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Permit

Notification of Discharge

Los Alamos National Laboratory
NPDES Permit No. NM0028355
October 7, 1991

1. **Location of Discharge**

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Technical Area (TA)-21, Outfall 050
DP Canyon

2. **Nature of Discharge**

On September 26, 1991, the NPDES Outfall 050 discharge pipe appeared to have leaked a small amount of wastewater from a plug previously installed at the end of the pipe. Outfall 050 is permitted to discharge wastewater from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Plant at TA-21, Building 257, however, wastewater has not been discharged from this outfall since June, 1985. The outfall was inspected on August 12, 1991, during a quarterly inspection by the Laboratory's Waste Management Group (EM-7), and no sign of a leak was noted at that time. A sample taken from the pipe on October 4, 1991, showed the following:

pH	7.7 s.u.
Alpha	410.0 pCi/L
Beta	1.1 nCi/L
Gamma	7.0 nCi/L
Tritium	44.0 nCi/L

3. **Amount of Discharge**

The total volume of discharge was estimated to be approximately 1.5 liters.

4. **Discharge Discovery, Investigation and Notification**

A puddle of liquid below the outfall was discovered on September 26, 1991, during a Department of Energy (DOE) Tiger Team Survey. The Tiger Team notified EM-7 at 4:00 pm on September 27, 1991. The Laboratory's Emergency Management Office (EMO) was contacted concerning the puddle at approximately 5:11 pm on September 27, 1991. The Laboratory's Environmental Protection Group (EM-8) was notified at 5:12 pm on September 27, 1991. Dr. Maggi Gallaher who was on-call for the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) emergency hot-line was contacted by EM-8 at 7:00 pm on September 27, 1991. EM-8 contacted the EPA noncompliance hot-line at 7:01 pm on September 27, 1991.

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5. Affected Area

The puddle of liquid was detected only on the concrete splash pad located under the outfall. No other area is believed to be affected by the seepage.

6. Mitigation of Affected Area

No mitigation has been performed since the small area does not appear to be adversely affected by the discharge.

7. Corrective Actions

After being notified of the potential leak, EM-7 tightened the existing pipe plug and installed containment around the end of the pipe on September 27, 1991. Permanent plugs were installed on the valves leading to the discharge pipe on October 1, 1991. On October 4, 1991, samples were taken from behind the pipe plug which was believed to be leaking to the splash pad. Approximately 0.75 liters of water was contained behind this plug. The water was analyzed for radioactivity and NPDES monitoring constituents. The outfall will continue to be visually inspected on a weekly schedule.

8. Names, Phone Numbers and Addresses of Persons in Charge

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