



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Telephone (505) 428-2500

Fax (505) 428-2567

www.nmenv.state.nm.us

 ENTERED



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 8, 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 ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY – EAST/ CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDITS A-02-03 AND A-03-13 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088

Dear Drs. Triay and Warren:

On March 6, 2003, NMED received the initial Certification Audit Report of the Argonne National Laboratory – East (ANL-E)/ Central Characterization Project (CCP) Audit Numbers A-02-03 and A-03-13 (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 these initial certification audits was to ensure the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the ANL-E/CCP waste characterization processes for retrievably stored debris and homogeneous solid contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit. The initial Audit Report consisted of the following items:

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

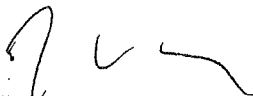
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NMED concludes that this revised Audit Report demonstrates that ANL-E has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP through the CCP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for ANL-E/CCP Audits A-02-03 and A-03-13 for the certification of retrievably stored debris contact-handled waste. This approval includes those processes related to retrievably stored debris waste that were evaluated by this audit for which approval was requested. NMED also approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for ANL-E/CCP Audit A-03-13 for the certification of retrievably stored homogeneous solid contact-handled waste limited to headspace gas sampling and analysis, radiography, and visual examination.

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

Attachment

- cc: Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC
Gordon Appel, IDNS
John Riekstins, IL EPA
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

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NMED COMMENTS ON THE
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY – EAST/ CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION
PROJECT (ANL-E/CCP)
INITIAL CERTIFICATION AUDIT REPORT A-02-03 AND A-03-13

- This is the first time the Permittees have submitted one Audit Report covering activities performed and observed at two audits. Generally, if corrective actions identified at an audit need to be verified during a follow-up visit, the audit team does not use that visit as an opportunity to expand the scope of the original audit or create a new audit with a different scope. NMED found this particular report very difficult to review due to the incompleteness of the initial Audit Report and the addition of other characterization activities that were not part of the original audit scope. NMED strongly recommends that future Audit Reports address only those activities observed at a single audit.

- The Audit Report does not clearly summarize the elements of the audited activities recommended for approval by the Permittees or NMED. While the Executive Summary explains the function of the CCP, the purpose of the audits, the substitution of real time radiography for DR/CT, and the scope of each audit, and enumerates the various categories of concerns identified during the audits, it reaches an overly broad conclusion by stating, “The audit team concluded that the ANL-E/CCP technical and QA programs, as applicable to the audited activities, met the requirements contained in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP).” However, it is not revealed until the Summary of Audit Results that there are elements of the technical program that will require further evaluation “at a later date.” These incomplete elements, embedded in Sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, indicate the conclusion presented in the Executive Summary should have been conditional. NMED recommends that future Audit Reports clearly identify in the Executive Summary the technical elements of the audited program proposed for approval, and indicate any conditions relevant to such approval.