



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

DEC 16 2010

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. Ed Ziemianski
Manager, Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, NM 88221-3090



Dear Mr. Ziemianski :

This letter is to inform the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed review of DOE's remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) Waste Characterization Program Implementation Plan (WCPIP), DOE/WIPP-02-3214, Revision 2 provided to EPA on December 1, 2010. EPA concurs with the RH waste characterization requirements described in Revision 2.

Revision 2 of the WCPIP reflects implementation of RH waste characterization processes approved by EPA except for the use of corroborating data to qualify Acceptable Knowledge (AK) information discussed in Section 5.2. Upon receiving DOE's approval of this process, but before its implementation at an RH site, EPA will review relevant process documentation. This will include a report discussing the use of the corroborating data selection process, type and nature of corroborating data to be used, and other primary information. The RH waste characterization site will address EPA comments prior to implementation of the process that EPA will verify during a baseline inspection or Tier 1 evaluation for approval.

Implementation of Revision 2 of the WCPIP at all RH sites will occur as planned except the Bettis Site. The Bettis site, scheduled for a Spring 2011 EPA Baseline Inspection, has appropriately implemented Revision 1 of the WCPIP.

We expect that periodic changes to the RH WCPIP may be necessary based on information and experience gained from program-wide and site-specific conditions. Any significant changes made to the WCPIP will require EPA concurrence prior to implementation.



If you have any questions regarding this concurrence, please contact Rajani Joglekar (202-343-9462) or Ed Felcorn (202-343-9422).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Peake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Peake, Director
Center for Waste Management and Regulations

Enclosure

cc (electronic distribution):

Frank Marcinowski, DOE EM
Christine Gelles, DOE EM
Alton Harris, DOE EM
J R Stroble, CBFO
Ava Holland, CBFO
Court Fesmire, CBFO
Norma Castaneda, CBFO
Dennis Michls, CBFO
Martin Navarrate, CBFO
D K Ploetz, WTS-CCP
Mike Sensibaugh, WTS-CCP
Irene Quintana, WTS-CCP
Steve Zappe, NMED
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Raymond Lee, EPA
Patrick Kelly, SCA