



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



SEP 3 2008

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Donald C. Gadbury
Director, 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 29, 2008, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence on the draft certification letter the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) plans to issue to the Central Characterization Project (CCP) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). This request is in accordance with the 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.

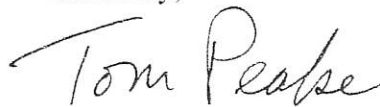
In November 2007, EPA performed a baseline inspection of ORNL CCP's TRU waste characterization program (EPA-ORNL-CCP-CH-11.07-08) for compliance with EPA regulations as required by the 40 CFR 194.8 (69 FR 42571-42583). On August 21, 2008, EPA issued a final inspection report and a letter approving several aspects of the ORNL CCP waste characterization program (EPA Air Docket No. A-98-49, Item II-A4-103).

Upon review of the draft certification letter for ORNL CCP, EPA determines that it appropriately authorizes characterization and certification of TRU contact-handled, retrievably-stored, debris (S5000) waste at ORNL CCP. The EPA limitations concerning the TRU waste characterization program for CH retrievably-stored waste contained in EPA's August 21, 2008, approval letter remain applicable and are appropriately included in Attachment 4 of your site certification. We concur that the waste characterization equipment, procedures and waste streams encompassed in your draft certification letter for ORNL CCP agree with EPA's existing approvals at the site.

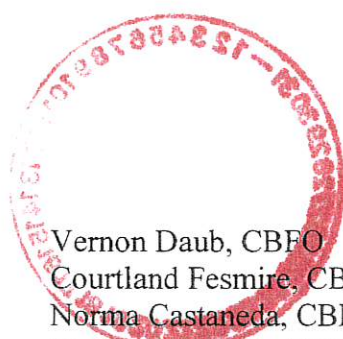


Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to review the draft certification letter for ORNL CCP. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed Feltcorn (202-343-9422) or Rajani Joglekar (202-343-9462).

Sincerely,



Tom Peake, Director
Center for Federal Regulations



cc: Vernon Daub, CBFO
Courtland Fesmire, CBFO
Norma Castaneda, CBFO
Martin Navarrete, CBFO
Dennis Miehl, CBFO
Allison Pangle, CTAC
Wayne Ledford, CTAC