



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



APR 22 2003

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

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



Dear Dr. *Inés* Triay:

I am responding to the Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposal of April 10, 2003, to deploy a rental real-time radiography (RTR) unit to augment Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)'s RTR capabilities and increase throughput. Your letter suggests that the proposed RTR unit is similar to the one approved previously by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for LANL. A report accompanying your letter discusses the similarities and differences between the existing approved RTR unit and the proposed rental unit.

Upon reviewing the material you provided, we have determined that the two units are functionally alike. For this reason, we conclude that the use of the rental RTR unit does not constitute a change in the "system of controls" approved by EPA used to characterize transuranic (TRU) waste at LANL. Your report mentions that the rental RTR unit uses operator control systems and software different than those used for the EPA-approved RTR unit. Also, you note that these differences required the site to implement a new procedure for weighing drums. In order to confirm that these differences do not affect the functionality of the new RTR unit, we will conduct an inspection at LANL under our authority at § 194.24. For the convenience of the site, we will coordinate this inspection to coincide with the LANL surveillance planned by the Carlsbad Field Office to occur in June 2003.


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Please provide, to Rajani Joglekar of my staff, documentation pertaining to the surveillance audit as it becomes available. She can be reached at 202-564-7734 by phone or joglekar.rajani@epa.gov by e-mail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth K. Forinash, Director
Center for Federal Regulations

cc:

Matthew Silva, EEG
Steve Zappe, NMED