

General



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

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PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 7, 2002

Steven Rae, Group Leader
Water Quality & Hydrology Group
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K497
RRES-WQH: 02-273
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge for Los Alamos National Laboratory's Hydrogeologic Workplan Wells

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has reviewed your notices of intent, dated July 16, 2002, and August 2, 2001, for the discharge of up to 96,000 gallons per day (gpd) of drilling and development water, and 1,500 gpd of sampling purge water from 23 regional aquifer wells described under Los Alamos National Laboratory's Hydrogeologic Workplan. The wells will be drilled at various locations throughout T18N, T19N, R5E, R6E, and R7E, Los Alamos County. The notices of intent satisfy the requirements of Section 20.6.2.1201 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your notices of intent, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described in the notices of intent. The decision to discharge must follow the guidelines specified in the Workplan NOI Decision Tree (Figure 1, Revised 07/15/02). The Ground Water Quality Bureau has concluded that if the guidelines specified in the NOI are met, then the proposed discharge will not adversely impact ground water, and a discharge plan will not be required. However, if the results of the analysis of drilling water, development water, or sampling purge water exceed the Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC WQCC ground water standards or applicable RCRA regulatory limits, then disposal must be coordinated with NMED on a site specific basis.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows: A maximum of 96,000 gpd of drilling water and development water, and a maximum of 1,500 gpd of sampling purge water from 23 regional aquifer wells will be land applied with a portable sprinkler system, or applied to the access roads and



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General HWP

Steven Rae
August 7, 2002
Page 2

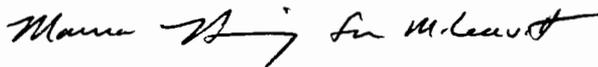
well site for dust suppression. Prior to discharge, the drilling water and development water will be sampled and analyzed to determine compliance with Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC WQCC ground water standards and applicable RCRA regulatory limits.

Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge at this time, 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, the screening process, or the 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 notice of intent with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (GWPPS).

If you have any questions, please contact either Curt Frischkorn of the GWPPS staff at 827-0078 or Maura Hanning, Program Manager of the GWPPS at 827-2945.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:CSF/csf

xc: Bob Beers, Water Quality and Hydrology Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory, P.O.
Box 1663, MS K497, RRES-WQH: 02-273, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
Courte Voorhees, District Manager, NMED District II
██████████, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
NOI File