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**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
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Certified-Return Receipt Requested  
# P 332 409 080

July 31, 1997

Mr. Steve R. Rae, Group Leader  
Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18)  
Mail Stop K497  
Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: LANL Response To May 22, 1997, Letter From the New Mexico Environment  
Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau (NMED-SWQB) Regarding Request For  
Additional Information

Dear Mr. Rae:

On June 18, 1997, NMED-SWQB received LANL's response to NMED-SWQB's request for additional information regarding a Notice of Intent (NOI) to discharge potable water for decontamination of tools and personal protective equipment (PPE) at Environmental Restoration (ER) Interim Action (IA) activities at LANL. NMED-SWQB has reviewed LANL's response and found it informative. However, since our last letter, factors which are discussed in this letter, have resulted in a request for certain information/decisions before making a final decision.

At the last NMED-SWQB/LANL Technical Meeting held July 16, 1997, ER group representatives presented a flow diagram which addressed the Notification of Intent to Discharge Process with regard to ER activities. Representatives at the meeting from NMED-SWB, NMED-HRMB and NMED-SWQB, provided comments to the proposed diagram. NMED-SWQB therefore has reservations about making a final decision regarding this NOI until a final version of the proposed diagram has been reviewed and a consensus between the three bureaus has been reached.



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In addition, the ER sites identified in the NOI are in the NMED-SWQB's list of PRS's which have surface water concerns. LANL has initiated an administrative 4.5 checklist which incorporates both ER and ESH-18 evaluation. The 4.5 evaluation also allows for a measure (high, medium, low) surface water impact from PRS's, decision on whether Best Management (BMP) should be installed, and a means to evaluate the regulatory requirement to submit a discharge notification pursuant to WQCC Section 1203.

Barbara Hoditschek of my staff has already spoken to Steve Veenis of ESH-18 concerning the ER sites that need 4.5 evaluation, and to Harvey Decker about talking with Alex Puglisi on the development of the diagram for the ER NOI process. When the requested information is received, NMED-SWQB with input from NMED-SWB and NMED-HRMB, will attempt to resolve this issue.

If you have any questions concerning this letter please call me at (505) 827-2827 or Barbara Hoditschek at (505) 827-0596. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Glenn Saums  
Manager, PSRS

cc: S. Dinwiddie, Ph.D., NMED-HRMB  
M. Leavitt, NMED-SWB  
J. Parker, NMED-DOE/OB  
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File:LANL:NOI

