



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND INPUT ON WIPP

2005 EPA WIPP RECERTIFICATION FACT SHEET No. 2

Get The Information You Need

- 1. Check the EPA Website, Fact Sheets and Issue Papers.**
EPA will make sure that key information is available on its WIPP Website. EPA has prepared a series of Fact Sheets and Issue Papers on key topics regarding recertification, which can all be found by visiting the web site or by contacting EPA in one of the ways below.
- 2. Call the EPA WIPP Information Line** at 1-800-331-WIPP (1-800-331-9477) to obtain information on upcoming events or to leave a question.
- 3. E-mail us at** radiation.questions@epa.gov.
- 4. Join the EPA WIPP Listserv.** To ensure that you are receiving the most up-to-date information, we encourage all interested parties to sign up for our WIPP-NEWS e-mail service by visiting our website. EPA will send out periodic announcements through WIPP-NEWS whenever there is any significant WIPP-related information to report. EPA will share its final recertification decision with the public through an announcement e-mailed to interested stakeholders and WIPP-NEWS members.
- 5. Access Paper Documents at EPA Dockets.** All public documents can be viewed at EPA's Dockets in Washington, DC, Carlsbad, NM, Santa Fe, NM, and Albuquerque, NM. These fact sheets are located in Air Docket No. A-98-49, Item 11-B4-1
- 6. Check the *Federal Register*.** EPA will announce their completeness determination on DOE's Recertification Application in the *Federal Register* in Summer 2005, and their recertification decision in the *Federal Register* in Winter 2006.

EPA is committed to public consultation in the WIPP recertification process by:

- Providing clear and complete information
- Creating opportunities for public input
- Responding to concerns voiced by members of the public or stakeholder groups.

- 7. Use Department of Energy Information Resources.** Questions about WIPP can also be directed to the DOE WIPP Information Center by phone at 1-800-336-9477 or by email at infocntr@wipp.ws. Additional information can be found on the DOE WIPP website at www.wipp.ws.

Provide Comments on DOE's Application for EPA to Consider in its Review

EPA's May 24, 2004 *Federal Register* notice marked the opening of the official public comment period on the Recertification Application. The comment period will remain open until 45 days after EPA determines the application is complete (completeness determination). The end of the comment period will be announced in the *Federal Register*, along with the completeness determination.

EPA is most interested in public input related to the changes and potential changes in the application that may have a potential impact on WIPP's ability to remain in compliance with EPA's disposal regulations. EPA will not address areas of the Recertification Application that remain unchanged from the Certification Application.

There are numerous ways to provide input:

- 1) **In Writing.** Comments may be submitted by mail to:
 EPA Docket Center (EPA/DC)
 Air and Radiation Docket
 Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2004-0025
 Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West
 Mail Code 6102T
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20460.
- 2) **On the Web.** Comments may be submitted via the Internet by visiting EPA's electronic dockets at www.epa.gov/edocket and searching for EDOCKET ID No. OAR-2004-0025.
- 3) **By Phone or E Mail** at 1-800-331-WIPP or radiation.questions@epa.gov.
- 4) **At Meetings.** Comments provided at our public meetings will be included in the official record and considered in EPA's review. EPA will also summarize the facilitated group discussions at these meetings and consider the issues raised in them during our review.

Recent EPA Response to Public Input

EPA has been communicating with stakeholders throughout the recertification process and has worked to respond to key stakeholder issues. For example:

- EPA asked DOE for additional information on the Hanford Tank wastes and K-Basin sludges. See EPA Recertification Issue Paper #3, *Hanford Tank Wastes and K-Basin Sludges*, for more information.
- EPA inspects and verifies DOE's ability to monitor and capture radioactive releases from air exhaust at the WIPP facility. See EPA Recertification Issue Paper #4, *Air Monitoring at WIPP-Station A*, for more information.
- In response to a proposal submitted by Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping and the Loretto Community, EPA examined different ways to determine if any karst features are present near the site. See EPA Recertification Issue Paper #5, *Stakeholder Karst Proposal*, for more information.

Quick Guide to EPA's WIPP Recertification Public Outreach Activities

EPA Makes Final Decision on Recertification Within 6 Months of Completeness Determination

Winter 2006	What EPA Will Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA will publish a <i>Federal Register</i> Notice on the final decision as well as on the website, dockets, WIPP-NEWS email alert and WIPP Information Line • EPA will explain its rationale for the final decision, and describe consideration of public comments received 	What the Public Can Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly check website/WIPP-NEWS email alert/WIPP Information Line for meeting announcements, new information, and other news • Call, email, or fax EPA staff with any questions or comments • Public Comment will remain open for 45 days following EPA's determination of completeness 		
	<p>EPA Conducts Continuing Activities to Inspect and Oversee WIPP Activities</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td rowspan="2" style="background-color: #2e5496; color: white; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle; font-weight: bold;">2005-2010</td> <td style="background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 5px;"> What EPA Will Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular inspections of the WIPP site, as well as the waste generator sites • Evaluate any changes to the activities and conditions at WIPP • Keep the public informed about WIPP activities through our website, emails and meetings </td> <td style="background-color: #e1f5fe; padding: 5px;"> What the Public Can Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly check website/WIPP-NEWS email alert/WIPP Information Line for meeting announcements, new information, and other news • Call, email, or fax EPA staff with any questions or comments • Public comment periods on proposed waste generator site approval decisions will be announced on the web, WIPP-NEWS email alert, and WIPP Information Line </td> </tr> </table>		2005-2010	What EPA Will Do <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular inspections of the WIPP site, as well as the waste generator sites • Evaluate any changes to the activities and conditions at WIPP • Keep the public informed about WIPP activities through our website, emails and meetings
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Fact Sheets in this Series:

Recertification Overview	Fact Sheet No. 1
Public Involvement	Fact Sheet No. 2
Performance Assessment	Fact Sheet No. 3
TRU Waste Inventory	Fact Sheet No. 4
Groundwater	Fact Sheet No. 5
Karst	Fact Sheet No. 6