



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

November 23, 2005

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Enclosed is the public notice from the New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) announcing its intent to approve a Class 3 modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**). This modification proposes to allow the disposal of remote handled (**RH**) transuranic (**TRU**) waste; make significant changes to the existing TRU mixed waste characterization requirements; add waste confirmation procedures pursuant to recent changes in federal law; increase the storage capacity at WIPP; designate staging areas for waste awaiting confirmation prior to storage; and change air monitoring procedures in underground disposal rooms. The public notice announces the availability of the WIPP draft permit for public comment. In addition, it states that NMED will consider any requests for public hearing and determine whether a public hearing will be held to consider further public comment.

All written public comment on the revised draft permit must be received no later than 5:00 PM January 23, 2006. Please refer to the public notice for procedures for submittal of written public comment and requests for a public hearing.

NMED has also developed a fact sheet that sets forth the significant factual, legal, and policy questions considered in developing the draft permit. This fact sheet is available on the NMED WIPP Information Page at <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wipp/>>, or may be obtained by writing to John E. Kieling at the address listed in the letterhead above, or calling Mr. Kieling at (505) 428-2500.

If there are any corrections necessary to your address or you no longer want to receive mailings from NMED concerning WIPP, please contact Mr. Kieling at (505) 428-2500.

Sincerely,
Original signed by

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Enclosure