



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

March 04, 2010

Mr. Jonathan Edwards, Director
Radiation Protection Division
US Environmental Protection Agency (6608J)
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Subject: Submittal of Safety Analyses in Support of the Planned Change Request for Lead Shielded Containers

Reference: Letter from Jonathon Edwards to Dave Moody, dated December 11, 2008

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Your Agency requested a copy of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Documented Safety Analysis for Lead Shielded Containers before making a final determination on the Planned Change Request to use these containers for disposal of transuranic waste in the WIPP Facility. Based on conversations with your staff, they have agreed that the results of a typical Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) analysis, written such that a technical reviewer without a nuclear safety background could more easily understand the safety analyses, will adequately address their questions.

In response to this agreement, I am attaching the following documents:

- *Summary of Nuclear Criticality Safety Evaluation for Shielded Containers at the WIPP, WIPP-025*
- *WIPP Accident Analysis Calculations for Events Involving Releases from the Gamma Shielded Container, WIPP-031*
- *Fire Analysis of the Shielded Container for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico. WIPP-032*
- A white paper entitled: *Summary of the Safety Impact Analysis for the Lead Shielded Container*. This paper summarizes the results from WIPP-025, WIPP-031, and WIPP-032

The three reports (WIPP-025, WIPP-031, and WIPP-032) and the white paper collectively provide information that is equivalent to the technical content of a typical USQ analysis. We therefore believe that you now have sufficient information to address any remaining questions related to the planned change request for lead shielded containers.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Russell L. Patterson at (575) 234-7457.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David C. Moody". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David C. Moody
Manager

Enclosure(s)