



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



ENTERED

SEP 23 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:

This is in response to your September 15, 2008, request for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence on the Department of Energy's (DOE) draft expansion certification letter of the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project (AMWTP), transuranic (TRU) waste characterization program at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) for contact-handled (CH) debris and solid waste. Your request is in accordance with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) procedures that are intended to ensure that DOE's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site certifications correlate appropriately with EPA approvals for waste characterization activities at DOE TRU waste generator sites.

DOE's draft expansion certification of the AMWTP is based on a series of CBFO audits which covered characterization activities for CH debris waste (S5000) and solid waste (S3000). EPA issued a baseline approval of the waste characterization program implemented at the AMWTP on October 3, 2006 (See A-98-49; II-A4-66 in the EPA Air Docket).

Our review finds that the change to the site's certification is limited to solids sampling methods that falls under the New Mexico Environmental Department's authority. This change does not affect EPA's approval. We concur that DOE's draft expansion certification letter comports with all of EPA's existing approvals for contact-handled TRU waste (debris and solids) at AMWTP.

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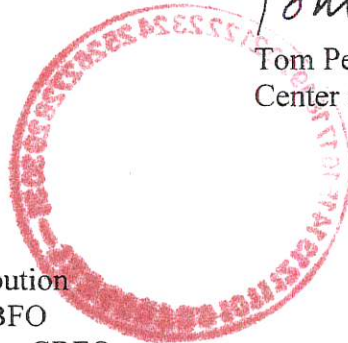


Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to review the draft expansion certification letter for AMWTP. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed Feltcorn at (202) 343-9422 or Rajani Joglekar at (202) 343-9462.

Sincerely,



Tom Peake, Director  
Center for Waste Management and Regulations



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