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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 17, 2014

Jose Franco, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Robert L. McQuinn, Project Manager  
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

**RE: NMED REVIEW OF FINAL AUDIT REPORT,  
HANFORD SITE/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT AUDIT A-14-16  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Messrs. Franco and McQuinn:

On June 5, 2014, The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the Final Audit Report of the Hanford Site/Central Characterization Project (Hanford/CCP) Audit Number A-14-16 (Audit Report), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). CBFO and Nuclear Waste Partnership, 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 final audit was to ensure the adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the Hanford/CCP waste characterization processes for contact-handled (CH) Summary Category Groups (SCGs) S3000 homogeneous solids and S5000 debris wastes, relative to the WIPP Permit.

SCANNED



The Audit Report consisted of the following items:

- A narrative report
- Copies of relevant Permit Attachment C6 Checklists

No objective evidence was included as no waste characterization activities have been performed by Hanford/CCP since the last two CBFO recertification audits; A-12-11, conducted May 15-16, 2012 and A-13-15, conducted May 14-16, 2013.

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]). NMED notes this and the previous Hanford/CCP audit reports, A-12-11 and A-13-15, explain that characterization activities at Hanford/CCP were suspended at the end of September 2011 and have not resumed. The current audit report [A-14-16] has confirmed that CCP operations at the Hanford Site have been suspended and no TRU waste characterization activities have been performed since the previous audits.

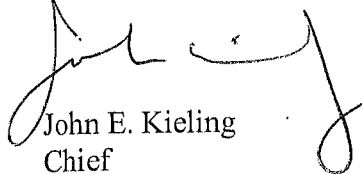
As stated in the March 2, 2012 letter from John Kieling, then Acting Chief, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, to Jose Franco, Manager, Carlsbad Field Office, NMED clarified that DOE must continue to perform audits of generator sites' characterization activities and NMED notes that this audit report states that once waste characterization activities resume at the Hanford Site, CBFO will conduct a recertification audit as a basis for reinstating authority to perform waste.

NMED would also like to reiterate that according to the A-12-11 audit report, Hanford/CCP identified 221 waste containers that have been characterized and entered into the Waste Data System. These containers are listed in Attachment 3 of that report and are considered ready for shipment but remain at the Hanford Site.

This Audit Report approval is of the broad programmatic implementation of waste characterization requirements at Hanford/CCP, and does not constitute approval of individual waste characterization procedures, nor condone inappropriate applications of those procedures. This correspondence 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 Trais Kliphuis at (505) 476-6051.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling  
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

Messrs. Franco and McInn

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cc: Tom Blaine, Director, NMED EHD  
Trais Kliphuis, NMED HWB  
Steve Holmes, NMED HWB  
Ricardo Maestas, NMED HWB  
Coleman Smith, NMED HWB  
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