New Mexico Environment Department

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Activities

Christopher S. Catechis, Acting Resource Protection Division Director

July 14, 2021

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Interim Committee
10-Year Permit Renewal Process

- Renewal application submitted to NMED March 31, 2020

- Current permit, expired December 2020, remains in effect and enforceable

- NMED technical review is underway. Once deemed technically complete, NMED will issue a draft permit for public comment and eventual public hearing
Class 3 Modification - “Excavation of a New Shaft and Associated Connecting Drifts”

- Submitted to NMED August 2019
- Public hearing May 17-20, 2021
- Post hearing activities include:
  - Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law;
  - Hearing Officers Report and Recommendation; and
  - NMED Response to Comments
- Final decision from NMED Secretary anticipated Fall 2021.
Class 3 Modification for New Panel 11 and Panel 12:

- Anticipated submittal to NMED in late summer or early fall 2021
- Modification will request to construct two new panels to the west of the existing underground

West Access Drifts:

- Planned Change Notice submitted to NMED in June 2021
- Drifts would run from existing underground to new panels area
- NMED evaluating whether access drifts need to be approved before excavation commences
- May take up to two years to excavate access drifts
NMED Contact Information

Chris Catechis
Acting Director, Resource Protection Division
chris.catechis@state.nm.us

Ricardo Maestas
Acting Chief, Hazardous Waste Bureau
ricardo.maestas@state.nm.us