



OFFICE OF RADIATION AND INDOOR AIR

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

November 26, 2024

Mr. Michael Gerle, Director
Environmental Regulatory Compliance Division
Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Re: Twelve-panel PA sensitivity study for EPA's review of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
Replacement Panel Planned Change Request

Dear Mr. Gerle:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is continuing its review of the U.S. Department of Energy's submittal of the Replacement Panel Planned Change Request (RPPCR) that was submitted March 12, 2024, to request the EPA's approval of two new waste panels at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. After reviewing the information, the EPA has determined that the Agency needs a Performance Assessment (PA) using a 12-panel configuration as a sensitivity study to supplement the calculations already provided in the RPPCR. This will allow the EPA to directly verify numerically the impacts on releases of radionuclides due to the addition of waste to Panels 11-12 rather than infer those impacts using the 19-panel PA included with the original RPPCR documentation. As we have discussed, the DOE has agreed to provide this 12-panel PA and supporting documentation to the EPA by early to mid-February 2025.

We look forward to seeing the new calculations and documentation in February. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Jay Santillan at santillan.jay@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Tom Peake
Director
Center for Waste Management and Regulations

cc: Anderson Ward, DOE CBFO
Justin Marble, DOE EM
Lee Veal, EPA
Jay Santillan, EPA
Ray Lee, EPA
Jonathan Major, EPA
Winifred Okoye, EPA
Harry Shah, EPA Region 6
Ricardo Maestas, NMED
Megan McLean, NMED
EPA Docket

