



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Water Quality Bureau
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General



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 10, 2005

Steven Rae, Group Leader
Water Quality & Hydrology Group
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS J591
Los Alamos, NM 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge for Los Alamos National Laboratory

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED, Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has reviewed your Notice of Intent dated December 17, 2004 for the discharge of up to 300 gallons per day of potable water used in potholing. Potholing will be used in lieu of traditional excavation for locating utility lines. The pothole water will be discharged onsite and allowed to evaporate or be used as dust suppression onsite. The notice satisfies the requirements of Section 20.6.2.1201.A of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC).

Based on the information provided in your Notice of Intent, NMED has determined that a Discharge Permit is not required as long as the discharge is as described. Based on the information provided in your NOI, the New Mexico GWQB has concluded that the proposed discharge will not adversely impact ground water, and a Discharge Permit will not be required.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows: A maximum of 300 gpd of pothole water will be discharged onsite and either allowed to evaporate or be used as dust suppression.

Although a Discharge Permit 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 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,



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plumbing codes and nuisance ordinances.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, character or location of your discharge, or if observation or monitoring shows that the discharge is not as described in your Notice of Intent, you must file a new request for exemption with the Ground Water Quality Bureau.

If you have any questions, please contact either Chris Vick of the GWPPS staff at 827-0078 or George Schuman, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section, at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



William C. Olson, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

WO:cv

cc: Bob Beers, Water Quality & Hydrology Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory, P.O.
Box 1663, MS K497, Los Alamos, NM 87545
Cecilia Williams, District Manager, NMED District II
John Young, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED, PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
NOI File
County File