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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 2, 2004

R. Paul Detwiler, Acting 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 LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-03-24
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088

Dear Mr. Detwiler and Dr. Warren:

On September 3, 2003, the New Mexico Environment Department (**NMED**) received the initial 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.

On December 23, 2003, NMED provided the Permittees with comments on the initial Audit Report, noting that it was incomplete in that it did not adequately address all elements examined during the audit. On January 14, 2004, NMED received the Permittees' response to comments in a transmittal dated January 8, 2004, which included a revised Final Audit Report, revised B6 checklists, and additional standard operating procedures.

NMED representatives 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

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(Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [**WAP**]). The Audit Report indicates there were four isolated deficiencies requiring only remedial actions that were corrected during the audit and six recommendations identifying opportunities for improvement.

NMED concludes that this revised Audit Report demonstrates that LANL has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for LANL Audit A-03-24 for the certification of the Entech/Agilent system for headspace gas sampling, analysis, and associated activities, and amends the two previous Audit Report approvals for Audits A-02-30 and A-03-07 issued by NMED on January 30, 2003 and January 31, 2003 respectively, to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this certification audit.

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

Sincerely,

James P. Bearzi
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

cc: Charles Lundstrom, NMED WWMD
Steve Zappe, NMED HWB
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