



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

**AUG 19 2008**

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Casey Gadbury, Director  
Office of the National TRU Program  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221



Dear Mr. Gadbury:

We received your letter dated August 15, 2008, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence on the revised draft recertification letter you plan to issue to the Hanford Site. Your request is in accordance with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) procedures that are intended to ensure that the Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site certifications correlate appropriately with EPA approvals for waste characterization activities at DOE transuranic (TRU) waste generator sites.

On July 17, 2008, EPA, approved Hanford's TRU waste characterization program for characterizing contact-handled (CH) waste prior to its disposal at the WIPP. The inspection reports are available in the EPA Air Docket No. A-98-49; Item II-A4-101.

EPA concurs that the waste characterization equipment, procedures and waste streams encompassed in DOE's draft recertification letter comport with all of EPA's existing approvals for CH waste at Hanford.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to review the draft recertification letter for Hanford. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed Felcorn at (202) 343-9422 or Rajani Joglekar at (202) 343-9462.

Sincerely,

Tom Peake, Director  
Center for Waste Management and Regulations



