APPENDIX B7

PERMITTEE LEVEL TRU WASTE CONFIRMATION PROCESSES

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Introduction

This part of the Waste Analysis Plan (**WAP**) describes the actions that the Permittees will take to approve and accept waste for storage and disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (**WIPP**), including waste confirmation activities.

The Permittees demonstrate compliance with the Permit by ensuring that the waste characterization processes performed by generator/storage sites (**sites**) produce data compliant with the WAP and through the waste screening and verification processes. Verification occurs at three levels: 1) the data generation level, 2) the project level, and 3) the Permittee level. The Permittees also examine a representative subpopulation of waste prior to shipment to confirm that the waste contains no ignitable, corrosive or reactive waste; and that assigned Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) hazardous waste numbers are allowed by the Permit. The waste confirmation activities described herein occur prior to shipment of the waste from the generator/storage site to WIPP.

B7-1 Permittee Confirmation of TRU Mixed Waste

Waste confirmation is defined in Module I as the activities performed by the Permittees to satisfy the requirements specified in Section 310 of Pub. L. 108-447. Waste confirmation occurs after waste containers have been certified for disposal at WIPP. The general confirmation process for WIPP waste is presented in Figure B7-1.

B7-1a Permittees' Confirmation of a Representative Subpopulation of the Waste

The Permittees shall confirm that the waste contains no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste through radiography (Section B7-1b) or the use of visual examination (Section B7-1c) of a statistically representative subpopulation of the waste. Prior to shipment to WIPP, waste confirmation will be performed on randomly selected containers from each CH and RH TRU mixed waste stream shipment. Figure B7-1 presents the overall waste verification and confirmation process.

The Permittees' waste confirmation encompasses ensuring that the physical characteristics of the TRU mixed waste correspond with its waste stream description and that the waste does not contain liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases. These techniques can detect liquids that exceed 1 percent volume of the container and containerized gases, which are prohibited from storage or disposal at the WIPP facility. The prohibition of liquids and containerized gases prevents the storage or disposal of ignitable, corrosive, or reactive wastes. Radiography and/or visual examination will ensure that the physical form of the waste matches its waste stream description (i.e., Homogeneous Solids, Soil/Gravel, or Debris Waste). The results of the Permittees' waste confirmation activities, including radiography and visual

examination records (data sheets, packaging logs, and/or video and audio recordings) will be maintained in the WIPP facility operating record. Noncompliant waste identified during waste confirmation will be managed as described in Section B7-2.

The Permittees shall randomly select at least 7 percent of each waste stream shipment for waste confirmation. This equates to a minimum of one container from each fourteen containers in each waste stream in each designated shipment. If there are less than fourteen containers from a waste stream in a particular shipment, a minimum of one container from the waste stream shipped will be selected. If the random selection of containers in a shipment occurs prior to loading the waste containers into the Shipping Package, the randomly selected containers may be consolidated into a single Type B package consistent with transportation requirements. Documentation of the random selection of containers for waste confirmation will be placed in the WIPP facility operating record.

B7-1a(1) Confirmation Training Requirements

Waste confirmation may be completed by performing actual radiography/visual examination on the waste container(s) or by a review of radiography/visual examination media and records.

Waste confirmation personnel may be trained to either review of radiography/visual examination media and records (Level 1) or to perform actual radiography/visual examination on the waste container(s) (Level 2). Level 2 personnel may also perform waste confirmation by review of media and records.

The Permittees management representative must be trained to the requirements of Level 2.

B7-1b Radiography Methods Requirements

Radiography has been developed by the Permittees specifically to aid in the examination and identification of containerized waste. The Permittees shall describe all activities required to achieve the radiography objectives in standard operating procedures (**SOPs**). These SOPs shall include instructions specific to the radiography system(s) used by the Permittees at an off-site facility (e.g., the generator/storage site). For example, to detect liquids, some systems require the container to be rotated back and forth while other systems require the container to be tilted.

A radiography system (e.g., real time radiography, digital radiography/computed tomography) normally consists of an X-ray-producing device, an imaging system, an enclosure for radiation protection, a waste container handling system, a video and audio recording system, and an operator control and data acquisition station. Although these six components are required, it is expected there will be some variation within a given component between radiography systems. The radiography system shall have controls or an equivalent process which allow the operator to control image quality. On some radiography systems, it should be possible to vary the voltage, typically between 150 to 400 kilovolts (**kV**), to provide an optimum degree of penetration through the waste. For example, high-density material should be examined with the X-ray device set on the maximum voltage. This ensures maximum penetration through the waste container.

Low-density material should be examined at lower voltage settings to improve contrast and image definition. The imaging system typically utilizes either a fluorescent screen and a low-light television camera or x-ray detectors to generate the image.

To perform radiography, the waste container is scanned while the operator views the television screen. A video and audio recording is made of the waste container scan and is maintained in the WIPP facility operating record as a non-permanent record. A radiography data form is also used to document the Waste Matrix Code, ensure that the waste container contains no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste by documenting the absence of liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases, and verify that the physical form of the waste is consistent with the waste stream description documented on the WSPF. Containers whose contents prevent full examination of the remaining contents shall be subject to visual examination unless the Permittees certify that visual examination would provide no additional relevant information for that container based on the acceptable knowledge information for the waste stream. Such certification shall be documented in the WIPP facility operating record.

For containers that have been characterized using radiography by the generator/storage sites in accordance with the method in Attachment B1, Section B1-3, the Permittees may perform confirmation by review of the generator/storage site's radiography audio/video recordings.

For containers which contain classified shapes and undergo radiography, the radiography will occur at a facility with appropriate security provisions and the video and audio recording will be considered classified. The radiography data forms will not be considered classified.

B7-1b(1) Radiography Training

The radiography system involves qualitative and semiquantitative evaluations of visual displays. Operator training and experience are the most important considerations for ensuring quality controls in regard to the operation of the radiography system and for interpretation and disposition of radiography results. Only trained personnel shall be allowed to operate radiography equipment.

The Permittee radiography operators performing waste confirmation shall be trained in accordance with the requirements of Permit Attachment H1.

B7-1b(2) Radiography Oversight

The Permittees shall be responsible for monitoring the quality of the radiography data and calling for corrective action, when necessary.

A training drum with internal containers of various sizes shall be scanned biennially by each Level 2 operator. The video and audio media shall then be reviewed by a radiography subject matter expert to ensure that operators' interpretations remain consistent and accurate. Imaging system characteristics shall be verified on a routine basis.

Independent replicate scans and replicate observations of the video output of the radiography process shall be performed under uniform conditions and procedures. Independent replicate scans shall be performed on one waste container per day or once per shipment, whichever is less frequent. Independent observations of one scan (not the replicate scan) shall also be made once per day or once per shipment, whichever is less frequent, by a qualified radiography operator other than the individual who performed the first examination. When confirmation is performed by review of audio/video recorded scans produced by the generator/storage site as specified in Permit Attachment B1, Section B1-3, independent observations shall be performed on two waste containers per shipment or two containers per day, whichever is less frequent.

B7-1c Visual Examination Methods Requirements

Visual examination (**VE**) may also be used as a waste confirmation method by the Permittees. VE shall be conducted by the Permittees in accordance with written SOPs to describe the contents of a waste container. The description shall clearly identify all discernible waste items, residual materials, packaging materials, or waste material parameters. VE may be used by the Permittees to examine a statistically representative subpopulation of the waste certified for shipment to WIPP to confirm that the waste contains no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste. This is achieved by confirming that the waste contains no residual liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases, and that the physical form of the waste matches the waste stream description documented on the WSPF. A VE data form is used to document this information. During packaging, the waste container contents are directly examined by trained personnel. This form of waste confirmation may be performed by the Permittees at a generator/storage site. The VE may be recorded on video and audio media, or alternatively, by using a second operator to provide additional verification by reviewing the contents of the waste container to ensure correct reporting.

In order to keep radiation doses as low as reasonably achievable at generator/storage sites, the Permittees may use their own trained VE operators to perform VE for waste confirmation by reviewing video media prepared by the generator/storage site during their VE of the waste. If the Permittees perform waste confirmation by review of video media, the video record of the VE must be sufficiently complete for the Permittees to confirm the Waste Matrix Code and waste stream description, and verify the waste contains no residual liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases. Generator/storage site VE video/audio media subject to review by the Permittees shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- The video/audio media shall record the waste packaging event for the container such that all waste items placed into the container are recorded in sufficient detail that a trained Permittee VE expert can determine what the waste items are and their associated waste material parameter.

- The video/audio media shall capture the waste container identification number.

- The personnel loading the waste container shall be identified on the video/audio media or on packaging records traceable to the loading of the waste container.

- The date of loading of the waste container will be recorded on the video/audio media or on packaging records traceable to the loading of the waste container.

The Permittees may also use their own trained VE operators to perform VE for waste confirmation by reviewing VE data forms or packaging logs prepared by the generator during their packaging of the waste. To be acceptable, the generator/storage site VE data must be signed by two generator/storage site personnel who witnessed the packaging of the waste and must provide sufficient information for the Permittees to determine that the waste container contents match the waste stream description on the WSPF and the waste contains no liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases. The Permittees will document their review of generator/storage site VE data on Permittee VE data forms. Generator/storage site VE forms or packaging logs subject to review by the Permittees shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- At least two generator site personnel shall approve the data forms or packaging logs attesting to the contents of the waste container.

- The data forms or packaging logs shall contain an inventory of waste items in sufficient detail that a trained Permittee VE expert can identify the associated waste material parameters.

- The waste container identification number shall be recorded on the data forms or packaging logs.

VE video media of containers which contain classified shapes shall be considered classified information. VE data forms will not be considered classified information.

B7-1c(1) Visual Examination Training

The Permittees' VE operators performing waste confirmation shall be trained in accordance with the requirements of Permit Attachment H1.

B7-1c(2) Visual Examination Oversight

The Permittees shall designate at least one VE expert. The VE expert shall be familiar with the processes that were used to generate the waste streams being confirmed using VE. The VE expert shall be responsible for the overall direction and implementation of the Permittees' VE program. The Permittees shall specify the selection, qualification, and training requirements of the visual examination expert in an SOP.

B7-1d Quality Assurance Objectives (QAOs) for Radiography and Visual Examination

The QAOs the Permittees must meet for radiography and visual examination are detailed in this section. If the QAOs described below are not met, then corrective action as specified in Permit Attachment B3, Section B3-13 shall be taken.

B7-1d(1) Radiography QAOs

The QAOs for radiography are detailed in this section. If the QAOs described below are not met, then corrective action shall be taken.

Data to meet these objectives must be obtained from a video and audio recorded scan provided by trained radiography operators. Results must also be recorded on a radiography data form. The precision, accuracy, representativeness, completeness, and comparability objectives for radiography data are presented below.

Precision

Precision is maintained by reconciling any discrepancies between two radiography operators with regard to the waste stream waste confirmation, identification of liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits, and identification of compressed gases through independent replicate scans and independent observations.

Accuracy

Accuracy is obtained by using a target to tune the image for maximum sharpness and by requiring operators to successfully identify 100 percent of the required items in a training container during their initial qualification and subsequent requalification.

Representativeness

Representativeness is ensured by performing radiography on a random sample of waste containers from each waste stream in each shipment.

Completeness

A video and audio media recording of the radiography examination and a validated radiography data form will be obtained for 100 percent of the waste containers subject to radiography.

Comparability

The comparability of radiography data from different operators shall be enhanced by using standardized radiography procedures and operator qualifications.

B7-1d(2) Visual Examination QAOs

Results must be recorded on a VE data form. The precision, accuracy, representativeness, completeness, and comparability objectives for VE data are presented below.

Precision

Precision is maintained by reconciling any discrepancies between the operator and the independent technical reviewer with regard to the waste stream waste confirmation, identification of liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits, and identification of compressed gases.

Accuracy

Accuracy is maintained by requiring operators to pass a comprehensive examination and demonstrate satisfactory performance in the presence of the VE expert during their initial qualification and subsequent requalification.

Representativeness

Representativeness is ensured by performing VE on a random sample of waste containers within each waste stream in each shipment.

Completeness

A validated VE data form will be obtained for 100 percent of the waste containers subject to VE.

Comparability

The comparability of VE data from different operators shall be enhanced by using standardized VE procedures and operator qualifications.

B7-1e Review and Validation of Radiography and Visual Examination Data Used for Waste Examination

This section describes the requirements for review and validation of radiography and VE data by the Permittees.

B7-1e(1) Independent Technical Review

The radiography and/or VE confirmation data for each shipment shall receive an independent technical review. This review will be performed before the affected waste shipment is shipped to the WIPP facility. The review shall be performed by an individual other than the data generator who is qualified to have performed the work. The review will be performed in accordance with approved Permittee SOPs and will be documented on a review checklist. The reviewer(s) must approve the data as evidenced by signature, and as a consequence, ensure the following:

- Data generation and reduction were conducted in a technically correct manner in accordance with the methods used (procedure with revision). Data were reported in the proper units and correct number of significant figures.

- The data have been reviewed for transcription errors.

- Radiography video and audio media recordings have been reviewed (independent observation) on a waste container basis at a minimum of once per shipment or once per day of operation, whichever is less frequent. The radiography video/audio recording will be reviewed against the data reported on the Permittees' radiography form to ensure that the data are correct and complete. If review of radiography scans recorded by the generator/storage site was used to perform confirmation, two observations must be performed for each shipment or two observations per day, whichever is less frequent.

B7-1e(2) Permittee Management Review

The radiography and/or visual examination data for each shipment shall receive a Permittee management review. This review will be performed before the affected waste shipment is disposed of at the WIPP. The review shall be performed by a designated member of Permittee management. The review will be performed in accordance with approved Permittee SOPs and will be documented on a review checklist. The reviewer(s) must approve the data as evidenced by signature, and as a consequence, ensure the following:

- The data are technically reasonable based on the technique used.
- The data have received independent technical review.
- The data indicate that the waste examined contained no ignitable, corrosive, or reactive waste and that the physical form of the waste was consistent with the waste stream description in the WSPF.
- QC checks have been performed (e.g., replicate scans, image quality checks).
- The data meet the established QAOs

Upon completion of the Permittee management review, the waste confirmation data for the shipment shall be submitted to the WIPP facility operating record as non-permanent records. Waste confirmation data includes radiography and VE data forms, video/audio media, and review checklists.

B7-2 Noncompliant Waste Identified During Waste Confirmation

If the Permittees identify noncompliant waste during waste confirmation at a generator/storage site (i.e., the waste does not match the waste stream description documented in the WSPF or there are liquids in excess of TSDF-WAC limits or compressed gases) the waste will not be shipped. The Permittees will suspend further shipments of the affected waste stream and issue a CAR to the generator/storage site. Shipments of affected waste streams shall not resume until the CAR has been closed. NMED will be notified within 24 hours of any suspension of waste stream shipments due to the identification of noncompliant waste during waste confirmation.

As part of the corrective action plan in response to the CAR, the generator/storage site will evaluate whether the waste characterization information documented in the Characterization Information Summary and/or WSPF for the waste stream must be updated because the results of waste confirmation for the waste stream indicated that the TRU mixed waste being examined did not match the waste stream description. The generator/storage site will thoroughly evaluate the potential impacts on waste that has been shipped to WIPP. The Permittees will evaluate the potential that prohibited items were shipped to WIPP and what remedial actions should occur, if any. The results of these evaluations will be provided to NMED before shipments of affected waste streams resume. If the Characterization Information Summary and/or WSPF requires revision, shipments of the affected waste stream shall not resume until the revised waste stream waste characterization information has been reviewed and approved by the Permittees.

If a generator/storage site certifies noncompliant waste more than once during a running 90-day period, the Permittees will suspend acceptance of that site's waste until the Permittees find that all corrective actions have been implemented and the site complies with all applicable requirements of the WAP.

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FIGURES

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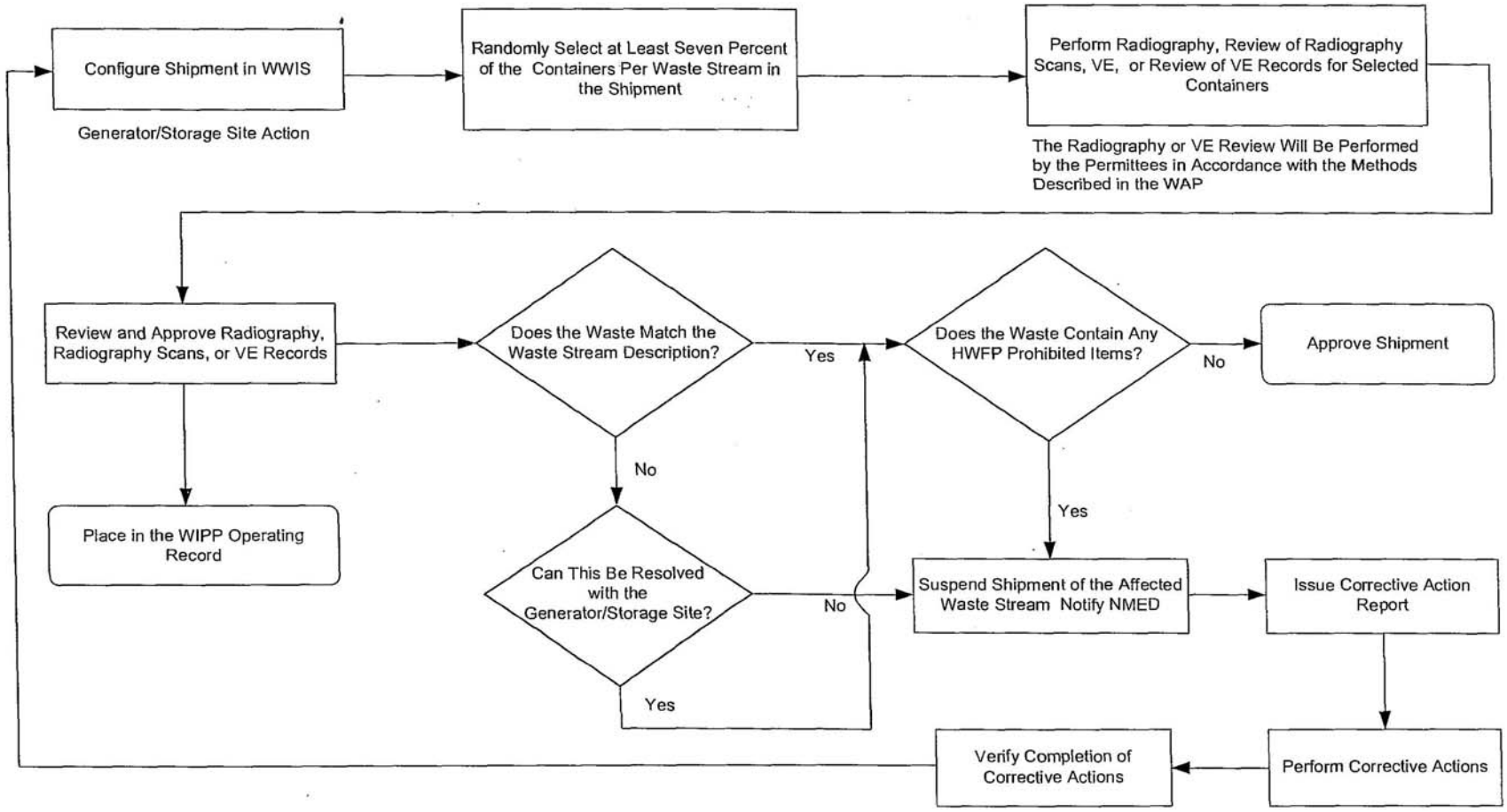

Figure B7-1
Overview of Waste Confirmation