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**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 23, 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 COMMENTS ON THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-03-24 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Drs. Triay and Warren:

On September 3, 2003, NMED received the Final Audit Report of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Audit Number A-03-24 (**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 certification audit was to ensure the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the LANL waste characterization processes for headspace gas sampling, analysis, and associated activities using the Entech/Agilent system 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
- List of final LANL standard operating procedures (procedures previously provided electronically)
- Items corrected during the audit
- Objective evidence examined during the audit
  - General information
  - Headspace gas

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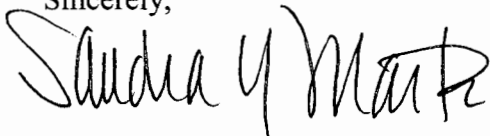


An NMED representative observed the LANL audit on July 8 – 10, 2003. NMED has examined the Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there were no WAP-related conditions adverse to quality requiring the issuance of CBFO corrective action reports; four deficiencies requiring only remedial actions that were corrected during the audit; no observations identifying conditions that, if not controlled, could result in conditions adverse to quality; and six recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement. Attached are NMED's general comments based upon observation of the LANL audit and review of the Audit Report. These are provided to guide future audit report preparation and to assist the Permittees in understanding NMED's concerns.

NMED concludes that the Audit Report is incomplete in that it does not adequately address all elements examined during the audit. Because of this incompleteness, NMED is withholding approval of the Permittees' Final Audit Report for LANL Audit A-03-24 until the Permittees submit the additional information identified in the attached comments that demonstrate full implementation of all relevant permit requirements. Indicate revisions to any text in the Audit Report and checklists with redline/strikeout annotation.

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

Sincerely,



Sandra Y. Martin  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

SYM:soz

Attachment

cc: Charles Lundstrom, NMED WWMD  
Steve Zappe, NMED HWB  
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC  
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**  
**LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)**  
**FINAL AUDIT REPORT A-03-24**

NMED's review indicated that the Audit Report showed less attention to detail than presented in previous Audit Reports and, unless remedied, this less rigorous approach to preparation could result in significant deficiencies in future Audit Reports. The body of the Audit Report appears to generally address the applicable elements. However, there are some omissions, errors, and inconsistencies including but not limited to the following items:

1. Please submit electronic versions of the Audit Report and B6 checklists.
2. No procedure listed on the B6 checklists has a revision number associated with it.
3. There appears to be a general inconsistency in referencing the correct number for numerous procedures. Some are identified as DTP-00-0XX, DTP-1.2-0XX, QP-00-0XX, and QP-1.2-0XX. Carefully check the Audit Report and B6 checklists to ensure proper citation. Most, but perhaps not all, instances are indicated in the comments below.
4. Procedures DTP-00-070, -071, -072 and -079 used as documented procedures in questions 31, 189, 195 (under G and H), 204, 220 (under E), 228, 229, 230, 231 and 232, but no applicable section numbers were given.
5. In question 214, procedure DTP-00-071 refers to section 8.7.5, but the reference seems to be incorrect.
6. In question 220 (under C), procedure DTP-00-072 refers to section 7.6.4, but the section doesn't seem to address MDLs expressed in nanogram/liter.
7. Procedure DTP-00-078 was used as documented procedure in questions 18 and 220. In question 18, sections 12-15 were listed, but these sections do not appear to be in the procedure.
8. In question 220 (under C), for the sections listed for DTP-00-078, there doesn't seem to be a reference to MDLs expressed in nanogram/liter.
9. In question 22, the sections listed at the bottom of the page are cut off.
10. Procedure DTP-1.2-064 used as a documented procedure in questions 27 and 28 was not included with the report.
11. Procedure DTP-1.2-069 was used as a documented procedure in questions 21 and 28 (under E) but no applicable section numbers were given.

12. Procedures DTP-1.2-071 and DTP-1.2-072 were not sent with the report but were used as documented procedures in questions 8, 12, 13, 18, 20, 22 and 30. Were these supposed to be DTP-00-071 and DTP-00-072?
13. Procedure QP-00-010 was also not included with the report but was used as documented procedure in questions 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 22, 31, 36-43, 48 and 59. Maybe TWCP-QP-1.1-010, R12/IC5 was meant and if so, no section numbers were given.
14. Procedure QP-1.1-010 was used as a documented procedure in questions 19, 20, 21, 27, 33-35 and 55 but no section numbers were given. In question 32, the section number is listed, but revision 0 is used when revision 12 seems to be the newest. Or is this a typographical error and references should be made to Procedure QP-00-010? If so, please reference the correct procedure and make sure the list of procedures audited is correct.
15. Procedure QP-1.2-038 was used as a documented reference in question 184 but was not included with the report.
16. In question 30, B and C are indicated as N/A (not applicable). Are D and E also N/A?