



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

APR 28 2016

Mr. Jonathan D. Edwards, Director
 Radiation Protection Division
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW – MC 6608T
 Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: U.S. DOE/CBFO Response to the U.S. EPA's Request for Documentation of Plans for Testing and Operation of Interim and Supplemental Ventilation Systems at the WIPP

Reference: U.S. EPA Letter from Jonathan D. Edwards, EPA, to Todd A. Shrader, CBFO, dated January 29, 2016

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has reviewed the above-referenced January 29, 2016, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) request for the DOE/CBFO plans for testing and operation of the Interim Ventilation System (IVS) and Supplemental Ventilation System (SVS) at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. The DOE/CBFO priorities at the WIPP facility are: (i) responding to the Judgments of Need identified in the Accident Investigation Board Reports from events in February 2014, and (ii) operational readiness and emplacement of waste currently stored in the Waste Handling Building.

Owing to this prioritization, the DOE/CBFO plans to begin operation of the SVS after waste emplacement operations resume no earlier than the first quarter of FY17. Prior to the SVS system start-up, the DOE/CBFO will develop procedures and perform testing to ensure safe operation of the system. Work control documents and procedures will not be developed until SVS system start-up activities are initiated. This letter, therefore, addresses only the status of the IVS Project at the WIPP facility. The DOE/CBFO will provide applicable responsive information for SVS later this year. IVS testing is being performed in late April and early May, and the DOE/CBFO will keep the EPA informed of specific schedules as they are developed.

Responses to the EPA five primary concerns in the above-referenced letter are enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. George T. Basabilvazo, Director, CBFO Environmental Protection Division, at (575) 234-7488.

Sincerely,

Todd Shrader, Manager
 Carlsbad Field Office

Enclosures (5)

cc: w/enclosures

F. Marcinowski, DOE/HQ	* ED	A. Ward, CBFO	ED
J. Walsh, DOE/HQ	ED	S. Lucas-Kamat, NMED	ED
A. Harris, DOE/HQ	ED	R. Maestas, NMED	ED
G. Basabilvazo, CBFO	ED	S. Spalding, EPA-R6	ED
R. Patterson, CBFO	ED	N. Stone, EPA-R6	ED
A. Stone, CBFO	ED	CBFO M&RC	

*ED denotes electronic distribution