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Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos New Mexico 87545

memorandum

TO: Michael Brandt, ADP, MS A114 — DATE: September 16, 1991

TO: Kenneth Hargis, EM-8, MS K490 — MAIL STOP/TELEPHONE: K490/5-6085
Steven Rae, EM-8, MS K490

FROM: Mike Saladen, EM-8 — SYMBOL: EM-8:91-265

SUBJECT: **DEFICIENCY NOTED AT TA-53 LAGOONS DURING THE AUGUST 29-30, 1991 INSPECTION BY THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT.**

On August 29-30, 1991, inspectors from the Surface Water Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted an inspection of the sanitary wastewater treatment facilities at the Laboratory. The NMED was evaluating the Laboratory's compliance for operation and maintenance of these sanitary treatment facilities under the NPDES Permit. During the inspection of the TA-53 Sanitary Lagoons, a red milky liquid was observed entering the influent box between the north lagoons. This liquid was so intense that it was observed rising from the inlet pipe inside of the northwest lagoon.

As you know, these lagoons are included under Part A "Mixed Waste" portion of the Laboratory's RCRA Permit and there must be no additional hazardous waste or radioactive waste introduced into these lagoons. A red ring was observed around the inside of the influent box indicating that this liquid or a similar liquid had been previously discharged into the lagoons. Only sanitary wastewater may be discharged into these lagoons under the Laboratory's NPDES Permit.

Please be advised that the NMED inspectors consider this discharge a very serious matter and they have requested that the source be located and controlled, and that a follow-up report be submitted to them. The NMED is preparing a written report noting this deficiency and requesting corrective actions. A copy of the NMED report will be forwarded to you as soon as it is available. In the interim, it is recommended that the operating group find the source and immediately eliminate it from the sanitary lagoons.

Please note that the Laboratory could be subject to fines and penalties, and even shut-down of facilities, if this discharge is not controlled. Please call Steven Rae at 665-1859 or Mike Saladen at 665-6085 if further discussion would be helpful.

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