific data where available. Ranges of values include spatial variation over the WIPP site and differences in values used in different simulations to test model sensitivity to the parameter.
- (3) Hydraulic gradient is a dimensionless term describing change in the elevation of hydraulic head divided by change in horizontal distance. Values given in these entries are determined from potentiometric surfaces. The range of values given for the Culebra reflects the highest and lowest gradients observed within the WIPP site boundary. Values for the Dewey Lake and Santa Rosa are assumed to be the same as the gradient determined from the water table. Note that the Santa Rosa Formation is absent or above the water table in most of the controlled area, and that the concept of a horizontal hydraulic gradient is not meaningful for these regions.
- (4) Flow in units of very low hydraulic conductivity is slow, and primarily vertical. The concept of a horizontal hydraulic gradient is not applicable.

Sources: Beauheim (1986); Domenico and Schwartz (1990); Domski, Upton, and Beauheim (1996); Earlough (1977).

**Table L-2**  
**WIPP Groundwater Detection Monitoring Program Sample Collection and Groundwater Surface**  
**Elevation Measurement Frequency**

| <b>Installation</b>                      | <b>Frequency</b>                     |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Groundwater Quality Sampling             |                                      |
| DMWs                                     | Annually                             |
| Groundwater Surface Elevation Monitoring |                                      |
| DMWs                                     | Monthly and prior to sampling events |
| WLMP Wells (see Table L-4)               | Monthly                              |

**Table L-3**  
**Standard Operating Procedures Applicable to the DMP**

| Number       | Title/Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WP 02-EM1010 | Field Parameter Measurements and Final Sample Collection: This procedure provides general instructions necessary to perform field analyses of serial samples in support of the DMP. Serial samples are collected and analyzed at the field laboratory for field indicators. Serial sample results help determine if pumped groundwater is representative of undisturbed groundwater within the formation. This procedure also describes the steps for collecting groundwater samples from the DMWs near the WIPP facility. Samples are collected and analyzed at the Field Laboratory until stabilization of the field parameters occurs. Final samples for Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) analyses are collected and analyzed by a contract laboratory. |
| WP 02-EM1014 | Groundwater Level Measurement: This document describes the method used for groundwater level measurements in support of groundwater monitoring at the WIPP facility using a portable electronic water-level probe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WP 02-EM1026 | Water Level Data Handling and Reporting: This procedure provides instructions on handling water level data. Data are collected and recorded on field forms in accordance with WP 02-EM1014. This procedure is initiated when wells in the water surveillance program have been measured for a given month.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WP 02-EM3001 | Administrative Processes for Environmental Monitoring and Hydrology Programs: This procedure provides the administrative guidance environmental monitoring personnel use to maintain quality control associated with environmental monitoring sampling and reporting activities. This administrative procedure does not pertain to volatile organic compound (VOC) monitoring, with the exception of Section 5.0 which pertains to the regulatory reporting review process.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| WP 02-EM3003 | Data Validation and Verification of RCRA Constituents: This procedure provides instructions on performing verification and validation of laboratory data containing the analytical results of groundwater monitoring samples. This procedure is applied only to the non-radiological analyses results for compliance data associated with the detection monitoring samples. The data reviewed for this procedure includes general chemistry parameters and RCRA constituents.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| WP-02-RC.01  | Hazardous and Universal Waste Management Plan: This plan describes the responsibilities and handling requirements for hazardous and universal wastes generated at the WIPP facility. It is meant to ensure that these wastes are properly handled, accumulated, and transported to an approved Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facility (TSDF) in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Orders, and Management and Operating Contractor (MOC) policies and procedures. This plan implements applicable sections of 20.4.1.100-1102 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), <i>Hazardous Waste Management</i> (incorporating 40 <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> [CFR] Parts 260-268 and 273).                         |
| WP 10-AD3029 | Calibration and Control of Monitoring and Data Collection Equipment: This procedure provides direction for the control and calibration of Monitoring and Data Collection (M&DC) equipment at the WIPP facility, and ensures traceability to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards, international standards, or intrinsic standards. This procedure also establishes requirements and responsibilities for identifying recall equipment, and for obtaining calibration services for WIPP facility M&DC equipment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WP 13-1      | Management and Operating Contractor Quality Assurance Program Description: This document establishes the minimum quality requirements for MOC personnel and guidance for the development and implementation of quality assurance programs by MOC organizations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**Table L-4**  
**List of Culebra Wells in the WLMP, Current as of January 2022**

| WELL ID   | WELL ID | WELL ID  |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| AEC-7R    | IMC-461 | SNL-15   |
| C-2737    | SNL-1   | SNL-16   |
| H-4bR     | SNL-2   | SNL-17   |
| H-5bR     | SNL-3   | SNL-18   |
| H-6bR     | SNL-5   | SNL-19   |
| H-9bR     | SNL-6   | WQSP-1   |
| H-10cR    | SNL-8   | WQSP-2   |
| H-11b4R   | SNL-9   | WQSP-3   |
| H-12R     | SNL-10  | WQSP-4   |
| H-15R     | SNL-12  | WQSP-5   |
| H-16      | SNL-13  | WQSP-6   |
| H-19 pad* | SNL-14  | WIPP-11R |

\*The water level for the H-19b0 well on the H-19 pad is measured monthly; the fluid density measured annually at well H-19b0 will be used to correct for freshwater head for the other wells on the H-19 pad (H-19b2, H-19b3, H-19b4, H-19b5, H-19b6, and H-19b7).

**Table L-5**  
**Details of Construction for the Six Culebra Detection Monitoring Wells**

| NAME<br>(Figure)      | DATE<br>DRILLED                               | TOTAL<br>DEPTH<br>feet<br>(meters)<br>bgs | DEPTH<br>INTO LOS<br>MEDAÑOS<br>feet<br>(meters) | DRILLING DEPTHS<br>feet (meters) bgs |                            | CASING<br>feet (meters) bgs  |                                      | PACKING<br>feet (meters) bgs |                                     | CULEBRA<br>INTERVAL<br>feet (meters)<br>bgs |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                       |                                               |                                           |                                                  | WITH AIR                             | CORING                     | DEPTH FOR<br>5 in.<br>CASING | INTERVAL<br>FOR<br>SLOTTED<br>SCREEN | SAND PACK<br>INTERVAL        | BRADY<br>GRAVEL<br>PACK<br>INTERVAL |                                             |
| WQSP-1<br>Figure M-71 | September 13<br>through 16,<br>1994           | 737 (225)                                 | 15 (5)                                           | 696 (212)                            | 696 to 737<br>(212 to 225) | 737 (225)                    | 702 to 727<br>(214 to 222)           | 640 to 651<br>(195 to 198)   | 651 to 737<br>(198 to 225)          | 699 to 722<br>(213 to 220)                  |
| WQSP-2<br>Figure M-72 | September 6<br>through 12,<br>1994            | 846 (258)                                 | 12 (4)                                           | 800 (244)                            | 800 to 846<br>(244 to 258) | 846 (258)                    | 811 to 836<br>(247 to 255)           | 790 to 793<br>(241 to 242)   | 793 to 846<br>(242 to 258)          | 810.1 to 833.7<br>(247 to 254)              |
| WQSP-3<br>Figure M-73 | October 20<br>through 26,<br>1994             | 880 (268)                                 | 10 (3)                                           | 833 (254)                            | 833 to 880<br>(254 to 268) | 880 (268)                    | 844 to 869<br>(257 to 265)           | 827 to 830<br>(252 to 253)   | 830 to 880<br>(253 to 268)          | 844 to 870<br>(257 to 265)                  |
| WQSP-4<br>Figure M-74 | October 5<br>through 10,<br>1994,             | 800 (244)                                 | 9 (3)                                            | 740 (226)                            | 740 to 798<br>(226 to 243) | 800 (244)                    | 764 to 789<br>(233 to 240)           | 752 to 755<br>(229 to 230)   | 755 to 800<br>(230 to 244)          | 766 to 790.8<br>(233 to 241)                |
| WQSP-5<br>Figure M-75 | October 12<br>through 18,<br>1994,            | 681 (208)                                 | 7 (2)                                            | 648 (198)                            | 648 to 676<br>(198 to 206) | 681 (208)                    | 646 to 671<br>(197 to 205)           | 623 to 626<br>(190 to 191)   | 626 to 681<br>(191 to 208)          | 648 to 674.4<br>(198 to 205)                |
| WQSP-6<br>Figure M-76 | September 26<br>through<br>October 3,<br>1994 | 616.6 (188)                               | 10 (3)                                           | 568 (173)                            | 568 to 617<br>(173 to 188) | 617 (188)                    | 581 to 606<br>(177 to 185)           | 567 to 570<br>(173 to 174)   | 570 to 616.6<br>(174 to 188)        | 582 to 606.9<br>(177 to 185)                |

**Table L-6**  
**Analytical Parameter and Sample Requirements**

| (10)<br>PARAMETERS                                                                                     | (12)<br>NO. OF<br>BOTTLES | (13)<br>VOLUME                                                  | (14)<br>TYPE            | (15)<br>ACID WASH                           | (16)<br>SAMPLE FILTER | (17)<br>PRESERVATIVE                        | (18)<br>HOLDING TIME                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Indicator Parameters:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pH</li> <li>SC</li> <li>TOC</li> </ul> | -<br>-<br>4               | 25 mL <sup>1</sup><br>100 mL <sup>1</sup><br>15 mL <sup>1</sup> | Glass<br>Glass<br>Glass | Field determined<br>Field determined<br>yes | No<br>No<br>No        | Field determined<br>Field determined<br>HCl | None<br>None<br>28 days <sup>1</sup> |
| General Chemistry                                                                                      | 1                         | 1 L                                                             | Plastic                 | Yes                                         | No                    | HNO <sub>3</sub> , pH<2                     | not specified in DMP                 |
| Phenolics                                                                                              | 1                         | 1 L                                                             | Amber Glass             | Yes                                         | No                    | H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> , pH<2       | not specified in DMP                 |
| Metals/Cations                                                                                         | 2                         | 1 L                                                             | Plastic                 | Yes                                         | No                    | HNO <sub>3</sub> , pH<2                     | 6, <sup>1,2</sup>                    |
| VOC                                                                                                    | 4                         | 40 mL                                                           | Glass                   | No                                          | No                    | HCL, pH<2                                   | 14 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| VOC (Purgeable)                                                                                        | 2                         | 40 mL                                                           | Glass                   | No                                          | No                    | HCL, pH<2                                   | 14 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| VOC (Non-Purgeable)                                                                                    | 2                         | 40 mL                                                           | Glass                   | No                                          | No                    | HCL, pH<2                                   | 14 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| Semi-VOC                                                                                               | 1                         | 1 L                                                             | Amber Glass             | Yes                                         | No                    | None                                        | 14 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| TCLP                                                                                                   | 1                         | 1 L                                                             | Plastic                 | Yes                                         | No                    | HNO <sub>3</sub> , pH<2                     | 7 days <sup>1</sup>                  |
| Cyanide (Total)                                                                                        | 1                         | 1 L                                                             | Plastic                 | Yes                                         | No                    | NaOH, pH>12                                 | 14 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| Sulfide                                                                                                | 1                         | 250 mL                                                          | Amber Glass             | Yes                                         | No                    | NaOH + Zn Acetate                           | 28 days <sup>1</sup>                 |
| Radionuclides                                                                                          | 1                         | 1 Gallon                                                        | Plastic Cube            | Yes                                         | Yes                   | HNO <sub>3</sub> , pH<2                     | 6 months <sup>1</sup>                |

1 = As specified in Table 4-1 of the RCRA TEGD

2 = Reduced holding time of 1 week for WIPP-specific Divalent cation 2 samples noted in the GMD

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, information in this table is from SOP WP 02-EM1010 and is provided as information only.

Note: Deviations from this table are allowed with prior approval by the NMED.