



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

ENTERED

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

JUL 2 2001

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



Dear Dr. Triay:

We have completed our review of the Department of Energy (DOE), Carlsbad Field Office's (CBFO) annual report on changes in activities or conditions that pertain to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), in accordance with 40 CFR 194.4(b)(4). After examining the information provided by DOE in correspondence dated November 13, 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines that the reported changes do not require a modification, suspension, or revocation of the Certification Decision of May 13, 1998.

We reviewed the three tables included in the change report: (1) Changes in WIPP Conditions or Activities Reportable under 40 CFR 194.4(b)(4); (2) NP Revision Table; and (3) WWIS Revision Table. A majority of the changes described in this report were associated with revisions to written plans and procedures, as well as required monitoring. As you are aware, we are able to review revisions to quality assurance documents during our inspections of CBFO, Westinghouse, Sandia, and TRU waste sites. Similarly, we review monitoring data during our annual inspection of the monitoring program at the WIPP site.

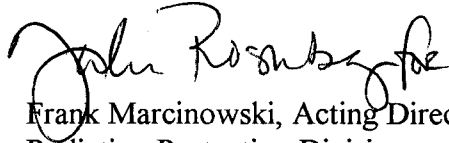
We were pleased that you reported changes that we reviewed and approved during the reporting year, specifically, the elimination of magnesium oxide mini-sacks and the raising of the repository horizon. This type of reporting is consistent with our December 2000 recertification guidance and should be continued. We expect that in November 2001 CBFO will report changes that have been effected concerning the use of Panel 1, the closure of Panel 1, the QAPD revision, passive institutional controls, experimentation in the disposal system, Culebra water levels, and any other pertinent matters.

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If you have any questions regarding the reporting of changes at WIPP, please contact Sharon White at (202) 564-9310.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Marcinowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "M".

Frank Marcinowski, Acting Director
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Cynthia Zvonar, CBFO
Matthew Silva, EEG
✓ Steve Zappe, NMED