

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Department of Energy

Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221
May 16, 2013

Mr. Jonathan Edwards, Director
Radiation Protection Division
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

Reference: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency letter to Mr. Edward Ziemianski
from Mr. Jonathan Edwards, dated August 8, 2011

Dear Mr. Edwards:

This letter is in response to the referenced letter, announcing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval of the Department of Energy's (DOE) change request to emplace a portion of the remote-handled (RH) transuranic (TRU) waste inventory in specially designed shielded containers at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). Your approval states: "*Prior to shipping shielded containers to WIPP, the DOE must demonstrate a consistent complex-wide procedure to ensure that shielded containers containing RH waste remain below the Land Withdrawal Act surface dose rate limit for contact-handled (CH) waste of 200 millirem per hour.*"

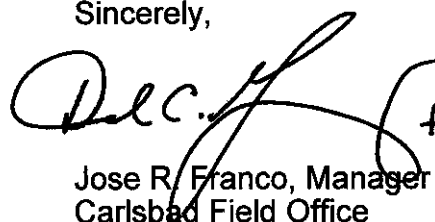
Per the EPA's request, the DOE-Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) has issued a complex-wide procedure, CCP-TP-081, *CCP Shielded Container Assembly Loading*, to ensure that the surface dose rate from shielded containers containing an RH waste drum is less than the limit of 200 millirem per hour. This procedure is included as Enclosure 1 to this letter. Note that the Land Withdrawal Act (LWA) determination of whether a particular waste drum is CH or RH waste is made prior to the waste drum being loaded into a shielded container.

DOE-CBFO management and staff have also received email correspondence the week of April 22nd, 2013 that indicates EPA still has a concern regarding "*dose rate measurement uncertainty*". DOE-CBFO's response to this concern is included as Enclosure 2 to this letter.

As the final step for EPA approval, DOE plans to provide EPA personnel a demonstration of the standardized complex-wide dose rate measurement procedure at the Argonne National Lab during the morning of June 13th, 2013. Logistics of that visit will be finalized between CBFO National TRU Program personnel and EPA personnel that plan to attend.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. J. R. Stroble, Director of the Office of the National TRU Program at (575) 234-7313.

Sincerely,

 for Jose R. Franco
Jose R. Franco, Manager
Carlsbad Field Office

Enclosure

Mr. Jonathan Edwards

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May 16, 2013

cc:

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