



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

COPY

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OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

David C. Moody, PhD, Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, NM 88221-3090

Dear Dr. Moody:

This letter provides results of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) evaluation of the information received on December 28, 2007, from the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) responding to three issues that EPA identified as concerns in the November 27, 2007 letter discussing results of an unannounced inspection at the Idaho national Laboratory (INL) dated October 16, 2007. (See EPA Air Docket No: A-98-49, II-A4-94) Upon review of the information provided, EPA concludes that the CBFO-furnished information adequately addresses the EPA concern.

The purpose of the October 2007 inspection of the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP) was to obtain waste volume information on several waste streams that were buried prior to 1970 and are now planned for disposal at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). As part of INL's Idaho Completion Project (ICP), ARP has been actively engaged in providing transuranic (TRU) waste inventory updates to support CBFO's WIPP performance assessment. As part of the inspection, EPA requested that the Department of Energy (DOE) provide information for TRU waste designated as IN-ICP-002, IN-ICP-003, IN-ICP-004, and IN-ICP-005. DOE was unable, at the inspection, to provide the requested TRU waste information. Therefore, in the November 27, 2007, letter to CBFO and INL, EPA required that the above information be provided as a follow-up to the inspection.

EPA reviewed the information that documents (a) changes in the volume estimates for the four original waste streams as they were combined into three TRU waste categories – debris, sludge, and soils between 1996 and 2006, and (b) estimated volumes used for the 2006 waste inventory updates. EPA has determined the information resolves EPA's concerns, and no further CBFO action is necessary.

Sincerely,

Juan Reyes, Director  
Radiation Protection Division

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Enclosure

cc: E. Sellers, DOE INL  
A. Harris, DOE HQ EM  
V. Daub, CBFO  
R. Patterson, CBFO  
B. Littleton, EPA