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**RON CURRY**  
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DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 27, 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/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-04-05 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Mr. Detwiler and Dr. Warren:

On July 19, 2004, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Final Audit Report of the Los Alamos National Laboratory/Central Characterization Project (LANL/CCP) Audit Number A-04-05 (**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 LANL/CCP waste characterization processes for retrievably stored debris and homogeneous solids 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 LANL/CCP standard operating procedures (electronic and hardcopy)
- Corrective action reports and items corrected during the audit

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- Objective evidence examined during the audit
  - General information
  - Solids sampling
  - Acceptable knowledge
  - Headspace gas
  - Real time radiography
  - Visual examination

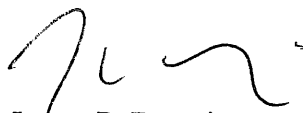
NMED representatives observed the LANL/CCP audit on April 26 – 30, 2004. NMED has examined the Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there were two WAP-related conditions adverse to quality requiring the issuance of CBFO corrective action reports that were corrected prior to submittal of the Audit Report; one deficiency requiring only remedial action that was corrected during the audit; two observations identifying conditions that, if not controlled, could result in conditions adverse to quality; and one recommendation identifying an opportunity for improvement. Attached are

NMED has a specific comment based upon observation of the LANL/CCP audit and review of the Audit Report. This is provided to guide future audit report preparation and to assist the Permittees in understanding NMED's concerns. NMED requests that the Permittees correct the item listed in the attachment and return it, indicating revisions to any text in the checklists with redline/strikeout annotation. This will ensure the administrative record contains a complete and accurate Audit Report.

NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that LANL/CCP has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for LANL/CCP Audit A-04-05 for the certification of retrievably stored debris and homogeneous solids contact-handled waste, and amends the simultaneous Audit Report approval for Audit A-03-27 issued by NMED on August 27, 2004 to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this initial certification audit.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Zappe at (505) 428-2517.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

Attachment

Mr. Detwiler and Dr. War  
August 27, 2004  
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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  
Don Hancock, SRIC  
Joni Arends, CCNS  
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**NMED COMMENTS ON THE**  
**LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION**  
**PROJECT (LANL/CCP)**  
**FINAL AUDIT REPORT A-04-05**

NMED's review indicated that the Audit Report showed less attention to detail than presented in previous Audit Reports, and identified an inconsistency as described in the following item:

- Question 8 cites procedures CCP-TP-005 Section 4.5. Although the cited answer is good, NMED believes that CCP-TP-005 Sections 4.4.12 – 4.4.14 further clarifies the answer.