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JOHN R. D'ANTONIO, Jr.
SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 17, 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 ROCKY FLATS ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY SITE FINAL
AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-02-07
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

Dear Dr. Triay and Mr. Lee:

On April 22, 2002, NMED received the Final Audit Report of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (**RFETS**) Audit Number A-02-07 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (**CBFO**). CBFO and Westinghouse TRU Solutions LLC (**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 annual recertification audit was to ensure the continued adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the RFETS waste characterization processes for retrievably stored and repackaged debris and homogeneous solids contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit. On May 10, 2002, NMED received a revised Audit Report from the Permittees consisting of the following items:

- A narrative report

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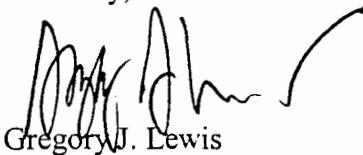
- Completed copies of relevant Permit Attachment B6 checklists
- Final RFETS standard operating procedures (electronic and hardcopy)
- Corrective action reports and items corrected during the audit
- Objective evidence examined during the audit
 - General information
 - Solids and soils/gravel sampling
 - Acceptable knowledge
 - Headspace gas
 - Real time radiography
 - Visual examination

NMED representatives observed the RFETS audit on February 4 – 8, 2002. 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). The Audit Report indicates there were four WAP-related conditions adverse to quality requiring the issuance of CBFO corrective action reports that were corrected prior to submittal of the Audit Report; six deficiencies requiring only remedial actions that were corrected during the audit; seven observations identifying conditions that, if not controlled, could result in conditions adverse to quality; and ten recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement. Attached are NMED's general comments based upon observation of the RFETS audit and review of the Audit Report. These are provided to guide future audit report preparation and to assist the Permittees in understanding NMED's concerns.

NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that RFETS has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for RFETS Audit A-02-07 for the recertification of retrievably stored and repackaged debris and homogeneous solids contact-handled waste, and amends the previous Audit Report approval for Audit A-01-07 issued by NMED on August 8, 2002 to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this recertification audit.

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

GJL:soz

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Attachment

cc: James Bearzi, NMED HWB
Paul Ritzma, NMED OGC
Howard Roitman, CDPHE HMWMD
Laurie King, EPA Region 6
Betsy Forinash, EPA ORIA
Connie Walker, Trinity Engineering
Matthew Silva, EEG
Don Hancock, SRIC
Joni Arends, CCNS
Lindsay Lovejoy, NMAGO
File: Red WIPP '02

- Re-evaluate the adequacy of thermal treatment of carbonaceous matrices for removing VOCs, and provide this information to the AK expert; revise all relevant programs, waste stream descriptions, etc accordingly.
- Observation 1 identified that an RTR trainee was coached through completion of an RTR training drum. This approach is inappropriate, and must not be repeated, even if prohibition of this action is not apparent in site documents. Also, NMED will track this issue during future audits to ensure it is not repeated.