



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

NOV - 8 2011



J.R. Stroble  
Director, National TRU Program  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221

Dear Mr. Stroble:

We received your letter dated November 8, 2011, requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence on the draft certification expansion memo the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) plans to issue to the Central Characterization Project (CCP) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). This request adds the Super High Efficiency Neutron Counter (SuperHENC) approved by EPA on October 28, 2011 (EPA Air Docket A-98-49, Item II-A4-153) 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.

EPA approved LANL CCP's contact-handled (CH) and remote-handled (RH) TRU waste characterization programs in June 2007 and February 2008, respectively (EPA Air Docket Nos. A-98-49, Item II-A4-88 and A-98-49, Item II-A4-96).

Upon review of the draft certification expansion memo for LANL CCP, EPA determines that it appropriately authorizes characterization and certification of TRU contact-handled, retrievably-stored solids (S3000), and contact-handled, retrievably-stored debris (S5000) and Off Site Recovery Program (OSRP) sources packaged as newly-generated debris (S5000) waste at LANL. The EPA limitations concerning the TRU waste characterization program for CH and RH wastes contained in EPA's June 21, 2007 and February 19, 2008, approval letters remain applicable and are appropriately included in Attachment 4 of your site recertification. We concur that the waste characterization equipment, procedures and waste streams encompassed in your draft certification expansion letter for LANL CCP agree with EPA's existing approvals at the site.

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to review the draft certification expansion memo for LANL CCP. We appreciate the redline versions of the attachments you forwarded to us as they facilitate our review. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed Feltcorn (202-343-9422).

Sincerely,

Edward Feltcorn  
Center for Waste Management and Regulations



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