



ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION GROUP

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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December 3, 2002

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

Dear Dr. Triay:

In my August 23, 2002 letter to you (attached), EEG expressed concern that transporting drums with intermittently appearing liquids to the WIPP could be viewed as a violation of the TRUPACT-II Authorized Methods for Payload Control manual, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit - Waste Analysis Plan, and the Contact Handled - Waste Acceptance Criteria. Although the Corrective Action Report (CAR number 02-078) relating to this matter was resolved, it was focused on acceptable knowledge and did not address the specific questions EEG raised about other regulatory issues.

The EEG still considers the appearance of liquids in the sludge waste and how INEEL has managed that waste stream to be a very important matter. It was our understanding, from the quarterly meeting of October 17, 2002, that DOE would soon be providing us with a written explanation. Kindly provide us with information on dewatering drums of sludge at the INEEL.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew K. Silva
Director

MKS:sbw:js
Attachment: 8/23/02 letter

cc: Steve Zappe, NMED
Elizabeth Forinash, US EPA
Tom Matula, US NRC
Nathan Christiansen, Western Governors' Association

