



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Area Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

July 3, 2000

JUL 2000
RECEIVED

Mr. John Kieling, Manager
Hazardous Waste Permits Program
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110

Dear Mr. Kieling:

On May 1, 2000, the Carlsbad Area Office (CAO) submitted the Final Audit Report of the Hanford Site, Audit Number A-00-05, to the NMED for approval. This audit report documented the CAO's determination that real-time radiography (RTR) and visual examination (VE) data collected at the Hanford Site prior to the effective date of the permit had been brought into compliance with the requirements of the WAP.

NMED has expressed concern to the CAO about the process and documentation used to demonstrate data collected prior to the effective date of the permit had been brought into compliance with the requirements of the WAP. This concern was expressed in two letters to the CAO dated June 20 and 23, 2000, and in a teleconference on June 28, 2000.

To address these concerns, the CAO is requesting that the NMED suspend consideration of the Hanford VE and RTR data collected before the effective date of the permit until CAO has developed a process for pre-existing data that will address NMED's concerns.

This process is under development and will be forwarded to NMED for review when complete.

If you have any questions please contact me at (505) 234 -7300 or Kerry Watson of my staff at (505) 234-7357.

Sincerely,

Dr. Inés R Triay
Manager

CAO:NTWP:RAS 00-1124 UFC 2300



Printed on recycled paper

000703

