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DAVE MARTIN  
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**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 9, 2011

Edward Ziemianski, Acting Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3100  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3100

Farok Sharif, President  
Washington TRU Solutions LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-11-20 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Ziemianski and Sharif:

On October 28, 2011, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Final Audit Report of the Argonne National Laboratory/Central Characterization Project (ANL/CCP) Audit Number A-11-20 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). CBFO and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (**the Permittees**) were required to submit this Audit Report under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit as specified in Permit Section 2.3.2.3. The intended scope of this annual recertification audit was to ensure the continued adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the ANL/CCP waste characterization processes for retrievably stored remote handled (RH) Summary Category Group S5000 debris waste, relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit.

The Audit Report consisted of the following items:

- A narrative report (hardcopy and electronic)
- Completed copies of relevant Permit Attachment C6 checklists (Tables C6-1, C6-3, C6-4, and C6-6) (hardcopy and electronic)
- Final ANL/CCP standard operating procedures for characterization of the waste categories listed above (hardcopy and electronic)

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- Objective evidence examined during the audit:
  - General information
  - Acceptable knowledge
  - Headspace gas sampling
  - Visual examination

NMED representatives observed the audit on August 2-4, 2011. NMED has examined the Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Sections 2.3.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and 2.3.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]). The Audit Report indicates there was one recommendation.

- Recommendation. It is recommended that freeze file changes as applicable be made to the AK Summary CCP-AK-ANLE-500 R6 fir the RH waste stream AERHDM examined during this audit to address the permit modifications enacted on 12/31/10 dealing with Acceptable Knowledge. These changes are noted on the NMED WAP Compliance Matrix and will be attached to the AK Summary submitted with the final report to the State of New Mexico, consistent with the agreement made between NMED and CBFO. The changes were discussed with and concurred by the audit participants.

Attached are NMED's general comments based upon review of the Audit Report. These are provided to guide future audit report preparation and to assist the Permittees in understanding NMED's concerns.

NMED concludes that this Audit Report demonstrates that ANL/CCP has implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for ANL/CCP Audit A-11-20 for the recertification of acceptable knowledge, headspace gas, and visual examination, and amends the previous Audit Report for A-10-23 issued by NMED on December 9, 2010 to include only those processes evaluated by this recertification audit.

This Audit Report approval is of the broad programmatic implementation of waste characterization requirements at ANL/CCP, and does not constitute approval of individual waste characterization procedures, nor condone inappropriate applications of those procedures. This approval does not relieve the Permittees of their obligation to comply with the requirements of the permit or other applicable laws and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Holmes at (505) 476-6047.

Sincerely,



John Kieling  
Acting Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

TLK: svh

cc: Jim Davis, Director, NMED RPD  
Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB  
Tim Hall, NMED HWB  
Steve Holmes, NMED HWB  
Ricardo Maestas, NMED HWB  
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Connie Walker, Trinity Engineering  
Don Hancock, SRIC  
Joni Arends, CCNS  
File: Red WIPP '11

**NMED COMMENTS ON THE  
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION  
PROJECT (ANL/CCP) FINAL AUDIT REPORT A-11-20**

NMED's review indicated that the body of the Audit Report and the C6 checklists generally appear to address the applicable elements. NMED provides the following comment for the Permittees consideration:

1. The summary paragraph of the Content Map states that audit A-11-20 was conducted August 2-3, 2011. The correct date should be August 2-4, 2011.
2. The GEN 11: description in the Content Map does not mention the RIDS dated 2/01/2011. This document is included in the box as objective evidence under GEN 11.
3. The AK 11 description in the Content Map does not mention Lot 1 as being included with the HSG Random Container Selection Memo.
4. The AK 12 description in the Content Map does not mention Lot 1 as being included with the HSG Summary Report.
5. Pertaining to AK 23 through AK 28 of the Content Map, the AK numbers and the descriptions of the objective evidence are mismatched.
6. The AK 24 description in the Content Map does not mention Lot 1 as being included with the AK Waste Stream Characterization Checklist.
7. Under Visual Examination, Section 5.3.3 of the final audit report it states "The audit team examined training records for seven VE operators/Independent Technical Reviewers, and two SPMs and confirmed the appointment of two ANL/CCP VEEs." Objective evidence is provided for all personnel mentioned with the exception that only five VE Operator/ITR personnel have training records and not seven as the report indicates.
8. Under Control of Nonconforming Items, Section 5.4.1 of the report it states that "all seven" NCRs were selected for review. There are eight NCRs listed in the report and provided as objective evidence.
9. Under Quality Assurance Records, Section 5.4.3 of the report it states "Control of QA records was verified through the review of the CCP RH (All Sites) Records Inventory and Disposition Schedule (RIDS) dated 2/21/11. No concerns were identified." There is no mention of the RIDS dated 2/01/2011 that is provided as objective evidence under GEN 11.
10. Question 24 of the C6 Checklist needs to have a statement in the Comment column clarifying that the question related to the analytical laboratory at INL and that this is not in the scope of this audit and that INL/CCP performs the analysis.
11. Question 35 of the C6 Checklist needs to have a comment in the Comment column clarifying that the analytical report is generated at the INL/CCP Analytical laboratory.
12. Questions 56 and 61 of the C6 Checklist the answers to the questions are incomplete. Another citation, Attachment 2, should have been included in the Location column.
13. Questions 72 and 73 of the C6 Checklist indicate that the referenced Section of the Permit (Section C-5b) must be answered for completeness of the C6 Checklist. Shipments must be part of the scope of the audit in prior audit reports (LANL/CCP

Recertification Audit A-11-11, for example) where CCP-TP-033 (ALL) was the procedure for the Location column and Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifests & shipping package documentation for the following shipment numbers: LA110052 dated 5/13/11, LA110053 dated 5/16/11, and LA110054 dated 5/17/11 were referenced as Item Reviewed column for Question 72. Question 73 had CCP-TP-030 (ALL) and CCP-TP-033 was submitted as the procedures for the Location column and Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifests & shipping documentation for the following shipment numbers: LA110052 dated 5/13/11, LA110053 dated 5/16/11, and LA110054 dated 5/17/11.

14. Question 144, Part D, of the C6 Checklist needs a comment in the Comment column to state that ANL/CCP only performs sampling. The analysis is performed at INL/CCP analytical laboratory.
15. Question 144, Part F of the C6 Checklist needs to be answered.
16. Questions 155 and 158 of the C6 Checklist needs to identify the waste stream in the Comments column for clarification.
17. Question 210 of the C6 Checklist indicates the citation of CCP-TP-093 Canister Tags. This citation does not exist. The correct citation should be CCP-TP-093, Sections 4.5, 3 [J], 4.5.4 [Q], 4.5.5 [Q], 4.5.6 [N], and Attachment 1.