

Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP) Proposed Modifications to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Regulatory Requirements

Integrated Project Teams (IPT) Mission/Objectives

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IPT Objective 1

Modify the WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) to allow load management of liquids within a payload container.

- Pro:

- individual containers (drums) that exceed 1% liquid to waste volume limit, to be considered as long as the larger payload container (box) complies. As such, no fundamental rule change is required.
- Significantly reduces the number of containers that must be opened and treated prior to shipment.
- Increases the inventory of shippable containers

- Con

- Adds some complexity to shipment preparations in performing averaging calculations.
- Adds some complexity to RTR operations in quantifying liquids currently identified as “less than 1%”.



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IPT Objective 2

Modification of the WIPP HWFP to accept super-compaction of the waste as an effective treatment of prohibited items such as liquids, aerosol cans, and small sealed containers, without reconfirmation using Non Destructive Examination.

Pro:

- Significantly reduces the number of containers that must be opened and treated in the treatment facility boxlines.
- Increases the inventory available to the supercompactor via the direct feed route.

Con:

- Increases the number of individual containers that must be characterized in radiography and assay.



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IPT Objective 3

Review the requirement within the WIPP HWFP to eliminate solids sampling and analysis and debris head space gas sampling and analysis.

Pro:

- Eliminates the gathering, compilation, and reporting of marginally useful data.
- Eliminates coring and laboratory operations, freeing resources for other tasks.
- Eliminates holding times for sample lots, making containers available for shipment sooner.

Con:

- Requires some modification of operating procedures and operator qualifications.



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IPT Objective 4

Review the requirements from the EPA to allow some level of liquids within waste contaminated with PCBs.

Pro:

- Incidental liquids within PCB waste have no impact on WIPP repository performance.
- Significantly reduces the number of containers that must be opened and treated prior to shipment.
- Increases the inventory of shippable containers.

Con:

- Requires some modification of operating procedures and operator qualifications.



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IPT Objective 5

Gain relief on Compliance Order with NMED.

Pro:

- Eliminates holding times for sample lots, simplifying container tracking and handling operations.
- Increases the inventory of shippable containers

Con:

- Requires some modification of operating procedures and operator qualifications



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Current Status

- July 9-10 meeting with DEQ, NMED, DOE-ID and DOE-CBFO
- Next steps (baseline, recovery plan)

Questions ??



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