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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 9, 2003

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

Dr. Steven Warren, President
Washington TRU Solutions LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE/ CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-03-01 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088

Dear Drs. Triay and Warren:

On December 17, 2002, NMED received the Final Audit Report of the Savannah River Site (SRS)/ Central Characterization Project (CCP) Audit Number A-03-01 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). CBFO and Washington 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 SRS waste characterization processes for retrievably stored debris contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit. The audit scope for Audit A-03-01 sent to NMED on September 12, 2002 indicated that the audit would evaluate waste characterization activities at SRS performed both by Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) and by CCP. The Audit Report consisted of the following items:

- A narrative report
- Completed copies of relevant Permit Attachment B6 checklists
- Final SRS WSRC and CCP standard operating procedures (electronic and hardcopy)
- Corrective action reports and items corrected during the audit

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- Objective evidence examined during the audit
 - General information, including:
 - Data generation-level verification/validation
 - Project-level verification/validation
 - WWIS data entry
 - Waste stream profile forms
 - Acceptable knowledge
 - Headspace gas
 - Real time radiography
 - Visual examination

NMED representatives observed the SRS/CCP audit on October 22-25, 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 [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there were two WAP-related conditions adverse to quality requiring the issuance of CBFO corrective action reports that were corrected prior to submittal of the Audit Report; three deficiencies requiring only remedial actions that were corrected during the audit; two observations identifying conditions that, if not controlled, could result in conditions adverse to quality; and three recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement.

SRS is unique among generator sites currently approved for shipping waste to WIPP in that both WSRC and CCP perform waste characterization activities at the site. The Audit Report notes in the Executive Summary that WSRC has discontinued performing radiography, headspace gas sampling and analysis, and visual examination. CCP has assumed full responsibility at SRS for each of these activities previously performed by WSRC. The Audit Report further notes in Section 5.2.6 that SRS was not audited for the visual examination technique related to characterization during repackaging or for newly generated debris waste, and no approval is being sought for these activities.

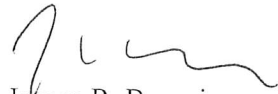
However, NMED is disappointed that the Audit Report fails to distinguish between the WSRC and CCP acceptable knowledge (AK) programs. NMED observers clearly documented separate evaluations of the two AK programs during the audit, and yet the Audit Report does not identify AK as the only remaining element of the WSRC waste characterization program. Despite this shortcoming in Section 5.2.3 of the Audit Report, NMED was still able to identify the affiliation of personnel contacted during the AK portion of the audit and to distinguish between WSRC and CCP AK procedures and objective evidence contained in the remainder of the Audit Report.

Therefore, NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that SRS has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for SRS/CCP Audit A-03-01 for the recertification of retrievably stored debris contact-handled waste, and amends the previous Audit Report approvals for Audits A-02-06 and A-02-20 issued by NMED on August 8, 2002 to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this recertification audit for the CCP at SRS. However, only the acceptable knowledge elements of the WSRC program at SRS are approved.

Drs. Triay and Warren
April 9, 2003
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 428-2512.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

cc: Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
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