



State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU
 P.O. Box 1663, MS/J-993
 Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



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May 15, 1998

Mr. Mat Johansen, AIP POC
 U.S. Department of Energy
 Los Alamos Area Office
 528 35th Street, MS A316
 Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Inspection Observations and Recommendations concerning NPDES outfalls scheduled for deletion through the Waste Stream Characterization Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

Dear Mr. Johansen:

The following NPDES outfalls are to be scheduled for deletion from LANL's NPDES permit through the Waste Stream Characterization Program. DOE OB and LANL ESH-18 staff completed non-regulatory inspections of these outfalls on the indicated dates and concur that they are no longer in use, with the exception of EPA Outfalls 04A153, which is still being used for storm water discharges. DOE OB observations and recommendations for each outfall are listed on the attachment. This inspection was requested by ESH-18 and a copy of this correspondence will be transmitted to the ESH-18 Group Leader.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Dennis Romero, of our staff, at 672-0459.

Sincerely,

Stephen Yanicak

Steve Yanicak, LANL POC
 Department of Energy Oversight Bureau

SY:dr

cc w/o attachments:

John Parker, NMED, Chief, DOE OB

LANL / Rom - HSWA / NPDES



cc w/attachments:

Stu Dinwiddie, NMED, Program Manager, HRMB
Glen Saums, NMED, Program Manager, SWQB
Barbara Hoditscheck, NMED, SWQB
Ralph Ford-Schmid, NMED, DOE OB
Joe Mose, DOE LAAO, ER Remedial Action Group, MS A316
Bonnie Koch, DOE LAAO, ER Canyons Investigations Group, MS A316
Roy Michelotti, LANL, ER Remedial Action Group, CST-7, MS E525
Allyn Pratt, LANL, ER Canyons Investigations Group, MS J521
Steve Rae, LANL, Group Leader, ESH-18, MS K497
Michael Saladen, ESH-18, MS K497
Tina Sandoval, ESH-18, MS K497
Michael Alexander, ESH-18, MS K497

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DOE OB Inspection List of Observations and Recommendations

OUTFALL: 04A174

LOCATION: Building TA-0-GUAJ W#4

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5-14-98

DELETION METHOD: Building TA-0-GUAJ W#4 is in the process of being decontaminated and decommissioning. The source of the outfall was ground water overflow/pressure relief from Guaje Production Well #4. There are no PRS's in the area. All sources to the outfall have been eliminated.

OUTFALL STATUS: Outfall is no longer in use.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends that this outfall be taken off the NPDES industrial permit. No further action is necessary.

OUTFALL: 04A153

LOCATION: Building TA-48-1

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5-14-98

DELETION METHOD: All sources to outfall, with the exception of storm water drains have been either plugged or rerouted to sanitary sewer lines. A malfunctioning vacuum pump located on the roof of Building 48-1 which was discharging to the outfall has been repaired. ESH-18 personnel have checked this outfall for signs of discharge over the past two months. The outfall has been dry during this time.

OUTFALL STATUS: Continued use only during storm water events (1/3 of storm water drains from Building 48-1 drain into this outfall).

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends that this outfall be removed from the NPDES industrial permit. This outfall does feed a wetland which is classified as a PRS (PRS 48-010). DOE OB also recommends that the wetlands (PRS 48-010) be reexamined under AP 4.5 at a later date in order to evaluate the potential for contaminant transport, as some of the plant cover may be diminished due to the decreased amount of water from this source.

OUTFALL: 03A025

LOCATION: Building TA-3-208

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5-14-98

DELETION METHOD: Building 3-208 is a candidate for decontamination and decommissioning. The cooling water tower and basin were drained and cleaned. The cooling tower outlet has been capped. Mechanical equipment has been locked-out/tagged-out by the facility manager. There are three drains inside the building which are tied into the outfall. One of the drains has been sealed. Two drains remain open to the outfall due to operational concerns (fire suppression system is still online). The two drains have been surrounded with sorbent pillows. There is a break in the outfall pipe approximately 5 ft from the outfall. The facility did use/store small amounts of tritium during its operational lifetime.

OUTFALL STATUS: Outfall no longer in use.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends that this outfall be removed from the NPDES industrial permit. Any discharge from the fire suppression system will be covered by a general notice of intent (NOI) to discharge, which has been submitted to the NMED. In addition, we recommend the following concerns be addressed (these concerns will not affect outfall deletion): This outfall was never listed as a PRS in the RFI Work Plan for OU-1114. Because there is a very slight possibility that this outfall may be a PRS, we recommend that the pipe and the drainage area immediately below the outfall be investigated through AP 4.5 for possible inclusion in LANL's HSWA permit.

OUTFALL: 03A125

LOCATION: Building TA53-28

DATE OF INSPECTION: 5-14-98

DELETION METHOD: The source for this outfall was a cooling tower blowdown pipe. The pipe was rerouted to a sanitary sewer line in 1992. The cooling tower is now scheduled for removal. There is no longer any source to this outfall.

OUTFALL STATUS: Outfall no longer in use.

RECOMMENDATION: The DOE OB recommends that this outfall be taken off the NPDES industrial permit. The outfall and its associated piping were not located near a PRS. No further action for this outfall is necessary.