Ines Triay, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221-3090

Dear Dr. Triay:

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) inspection report for inspection no. EPA-SRS-11.00-8 of the Savannah River Site is enclosed. We inspected the Savannah River Site between November 6-17, 2000. Section 1 of the report is the quality assurance audit report, issued in accordance with EPA’s regulations at 40 CFR 194.8(a)(3). Section 2 of the report is the waste characterization inspection report, issued in accordance with EPA’s regulations at 40 CFR 194.8(b)(3). We have determined that:

1) SRS has properly executed a quality assurance program in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 194, Sections 194.22(a)(2)(i), 194.24(c)(3), and 194.24(c)(5).

2) SRS has demonstrated compliance with the requirements of 40 CFR 194, Section 194.24(c)(4) for the waste characterization systems and processes inspected by EPA.

Inspectors identified numerous findings and concerns; Sections 1 and 2 of the report indicate where a response from the Carlsbad Field Office is required.

With this letter, we approve the Savannah River Site’s quality assurance program and applicable waste characterization activities required under Conditions 2 and 3 of our certification of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (Appendix A to 40 CFR 194).

Because of procedural and technical limitations that were evident during our inspection, our approval under Condition 3 is expressly limited to the systems and processes that we inspected as they are used for characterization of the contact-handled, retrievably stored debris waste stream SR-T001-221F-HET, as described in Section 2 of the enclosed report.

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DOE is approved to ship from the Savannah River Site to the WIPP only waste from waste stream SR-T001-221F-HET that is characterized using the approved systems and processes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Kruger at (202) 564-9310.

Sincerely,

Frank Marcinowski, Acting Director
Radiation Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Sam Vega, CBFO
    Mathew Silva, EEG