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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 HANFORD SITE FINAL REPORT, AUDIT A-04-06
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Mr. Detwiler and Dr. Warren:

On January 8, 2004, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the initial Audit Report of the Hanford Site, Audit Number A-04-06 (**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 audit was to finalize the evaluation of the Hanford TRU waste characterization and certification audit A-03-14 performed June 16-20, 2003 to verify that the analysis of contact handled S3000 solids by the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), as well as project level validation and verification, were complete and in compliance with the requirements of the WIPP Permit.

On June 9, 2004, NMED provided the Permittees with comments on the initial Audit Report, noting that it was incomplete due to the exclusion of certain elements that had originally been within the scope of the audit. On June 21, 2004, NMED received the Permittees' response to comments in a transmittal dated June 18, 2004, which included a response to the comments and revised B6 checklist.

An NMED representative participated via teleconference in the Hanford Site audit held at the CBFO offices in Carlsbad on November 3-5, 2003. NMED has examined the revised Audit

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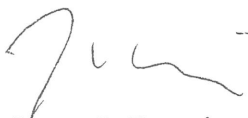


Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there was one recommendation identifying an opportunity for improvement offered for management consideration.

NMED concludes that this revised Audit Report demonstrates that the Hanford Site has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for Hanford Audit A-04-06 for the certification to verify the analysis of S3000 contact-handled waste and amends the previous Audit Report approval for Audit A-03-14 issued by NMED on December 5, 2003 to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this verification 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 ✓
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC
Tom Fitzsimmons, WSDE
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