Due to the evidence that the radiation release in the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) underground on February 14, 2014, was from a LANL Drum from the Summary Category Group (SCG) S3000, the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) National TRU Program (NTP) in a memorandum dated July 16, 2014, suspended Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL) certification and characterization activities associated with transuranic (TRU) waste disposition of SCG S3000 and all waste processed at the Waste Characterization, Reduction and Repackaging Facility at Waste Control Specialist (WCS). This suspension was included in a revision to the LANL TRU Waste Certification Letter dated August 13, 2014.

On June 8, 2017, CBFO provided the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) a "Clarification of the Enclosure to the LANL Final Audit Report A-16-19 related to Summary Category Groups S3000 and S5000 Waste and Waste Processed through the WCRF". This letter referenced the Surveillance, S-17-34 in which the CCP enhanced AK process was shown to have been adequately implemented for S5000 waste stored at Waste Control Specialist (WCS), in Andrews, Texas. The CCP implements the same enhanced AK processes for all SCGs (e.g. S3000, S5000), therefore the CBFO concluded in the June 8, 2017 letter that the successful implementation of the CCP enhanced AK process for the SCG S5000 at WCS provided assurance that only compliant waste will be shipped.
and emplaced at the WIPP facility. On June 23, 2017, NMED responded to this letter, concluding that “No further action is required at this time”.

Based on the items outlined above, CBFO is lifting the suspension of the certification activities associated with LANL S3000 and all TRU waste processed at the LANL WCRRF for containers stored at WCS. The CCP may resume processing of this previously certified waste through the enhanced AK process using approved processes and procedures.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. J.R. Stroble, Director, CBFO ONTP Compliance Division, at (575) 234-7313.

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WIPP Operating Record
CBFO M&RC
*ED denotes electronic distribution