



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Hazardous Waste Bureau

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PUBLIC NOTICE No. 14-02

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
March 21, 2014

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF DRAFT PERMIT WITHDRAWAL EPA ID NUMBER: NM4890139088-TSDF

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is notifying the public that it is withdrawing the draft Permit issued on February 14, 2014 in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (Permit) Class 3 modification request.

The mission of WIPP is to manage, store, and dispose hazardous waste, and to close hazardous waste disposal units, in accordance with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act and its implementing regulations. NMED is charged with issuing a permit that will ensure that WIPP's hazardous waste operations are managed in a manner protective of human health and the environment.

WIPP manages wastes that are regulated under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978), and their implementing regulations. NMED received a request for a Class 3 modification to the WIPP Permit on March 18, 2013. It included three items: Item 1, Modifications to the WIPP Panel Closure; Item 2, Repository Reconfiguration of Panels 9 and 10; and Item 3, Revise Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Target Analyte List and Other Changes to the VOC Monitoring Program.

The draft Permit for the Class 3 modification was issued for public comment on February 14, 2014. The public comment period was scheduled to conclude on April 15, 2014. In light of the recent events at WIPP, including the fire in the underground and the radioactive material release, NMED has requested, and will be requesting, additional information from WIPP related to these events and the Class 3 modification request, which may influence the draft Permit. All information obtained by NMED will be posted to its website promptly to ensure the public has the most up to date information on the events and the Class 3 modification request. Therefore, NMED is withdrawing the draft Permit effective immediately. Due to the withdrawal of the current draft Permit, the public comment period is now closed. Notice of the withdrawal of the draft Permit will be provided to all interested parties, including those on the facility mailing list. Notice will also be posted in the Carlsbad Current Argus. NMED may issue a revised draft when it is appropriate. In such a case, a revised draft Permit will be issued for public comment in accordance with the requirements specified in the Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 20.4.1.901 NMAC.

Any person seeking additional information regarding this notice may contact:

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