



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

MAR 25 2004

ENTERED



Mr. Frank Marcinowski, Director  
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Radiography and Visual Examination Requirements

Dear Mr. Marcinowski:

We are providing information on our intent to revise the Contact-Handled Waste Acceptance Criteria (CH WAC) if a recent permit modification request (PMR) that was submitted by the Department of Energy (DOE) to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is approved by NMED. This PMR was submitted by DOE to NMED as a result of statutory direction from Congress and it proposes, among other things, modifications to the current radiography (RTR) and visual examination (VE) programs relating to the characterization of waste under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, 42 U.S.C. 6901-6992k.

If this PMR is approved by NMED, DOE would modify the current RTR and VE program requirements in the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (HWFP) Waste Analysis Plan (WAP). If this happens, it would be necessary for DOE to relocate the RTR and VE requirements relating to EPA's characterization requirements into the appropriate program documentation. However, the PMR would in no way affect the activities and requirements in the Compliance Certification Application. DOE plans to communicate and coordinate this action with the EPA to ensure that this commitment is fulfilled prior to implementation.

We understand that the EPA is about to begin to evaluate the Compliance Recertification Application (CRA) and that any request to change program documentation might delay that effort. DOE is providing this information for EPA's understanding and is not requesting an approval for changes to program documentation. DOE is providing this information so that EPA will be aware of the changes that would be necessary upon approval of the PMR.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (505) 234-7300.

Sincerely,

R. Paul Detwiler  
Acting Manager



Mr. Frank Marcinowski

-2-

MAR 25 2004

cc:

L. Piper, CBFO  
K. Watson, CBFO \*ED  
R. Knerr, CBFO \*ED  
R. McCallister, CBFO \*ED  
D. Howard, CBFO \*ED  
A. Holland, CBFO \*ED  
E. Feltcorn, EPA \*ED  
R. Joglekar, EPA \*ED  
B. Forinash, EPA \*ED  
CBFO M&RC

\*ED denotes Electronic Distribution