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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



ENTERED



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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 6, 2013

J.R. Stroble, Director
Office of the National TRU Program
Carlsbad Field Office
Department of Energy
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3100

**RE: NMED FOLLOW-UP OF OBSERVER INQUIRY SUBMITTED ON NOVEMBER 28, 2012
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Mr. Stroble:

On December 24, 2012, The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the response (**Response**) from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) regarding the Observer Inquiry on Real-Time-Radiography that NMED submitted on November 28, 2012. CBFO was required to submit this Response under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Hazardous Waste Facility Permit as specified in Permit Section C6-4.

In Attachment 2 of the Response, Timeline for completion of remedial actions received from both contractors, it states, "In response to the NMED Observer Inquiry, [w]e are implementing the following steps from CCP:

1. CCP has developed additional guidance to RTR personnel in the form of a briefing given (Attachment 2) by the Cognizant Engineer for NDE that tells RTR operators when to use the cursor (to adjust the contrast on units that utilize the upgraded software) and when not to use the cursor (not to point to, trace, outline, or in any way identify an item on the screen. The

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cursor is to be kept out of view or off the screen unless it is being used to adjust contrast levels). The Cognizant Engineer for NDE completed the required briefing on December 5, 2012.”

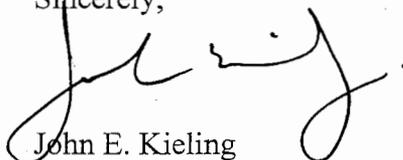
2. “In order to ensure that the same guidance is provided to any new RTR operators, the information in the briefing will be incorporated into the CCP Real-Time Radiography TRU Waste Characterization Briefing (CCP-RTR-101) that is required for initial qualification and two year requalification of all RTR operators. CCP will revise CCP-RTR-101 as described above, by December 20, 2012.”

The Response goes on to state, “AMWTP will be implementing training in their program to the RTR operators and ITRs on the correct use of the cursor and this information will be added to the RTR and ITR qualification package and requalification packages. These actions will be completed by January 31, 2013.”

Provide verification that training on the correct use of the cursor has occurred and that the appropriate information has been added to the RTR and ITR qualification package and requalification packages by both the CCP and AMWTP. Please submit copies of the revised packages and evidence of the trainings by March 5, 2013.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Trais Kliphuis at (505) 476-6051.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JEK:tlk

cc: Thomas Skibitski, Acting Director, NMED RPD
Dave Cobrain, NMED HWB
Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB
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