



General
State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
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BILL RICHARDSON
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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

July 30, 2003

Steven R. Rae, Group Leader
 Water Quality and Hydrology Group
 Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division
 Los Alamos National Laboratory
 P.O. Box 1663, MS K497
 (RRES-ECR)
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge Well Development Water and Purge Water Associated with the Environmental Restoration Program's Pilot Study Los Alamos Canyon, Alluvial Well LAO-0.3 & intermediate Well LAOI-1.1

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has reviewed your notice of intent (NOI), dated March 18, 2003, for the discharge of approximately 100 gallons of containerized groundwater from purging wells LAO-0.3 and LAOI-1.1 prior to sampling. The NOI was submitted as an addendum to a NOI dated April 3, 1996. The wells are located in Section 16, T19N, R6E, Los Alamos County. The notice of intent satisfies the requirements of Section 20.6.2.1201 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations.

Based on the information submitted with your notice of intent, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described in the notice of intent and associated data. The Ground Water Quality Bureau has concluded that the proposed discharge will not adversely impact ground water, and a discharge plan will not be required.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows: Approximately 50 gallons of groundwater will be purged from each of the wells referenced above, prior to each sampling event. Purge water will be discharged onto the surface of the land in the vicinity of the wells. No portion of the discharged purge water will be allowed to enter a watercourse, and no ponding or runoff will occur at the discharge site.



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Purge water from wells LAO-0.3 and LAOI-1.1 may be discharged as described above, and in the NOI dated March 18, 2003 if the analytical results from the previous sampling event demonstrate that ground water concentrations are below Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC standards. If analytical results from the previous sampling event indicate exceedances of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC standards, purge water must be containerized and water samples shall be collected and analyzed prior to discharge. The containerized purge water may be discharged onto the ground surface if purge water concentrations are below Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC standards. If purge water concentrations exceed Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC standards, analytical results shall be submitted to NMED for further review. After reviewing the analytical data, NMED will determine if the containerized ground water may be discharged at the site.

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, 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,



Jerry Schoeppner, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:CSF/csf

xc: Mark Haagenstad, Water Quality and Hydrology Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory,
P.O. Box 1663, MS K497, RRES-WQH, Los Alamos, NM 87545
Cecilia Williams, District Manager, NMED District II
John Young, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Brett Lucas, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
NOI File