



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

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OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

Mr. 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 Oct 31, 2012, requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) concurrence on the draft recertification memo the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) plans to issue to the Central Characterization Project (CCP) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). We concur with the draft recertification memo to recertify ORNL's TRU waste characterization program with the following stipulation. Since July 2011, ORNL's TRU waste characterization program has been suspended. Therefore, EPA must be notified when ORNL-CCP again begins to characterize TRU waste for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The notification must be sent three months ahead of the first anticipated waste shipment for WIPP disposal. At that time, EPA will conduct a continued compliance inspection to verify that the ORNL-CCP is adequately implementing the EPA-approved waste characterization components for waste characterization and tracking purposes.

In accordance with EPA regulations at 40 CFR 194.8 (69 FR 42571-42583), on August 21, 2008, EPA approved ORNL's contact-handled (CH) transuranic (TRU) waste characterization program (See EPA Air Docket No. A-98-49, II-A4-103) and on February 3, 2009, EPA approved ORNL's remote-handled (RH) TRU waste characterization program (See EPA Air Docket No. A-98-49, II-A4-111).

Thank you for providing us with an opportunity to review the draft recertification memo for ORNL-CCP. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rajani Joglekar (202-343-9462) or Ed Feltcorn (202-343-9422).

Sincerely,

Tom Peake, Director  
Center for Waste Management and Regulations



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