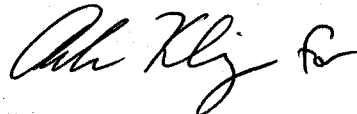


ensure that the characteristics of the waste in the repository are within the limits of the current performance assessment.

EPA is confident that the LANL-CCP program is adequately characterizing and tracking waste for emplacement at WIPP. EPA's next inspection of the waste characterization program at LANL-CCP is scheduled for May 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Gitlin" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bonnie Gitlin, Acting Director
Radiation Protection Division

cc: Linton Brooks, Administrator, NNSA
Don Hancock, SRIC
Frank Marcinowski, DOE
David Moody, CBFO
Steve Zappe, NMED