



**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*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

November 20, 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 IDAHO NATIONAL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-03-15 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. Number NM4890139088**

Dear Drs. Triay and Warren:

On July 28, 2003, NMED received the initial Final Audit Report of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) Audit Number A-03-15 (**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 initial certification audit was to ensure the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the INEEL analytical laboratories waste characterization processes for contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit. The Audit Report consisted of the following items:

- A narrative report
- Completed copies of relevant Permit Attachment B6 checklists
- Final INEEL standard operating procedures (electronic and hardcopy)
- Corrective action reports
- Objective evidence examined during the audit
  - General information
  - Solids and soils/gravel sampling

031123



- Headspace gas
- Visual examination

On October 8, 2003, NMED received a revised B6 checklist from the Permittees, which taken together with the July 28, 2003 submittal, constitutes the approvable Final Audit Report.

NMED representatives observed the INEEL audit on May 19 – 22, 2003. 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 four WAP-related conditions adverse to quality requiring the issuance of two CBFO corrective action reports that were corrected prior to submittal of the Audit Report, and seven recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement.

The Audit Report identified that the scope of this audit was limited to “INEEL analytical laboratories activities associated with headspace gas (HSG) analysis, solids sampling and analysis, SUMMA® canister preparation for use by other generator sites, and the VE of homogeneous solid wastes.” The Audit Report also stated, “The INEEL analytical laboratories will provide sampling and analysis services to the generator sites in accordance with Waste Analysis Plan (WAP) requirements. Audit A-03-15 was the initial certification audit of the INEEL analytical laboratories program.” In light of the fact that this was an initial certification rather than a recertification audit, NMED is withdrawing approval of all previously audited procedures that were the subject of earlier audits at INEEL, consistent with the NMED letter approving Audit A-02-27 issued February 25, 2003.

NMED notes that its staff submitted an Observer Inquiry form during the A-03-15 audit at INEEL questioning how accuracy quality assurance objectives for volatile and semivolatile organic compounds specified in Tables B3-4 and B3-6 are met when reduced laboratory control sample (LCS) and matrix spike (MS) target lists are used. On June 19, 2003, NMED received a letter from the Permittees dated June 16, 2003 stating that all compounds on the target analyte list are not expected to be included in the LCS and MS sets, and that INEEL’s selection of compounds covers all required classes of compounds on the target analyte lists and is therefore representative. While NMED believes the Permittees did not fully justify their position (e.g., failure to correlate target analytes with compounds on the reduced list and indicate how data will be qualified for all target analytes if an LCS or MS result is outside of criteria), NMED has determined to proceed with the Audit Report review and address this concern through continued observation and inquiry at future audits.

NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that INEEL analytical laboratories have adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees’ Final Audit Report for INEEL Audit A-03-15 for analytical laboratory waste characterization processes associated with contact-handled waste evaluated by this initial certification audit.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (505) 428-2512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Y. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra Y. Martin  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

SYM:soz

cc: Steve Zappe, NMED HWB  
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC  
C Steven Allred, ID DEQ  
Kathleen Trever, INEEL Oversight  
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  
File: Red WIPP '03