



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

General
State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Water Quality Bureau
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RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

November 7, 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) received a Notice of Intent on September 14, 2005 to discharge up to 120 gallons per day of bentonite drilling fluid from horizontal directional drilling for placement of utilities under roadways, canyons, watercourses and specifically related areas. 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 (NOI), NMED has determined that a Discharge Permit is not required as long as the discharge is as described. The Ground Water Quality Bureau 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 120 gallons per day of bentonite drilling fluid (bentonite clay and potable water) will be used as drilling fluid for horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The HDD operation will be conducted in lieu of normal trenching operations for placement of utilities under roadways, canyons, watercourses and specifically related areas.

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



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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, 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 or George Schuman, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section, at 505-827-2900.

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
NMED Santa Fe Field Office
John Young, Hazardous Waste Bureau, NMED, PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
NOI File
County File