



Department of Energy  
Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

ENTERED

MAY 13 2003



Mr. James Bearzi  
Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 E. Rodeo Park Drive, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303

Subject: Meeting to Discuss Technical Issues Raised in Recent Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Correspondence

Dear Mr. Bearzi:

This letter confirms our phone conversation on May 12, 2003. In that conversation you agreed to meet with me and appropriate members of the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) and contractor staff to discuss technical issues that were the subject of recent correspondence between your office and the CBFO. You agreed that neither of us should take further action regarding these issues until we were able to meet and discuss them. The meeting is tentatively planned for May 29, 2003. The issues to be discussed are:

- NMED's suggestion that we should be adding certain VOC's to the target analyte list based on the SVOC sampling of certain waste forms at Rocky Flats
- NMED's suggestion that the EPA CERCLA guidance CBFO has chosen to use for data usability is inappropriate
- NMED's belief that a new audit is needed to modify Hanford's existing procedures to allow the use of the airtight seal method for direct canister sampling and to add an additional RTR unit to the process line at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Note: Based on our conversation on May 13, 2003, it is NMED's position that WIPP may proceed with shipments of waste from Hanford sampled using the airtight seal method for headspace gas sampling. The CBFO will be operating "at risk", until NMED is able to review the implementation of the airtight seal method during the June 2003 Hanford recertification audit.

Thank you for agreeing to meet with us to discuss these matters. If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me at (505) 234-7300

Sincerely,

Inés R. Triay  
Manager

