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Secretary

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Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 23, 2011

Edward Ziemianski, Acting Manager
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
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 IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT FINAL AUDIT REPORT, AUDIT A-11-14 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 Idaho National Laboratory/Central Characterization Project (INL/CCP) Audit Number A-11-14 (**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 INL/CCP waste characterization processes for newly generated contact handled (CH) Summary Category Groups (SCG) S3000 homogeneous solids waste, S4000 soils/gravel waste, and S5000 debris waste and retrievably stored remote handled (RH) SCG S3000 homogeneous waste and 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 (hardcopy and electronic)

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- Final INL/CCP standard operating procedures for characterization of the waste categories listed above (hardcopy and electronic)
- Objective evidence examined during the audit:
 - General information
 - Acceptable knowledge
 - Solids sampling
 - Headspace gas sampling
 - Visual examination
 - Real-time radiography

NMED representatives observed the audit on June 7-9, 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 Corrective Action Report (CAR) that was issued, one Corrected During the Audit (CDA) requiring remedial action only, and one recommendation for management consideration.

- CBFO CAR 11-043: AK records are not being submitted into CCP Records System
- CDA 1: Items were identified as isolated Conditions Adverse to Quality (CAQ) in AK Summary Report CCP-AK-INL-018
- Recommendation 1: Freeze file changes, as appropriate, be made to the AK summaries for the five waste streams examined during the audit to address Permit modifications dealing with AK

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 INL/CCP has implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for INL/CCP Audit A-11-14 for the recertification of acceptable knowledge, solids sampling, headspace gas sampling, visual examination, and real-time radiography and amends the previous Audit Report for A-10-16 issued by NMED on October 20, 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 INL/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.

Messrs. Ziemianski and Sharif
December 23, 2011
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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Holmes at (505) 476-6047.

Sincerely,



John Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JEK: svh

cc: Jim Davis, Director, NMED RPD
Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB
Tim Hall, NMED HWB
Steve Holmes, NMED HWB
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File: Red WIPP '11

NMED COMMENTS ON THE
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT
(INL/CCP) FINAL AUDIT REPORT A-11-23

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. Question 56 of the C6 Checklist indicates that the procedure citation given, CCP-TP-002, S. 4.3 answers the question. For completeness, an additional procedure citation should also be listed in the Location column. That procedure citation is CCP-TP-002, Attachment 2.
2. Question 120 of the C6 Checklist has the word "hid" within the question. It should be removed.
3. It should be noted that the entire C6 Checklist Table C6-5 has "NA" in the Comment column (with the exception of Question 240, which had a comment). For continuity and consistency between C6 Checklist Tables all of the C6 Checklist should have "NA" in the column.
4. Question 233 of the C6 Checklist indicates that the procedure citation given, CCP-QP-002, Att. 4 answers the Accuracy portion of the question. Attachment 4 needs to be corrected as it lists items 1 through 6 on one page and items 8 through 11 on the second page. There is no item 7.
5. Question 248 of the C6 Checklist indicates that the procedure citation is S. 4.3.2 [A-2]. This citation does not exist. The correct citation should be S. 4.3.2 [A.2].
6. Question 298: The training records for VE Operator/ITR Mike Haderlie indicate that he was not re-qualified within the Permit required two year period under Permit section C1-4 and C3-4b. The operator signed his 2009 Initial Qualification card on May 29, 2009 and CCP Training signed on June 2, 2009. At the time of the INL/CCP audit of June 7-9, 2011, the operator had not yet been re-qualified. Auditors also discovered that this operator was continuing to work as a VE as of June 7, 2011. Under VE section 5.4.6 it states, "No WAP-related concerns were identified during the audit. Overall, the team determined that INL/CCP VE Operations were adequate, satisfactorily implemented, and effective." NMED requests that the Permittees document why this concern was not included in the Final Audit Report as well as address the final resolution.