

John

Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY
memorandum

*Risk Reduction & Environmental Stewardship Division
Water Quality & Hydrology Group
(RRES-WQH)*

To/MS: SWAT Team Members
From/MS: Steve Veenis, RRES-WQH, MS K497 **SV**
Phone/Fax: 7-0013/5-9344
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Date: May 29, 2002

General
"SWAT", Storm Water Permit

**SUBJECT: FINAL SURFACE WATER ASSESSMENT TEAM MEETING MINUTES FOR
APRIL 30, 2002**

1.0 PURPOSE

The Surface Water Site Assessment Team (SWAT) recently began a new effort to review the Laboratory's Storm Water Monitoring Program for the Multi-Sector General Permit. A Data Quality Objective (DQO) process will be used to determine the adequacy of the data collected by the Laboratory's monitoring network. The SWAT role is to provide a review of Industrial Activities, SWMUs, station locations, analytical methods, Benchmark Parameters and approved monitoring waivers and to make recommendations on how to improve the overall approach.

2.0 DISCUSSION

2.1 Pollution Prevention Award for SWAT

On April 25, Pollution Prevention Awards were presented at the Physics Building Auditorium. This is the seventh year of the Pollution Prevention Awards program (RRES-PP) to recognize Laboratory employees and subcontract personnel who have changed how they perform their work to better the environment at the Laboratory. SWAT members received a certificate acknowledging their specific pollution prevention accomplishment.

The Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT) includes LANL/RRES-WQH, DOE/OB, DOE/OLASO and NMED/SWQB staff. The SWAT was originally tasked with recommending appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) based on the findings of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 2.01 - Surface Water Site Assessments. To-date, BMPs (i.e., erosion controls) have been installed at over 200 sites throughout the Laboratory in an effort to reduce the migration potential of contaminated sediments through erosional processes.

In addition to the these recommendations, the SWAT provided valuable technical review and input for:

- Identifying Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) with existing PCB concentrations of greater than 1 part per million (ppm) and assuring that erosion controls have been implemented at these sensitive locations;
- Providing evaluation and reporting on the BMPs installed at Solid Waste Management Units impacted by the Cerro Grande Fire;
- Coordinating and helping implement a BMP Effectiveness Study at TA-46 to assess different types of erosion controls in burned and non-burned areas; and,



- Coordinating the completion of a Data Quality Objective (DQO) process for the Laboratory's NPDES Storm Water Monitoring Program. This process will provide the necessary communication and interaction needed to get regulator approval of the storm water monitoring approach.

Thanks to support from the DOE and New Mexico Environment Department, the SWAT has been recognized as an effective resource for identifying areas that may impact water quality at the Laboratory and assuring that appropriate corrective actions are recommended and implemented.

2.2 Representative Samples

The Team agreed that a definition is needed to reflect the concept of "representative sample". The following statement is the official definition for "representative sample".

"Storm samples are collected from a representative sampling location when one collects storm water runoff from the majority of the exposed industrial activity and minimizes the storm water collected from non-regulated areas outside of the industrial activity. All samples will be collected in accordance with the procedures set forth in the **approved** Storm Water Monitoring Plan developed by RRES-WQH."

2.3 Treatment, Storage, Disposal Facilities (TSDF)

TA-54 West

Proposal: A proposal was made to continue the submittal of Discharge Monitoring Reports for this station. The gaging station (E220) is located at the appropriate location to collect representative samples from this activity. The potential exists for this site to apply for the non-exposure exclusion.

Rationale: The regulated activities are conducted within the confines of building 54-38. The loading dock and access to the High Bay area is located within the drainage area of E220.

Questions:

- A follow up field visit and FM interview will be conducted to assess the potential for non-exposure exclusion.

Resolution:

DMR submittals will continue until a field investigation determines that a non-exposure exclusion is warranted.

TA-14 Open Detonation Site

Proposal: Either to install a single-stage sampler within drainage that is "representative" of the discharges emitting from 14-23 firing point and burn cage or to construct an earthen berm that will stop any storm water runoff from leaving the site of the regulated activity.

Rationale: The existing gaging station (E262) is located at the confluence of Canon de Valle and Water Canyon approximately four miles downstream. Since other source terms are located upstream within Canon de Valle and downstream within TA-15, the existing location for monitoring is not representative.

Questions:

- Can an appropriate drainage be selected that will be representative of storm water discharges emitting from site?
- Can the geometry of the drainage selected be determined to satisfy the total flow estimated requirement?
- If it is determined that the use of single stage samplers is appropriate, then a description of how the single stage samples will be installed and sampled will be included in the approved storm water monitoring plan.
- Can a berm or retention area be installed to prevent storm water runoff from leaving site? If so, storm water monitoring may not be required.

Resolution:

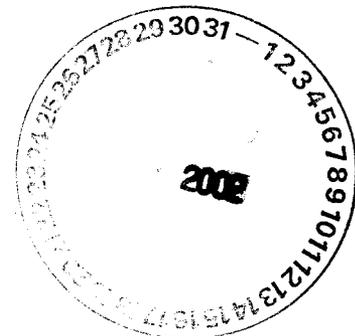
A field trip was conducted at the site on May 24, 2002. The SWAT determined that an earthen berm to prevent releases was not a viable option. A site was selected for the installation of a single-stage sampler east southeast from the existing firing pad. A pin flag was placed at the selected location. The WQH-Operations Team will conduct a field assessment to determine the appropriate location for sampling.

Participants:

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