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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
Ground Water Protection and Remediation Bureau

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MARK E. WEIDLER  
SECRETARY

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 23, 1996

Steven Rae, Group Leader  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
ESH-18, MS K497  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge for Purge Water from  
Surveillance Wells at Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received your Notice of Intent, dated June 6, 1996, for the discharges of up to 8,500 gallons per day from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in accordance with Section 1201 of the NM Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The application satisfies the requirements of Section 1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your June 6, 1996 letter and additional information provided by Alex Puglisi by telephone October 9, 1996, a discharge plan is not being required for these discharges as long as the discharges are as described.

A discharge plan is not being required because it appears that the discharges conform to numerical ground water standards in WQCC Regulation 3103 and do not contain any toxic pollutants as defined in WQCC Regulation 1101.TT, and therefore are exempt from the discharge plan requirement under WQCC Reg.3105.A.

The exempt discharges are briefly described as follows:

Up to 8,500 gallons of purge water from environmental surveillance wells will be discharged on to the ground surface in locations and by a method that will not allow the purged water to enter a watercourse. Should the results from any analysis of water samples taken from any of the surveillance wells exceed WQCC standards, purge water from that well must be contained and disposed of by a method approved by NMED.



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Although a discharge plan is not being required for these discharges, you are not relieved of liability should your operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters. Further, this decision by the NMED does not relieve you of your responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements, plumbing codes and nuisance ordinances.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, the character, or location of your discharge so that it will not be as described, or if observation or monitoring shows that the discharge is not as described, you must file a new request for exemption with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section.

If you have any questions, please contact either Phyllis Bustamante of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section staff at 827-0166 or Dale Doremus, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:PAB/pab

xc: James Bearzi, District Manager, NMED Dist. II  
Jim Piatt, SWQB  
Steve Yanicak, DOE-OB, White Rock  
HRMB  
NOI File