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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



MEMORANDUM FOR Kristopher F. Miltner
 Director, Eastern Inspection Region
 Office of Inspections and Special Inquiries

FROM: Richard M. Speidel *RM Speidel 10/17-06*
 Director
 Policy and Internal Controls Management

SUBJECT: Resolution of Allegation of Deficiencies in
 Monitoring Wells at Sandia National
 Laboratories Waste Landfill; Case File
 I06RS055/2006-24451

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) received an allegation from the Inspector General (IG), dated June 21, 2006, that there are deficiencies in the construction and sampling of monitoring wells at the Laboratory's Mixed Waste Landfill. The complainant stated, in part, that:

The monitoring wells installed at the landfill do not meet the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subpart F, the New Mexico Environment Department Consent Order, and Department of Energy Orders for Selection of Remedy or for Long-Term Compliance Monitoring.

On August 15, 2006, the Sandia Site Office was requested to review the allegations and to take whatever actions that they deemed appropriate. Based on the documentation provided to me, it is our determination that the allegations are incorrect and that the monitoring wells are compliant with current regulations and sampling guidance. There is an allegation (one of six) that has merit and that is the allegation related to the lack of wells to sample the vadose zone below the landfill. Vadose zone monitoring will be addressed at a future date in a Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan which is a requirement of New Mexico Environment Department regulators.

More specifically, the report that was prepared regarding the monitoring wells at Sandia-and approved by the Site Office, states that the landfill monitoring well network complies with applicable regulations and is



yielding representative, high-quality groundwater samples. The wells are sampled in a manner consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance. The wells are located at appropriate locations and depths within the aquifer and are screened in both the shallower, less permeable alluvial fan deposits and the deeper, more permeable Ancestral Rio Grande deposits.

As previously stated, the Mixed Waste Landfill monitoring well network is functioning as designed and the allegations regarding deficiencies with the wells are unfounded. The monitoring well network and sampling procedures are compliant with Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 264.101, as adopted by the New Mexico Environment Department, as well as applicable Departmental requirements.

Based on my review of the documentation, NNSA is closing this case file with no further action. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

cc: Patty Wagner, Manager, Sandia Site Office
Bruce Scott, Associate Administrator
for Infrastructure and Environment
Frank Russo, Senior Advisor, Environment, Safety and Health
David Boyd, Senior Procurement Executive
Karen Boardman, Director, Service Center