



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



FEB 5 2002

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



Dear Dr. Triay:

Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed using the Westinghouse TRU Solutions Central Characterization Project (CCP), a mobile characterization facility, to characterize TRU waste streams at different DOE sites. Currently, the CCP is characterizing certain transuranic (TRU) waste streams at the Savannah River Site (SRS). We recently inspected the CCP's TRU waste characterization program and a quality assurance program implemented at SRS to characterize retrievably-stored, contact-handled (CH) TRU debris waste. Based on the results of our inspection, we hereby approve the Savannah River Site to ship for disposal at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) CH TRU debris waste characterized using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspected CCP systems and processes. Our approval of the CCP is required under Conditions 2 and 3 of our certification of the WIPP (Appendix A to 40 CFR 194). Use of the approved CCP program for characterizing CH TRU non-debris wastes at SRS and/or CH TRU wastes at other DOE sites will require separate EPA approval.

This approval is based on our inspection findings discussed in the accompanying inspection report (see enclosure). We inspected CCP activities at the SRS (Inspection No. EPA-CCP-10.01-8) between October 15 -19, 2001. We are issuing this report in accordance with our regulations at 40 CFR 194.8. Section 1 of the report is the quality assurance (QA) 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 (WC) inspection report, issued in accordance with EPA's regulations at 40 CFR 194.8(b)(3). We have determined that the CCP has:

- (1) properly executed a QA program in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 194 (a)(1) for the items and activities listed in Sections 194.22(a)(2)(i), 194.24(c)(3), and 194.24(c)(5).

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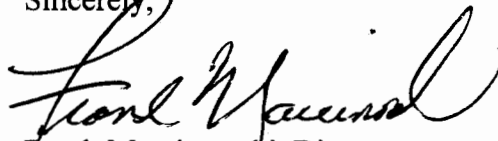


- (2) demonstrated compliance with the requirements of Section 194.24(c)(4) when characterizing CH TRU debris waste at the SRS using the WC systems and processes (identified in the enclosed inspection report) inspected by EPA.

Inspectors identified two findings and one concern as a result of the QA audit. The concern and one finding were resolved during the audit. The other finding was determined to have no effect on containment of waste and its status will be verified during the next inspection. The WC inspection resulted in no findings and eleven concerns. EPA determined none of these concerns will effect waste containment.

This letter and the report will be placed in EPA Air Docket No. A-98-49, Item II-A4-19. Please contact Mike Eagle at (202) 564-9376, if you have questions related to the quality assurance section of the report, or Rajani Joglekar at (202) 564-7734, if you have any questions related to the waste characterization section of the report.

Sincerely,



Frank Marcinowski, Director
Radiation Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: Jerry Reece (CBFO) (w/enclosures)
Matthew Silva (EEG) (w/enclosures)
Steve Zappe (NMED) (letter only)