



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



ENTERED

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Sept. 17, 2003

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



Dear Dr. Triay:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE, or the Department) Carlsbad Field Office's (CBFO) letter dated July 24, 2003, regarding the format and content of the chapters and appendices for the Compliance Recertification Application (CRA). In that letter you propose that the Department of Energy (DOE) establish a new baseline by appropriately updating the original certification documents as needed and moving forward into the CRA any certification documents that have not changed but are needed to make the CRA complete and stand-alone, without requiring significant cross-referencing to documentation in the original Compliance Certification Application. In addition, you propose a categorization scheme to clearly identify where changes have occurred from the original application.

EPA in its December 2000 Recertification Guidance stated, "We expect the CRA to include any new information related to the disposal system that was obtained during the five-year period after emplacement of the waste began. . . . We do not expect DOE to resubmit information included in the pervious compliance application, to the extent that the information remains current. The recertification application should clearly reference and/or summarize such information." We also stated, " We expect the CRA to summarize all changes that EPA reviewed and approved in the preceding five-year period. . . . We also expect the CRA to indicate where new baseline program elements have been established as a result of changes, and to show which parts of the application have been revised accordingly."

Based on our review, your proposal fulfills and even exceeds the needs expressed in our Recertification Guidance noted above. The proposal to create a new baseline by moving forward unchanged but necessary documents will make the final CRA documentation more complete and

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much more straightforward to review. The Agency agrees with your approach and looks forward to your future submission. We have also recently received several draft chapters of the CRA. Our preliminary review will include an evaluation of the format and summary of "revisions" in accordance with your proposal; we will provide additional feedback if we identify necessary changes or further refinements to the CRA format in the course of our review.

If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Forinash at (202) 564-9233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Marcinowski for". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping tail.

Frank Marcinowski, Director
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Matthew Silva, EEG
Steve Zappe, NMED