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ENTERED

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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 11, 2019

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

Bruce C. Covert, Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC
P.O. Box 2078
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-2078

RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY/CENTRAL CHARACTERIZATION PROGRAM (LANL/CCP) FINAL AUDIT REPORT A-18-14 WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088

Dear Messrs. Shrader and Covert:

On September 5, 2018, the New Mexico Environment Department ("NMED") received the Final Audit Report for Audit A-18-14 for the Los Alamos National Laboratory/Central Characterization Program ("LANL/CCP"), in a letter dated August 28, 2018. The US Department of Energy ("DOE") and Nuclear Waste Partnership, LLC (NWP) (collectively the "Permittees") were required to submit the Final Audit Report under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant ("WIPP") Hazardous Waste Facility Permit ("Permit"), as specified in Permit Section 2.3.2.3.

The intended scope of Audit A-18-14 was to ensure the continued adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the LANL/CCP waste characterization processes for contact-handled ("CH") Summary Category Groups ("SCGs") S3000 solids, S4000 soils/gravel, and S5000 debris waste, relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit.



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The Final Audit Report consisted of the following items:

- A narrative report;
- Completed copies of the relevant Permit Attachment C6 checklists;
- List of final LANL/CCP standard operating procedures; and
- Objective evidence examined during the audit.

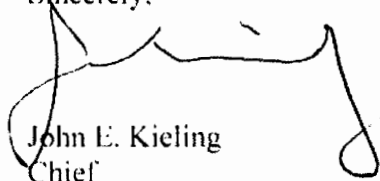
NMED representatives observed Audit A-18-14 on May 8th through 10th, 2018, and have examined the Final Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Sections 2.3.1 (Waste Analysis Plan ("WAP")) and 2.3.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program).

Attached are NMED's general comments and conclusions based upon observation of the audit and review of the Final Audit Report. Based on NMED's review and conclusions, NMED hereby approves LANL/CCP Final Audit Report A-18-14. NMED also amends the previous Final Audit Report approval for Final Audit Report A-17-17 issued by NMED on January 23, 2018, to include only those waste forms and processes evaluated by this recertification audit.

The audit report approval for Final Audit Report A-18-14 is an approval of the broad programmatic implementation of waste characterization requirements at LANL/CCP, and do not constitute approval of individual waste characterization procedures, or 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.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ricardo Maestas of my staff at (505) 476-6050.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: R. Maestas, NMED HWB
S. Lucas-Kamat, NMED DOE/OB
L. King, EPA Region 6
T. Peake, EPA ORIA
File: WIPP 19

**NMED Comments and Conclusions for the LANL/CCP
Final Audit Report A-18-14**

Interim Audit Report A-18-14, issued by DOE on June 8, 2018, indicated that the audit team identified two non-WAP-related concerns, both of which were determined to be conditions adverse to quality ("CAQ") resulting in issuance of corrective action reports ("CARs"). No other concerns, recommendations or observations were noted during the audit.

Final Audit Report A-18-14, issued by DOE on August 28, 2018, identified no WAP-related concerns or deficiencies during the audit. Excluding the real-time radiography ("RTR") process, the batch data reports ("BDRs") and field activities for characterizing CH SCG S3000 solids waste were not evaluated during this audit due to inactivity for this SCG. The visual examination ("VE") process has not performed characterization activities for CH SCG S3000 solids waste for an extended period of time and remains *indeterminate* for that SCG. VE work associated with the Off-Site Source Recovery Program ("OSRP") is ongoing; however, objective evidence was not provided for review during the audit and therefore the VE process associated with OSRP implementation and effectiveness remains *indeterminate*. The WIPP Waste Information System ("WWIS")/Waste Data System ("WDS") process implementation is deemed *indeterminate* due to inactivity in all waste SCGs. Accordingly, the audit team acknowledges there is a potential need for a future assessment to evaluate the processes that have been deemed indeterminate during this audit.

NMED concludes that Final Audit Report A-18-14 demonstrates that LANL/CCP has implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP during the applicable timeframe, with the exception for those processes deemed *indeterminate* discussed in the paragraph above. NMED will review the status of the indeterminate processes during the next LANL/CCP Audit.