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State of New Mexico
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PETER MAGGIORE
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CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 2, 2001

Mr. Samuel Vega, QA Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

RE: REQUEST FOR AUDIT AND SURVEILLANCE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088

Dear Mr. Vega:

It has come to my attention that NMED observers at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (**RFETS**) Audit A-01-07 this week have questions and concerns about the intervention of non-QA management from the Carlsbad Field Office (**CBFO**) into the decision-making process of the audit team. As you are aware, NMED expressed similar concerns at an earlier RFETS audit in September 2000.

The WIPP Hazardous Waste Facility Permit states in Permit Attachment B6:

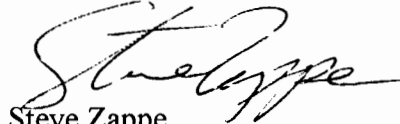
“The Permittees will conduct these audits and surveillances at each site in accordance with a standard operating procedure (**SOP**). NMED personnel may observe these audits to validate the implementation of WAP requirements (Permit Attachment B) at each site. The audit SOP will contain steps for selecting audit personnel, reviewing applicable background information, preparing an audit plan, preparing audit checklists, conducting the audit, developing an audit report, and following up audit deficiencies.”



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Because of our concerns, NMED is requesting the current version of this audit and surveillance SOP at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 827-1557, x1013.

Sincerely,



Steve Zappe
NMED WIPP Project Leader

cc: Greg Lewis, NMED WWMD
James Bearzi, NMED HWB
John Kieling, NMED HWB
Susan McMichael, NMED OGC
Robert Laney, DOE/AL IG
Mary Kruger, EPA ORIA
David Neleigh, EPA Region 6
Connie Walker, TechLaw
File: Red WIPP '01