

NEW MEXICO
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
DEPARTMENT

April 7, 1987

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT DIVISION

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Governor
LARRY GORDON
Secretary
CARLA L. MUTH
Deputy Secretary

Mr. Harold E. Valencia
Area Manager
DOE/Albuquerque Operations
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

RECEIVED
APR 7 1987
GROUND WATER/HAZARDOUS WASTE
BUREAU

RE: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit NM0028355

Dear Mr. Valencia

I have received a copy of your March 12, 1987 letter to Michael Burkhardt discussing your surface impoundment at Technical Area 16 (TA-16) and the discharge of barium from the NPDES outfall. Your letter states you treated the liquid to remove the barium and then discharged the effluent. Your letter further states that samples of the effluent indicate barium levels exceeding 100 mg/l. Your NPDES application dated April 7, 1986 stated no barium was expected to be found in the discharge.

40 CFR 122.41(l)(8) states: "Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information." Our files do not contain a copy of such a notification. Please provide us with a copy of any related correspondence to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) you may have sent concerning the barium discharge.

Your letter also states that you have begun design work on an accumulation tank which would provide the ability to treat the effluent prior to the discharge. Part II, Section D.1.(a) and (b) contains requirements for reporting notification of planned changes. Part II, Section D.1.(b) specifically states notification is required when the alteration or addition could significantly change the nature [emphasis added] or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged." The notification requirement is applicable to pollutants which are not covered by effluent limitations in the permit. Be aware of this requirement and please notify EPA when your design work is complete. The language in the permit actually states "the permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible . . ." Please send copies of any correspondence concerning this subject to Glenn Saums of my staff. If you have similar conditions

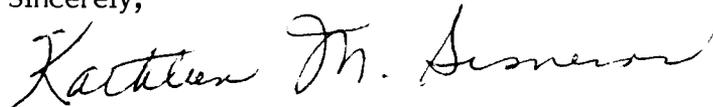


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or instances of discharges of pollutants from other outfalls which may require notification to EPA, please notify EPA as soon as possible and send copies of that correspondence also to Mr. Saums.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Sisneros
Chief
Surface Water Quality Bureau

cc: Kirkland Jones, Assistant Director
Richard Mitzelfelt/Kelly Crossman/GWHWB
Roger Hartung, EPA, Enforcement
Jack Ferguson, EPA, NPDES Permitting
Susan Stark, EPA, 6H-HS