



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

May 13, 2002

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**). The Permittees, the US Department of Energy and Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC have submitted a permit modification request to establish new drum age criteria (**DAC**) for taking a representative headspace gas sample based on additional packaging configuration groups. The public notice announces both the availability of the WIPP draft permit for public comment, and a public hearing, if requested, to consider public comment prior to issuance of a final permit incorporating the modification.

All written public comment on the revised draft Permit must be received no later than 5:00 PM June 27, 2002]. The public hearing, if held, would begin August 26, 2002 in Santa Fe. Please refer to the public notice for procedures for submittal of written public comment and public participation at the 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 Mr. Steve Zappe at the address listed in the letterhead above, or calling Mr. Zappe at (505) 428-2517.

If you have any questions, or if there are any corrections necessary to your address, please contact Mr. Zappe of my staff at (505) 428-2517.

Sincerely,

John E. Kieling
Manager
Permits Management Program

Enclosure