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PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 1, 2002

Dr. Inés Triay, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Mr. John Lee, General Manager
Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE HANFORD SITE FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-01-16
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Dr. Triay and Mr. Lee:

On July 16, 2001, NMED received the Final Audit Report of the Hanford Site for the process being performed at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP), Audit Number A-01-16 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). CBFO and Westinghouse (**the Permittees**) were required to submit this Audit Report under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit as specified in Permit Condition II.C.2.c. The intended scope of this audit was to evaluate the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the Hanford Site PFP waste characterization process for the visual examination (VE) technique for retrievably stored debris (S5000) and homogenous solid (S3000) contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit.

The Audit Report documentation submitted to NMED consisted of the following items:

- a narrative report
- completed copy of relevant Permit Attachment B6 checklist (Table B6-6)
- final Hanford Site standard operating procedures for Pipe-N-Go and VE technique
- objective evidence examined during the audit (VE technique only)

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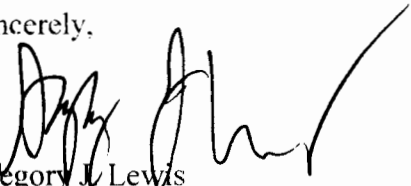
NMED has examined the Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan). NMED representatives observed the Hanford VE technique audit on June 11 – 15, 2001, and specifically evaluated the Audit Report for compliance with the following permit requirements:

- Permit Condition II.C.2.a (*Requirement to Audit*) - the Permittees shall demonstrate to the Secretary that the generator/storage sites have implemented and comply with applicable requirements of the WAP by conducting an audit of the generator/storage sites as specified in Permit Attachment B, Section B-4b (1) (iii), and Permit Attachment B6 (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Permittees' Audit and Surveillance Program), and as required by 20 NMAC 4.1.500 (incorporating 40 CFR §264.13).
- Permit Condition II.C.2.c (*Final audit report*) - the Permittees shall provide the Secretary a final audit report as specified in Permit Attachment B6. The final audit report shall include all information specified in Permit Attachment B6, Section B6-4, and: (i) A detailed description of all corrective actions and the resolution of any corrective action applicable to WAP requirements, including re-audits if required; (ii) documentation necessary for the Secretary to determine if the corrective action was resolved.

The Audit Report indicated that there were no WAP related conditions warranting the issuance of CBFO corrective action reports (CARs), deficiencies corrected during audit (CDA), observations, or recommendations. NMED concludes that the Audit Report adequately demonstrates that Hanford has implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP for the VE technique performed at the PFP for retrievably stored debris and homogenous solid contact-handled waste. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for Hanford Audit A-01-16.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 827-1758.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Lewis
Director
Water and Waste Management Division

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cc: James Bearzi, NMED HWB
John Kieling, NMED HWB
Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
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