

Permit ~~XXXXXX~~
Los Alamos
NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: July 31, 1998
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:98-0255
Mail Stop: K497
Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Sitewide
NPDES Permit

Mr. Taylor M. Sharpe
6EN-WT
USEPA REGION 6
Fountain Place
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

**SUBJECT: INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO EPA INSPECTION OF MAY 14&15,
1998 AND MEETING WITH EPA OF JULY 1, 1998**

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

On July 1, 1998, representatives from the Los Alamos National Laboratory presented an overview of the Laboratory's Storm Water Program to Mr. Taylor Sharpe, Mr. Brent Larsen, and Mr. Syed Shahriyar of EPA Region VI. This presentation was to provide additional information about the Laboratory's Storm Water Program and to provide an update to Mr. Sharpe on the corrective actions taken from his compliance inspection on May 14 and 15, 1998. Other items discussed include: storm water discharges from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and the need for SWPP Plans for these discharges; future permitting under the Modified Multi-Sector Permit; and, the use of a watershed monitoring approach to meet the new monitoring requirements under Multi-Sector General Permit. Commitments made during this meeting by the Laboratory included an update by July 31, 1998, as to the status of corrective actions taken from the inspection.

In response to the EPA findings presented at the inspection close-out meetings on May 14 and 15, 1998, the Laboratory has completed the following corrective actions:

1. For the Material Disposal Area (MDA) G at Technical Area (TA) 54, the maintenance of BMPs has been completed. The amendments to the SWPP Plan including, Signatory Authority Delegation, names of SWPP Plan Team Members, spill response and reporting procedures, and monitoring data have been completed. For the other observations noted by Mr. Ralph Ford-Schmid DOE/OB, on March 18, 1998, all of the items addressing BMP maintenance have been completed. For the three recommendations that address new BMP installations, designs have been completed and installation is scheduled to be completed by August 31, 1998.



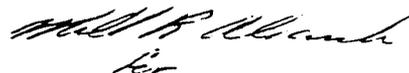
15717

2. For the SWMU 21-011(k), 300 sandbags and about 100 straw bales were installed at the site. An entire new row of sandbags was added to the upstream face and top of the existing sandbag berm. All of the decaying straw bales above the site were removed. These straw bales were not replaced since the sandbag berm is diverting all run-on around the site. At the bottom of the site, an additional row of straw bales was placed on the upstream side of each section of BMP.
3. For the TA-39 Firing Sites 56 and 88, firing site operators are being trained on the latest revision to the SWPP Plan. This training includes an overview of the SWPP Plan, BMPs and the inspection and maintenance of these BMPs. The shot debris observed at Firing Site 88 has been cleaned-up.
4. Please note that the Laboratory has completed a strategy to provide coverage of all Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) under Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP) Plan(s) including those SWMUs with no visible point source or conveyance channel. Please see the attached Draft SWPP Plan Development Strategy which was prepared as a result of our discussions on July 1, 1998. As discussed in the meeting, the strategy includes SWMUs with no point source or conveyance channel, even though the Laboratory does not agree with EPA's legal position regarding these SWMUs.

If there you have any questions or if any additional information would be useful, please contact Mike Alexander of the Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group at (505) 665-4752.

In addition, I would like to thank you, Mr. Larsen, and Mr. Shahriyar for the opportunity to meet and discuss the Laboratory's Storm Water Program.

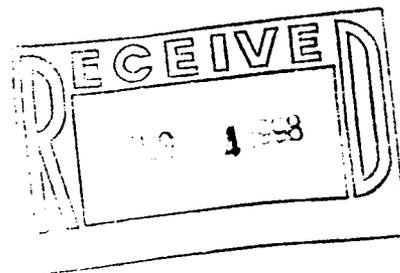
Sincerely,



Steven Rae
Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

SR:MA/rj

Cy: B. Larsen, 6WQ-PP, USEPA REGION 6, Dallas, Texas
S. Shahriyar, 6WQ-PP, USEPA Region 6, Dallas, Texas
R. Powell, NMED, Santa Fe, New Mexico
B. Koch, DOE/LAAO, MS A316
T. Stanford, EMSWO, MS J595
R. Day, DX-DO, MS P915
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, MS K491
L. McAtee, ESH-DO, MS K491



Cy: (cont'd)

T. George, ER Project, MS M992
D. McInroy, ER Project, MS M992
S. Mee, EM\SWO, MS J595
S. French, EM\ESO-ESH-19, MS J595
B. Wechsler, EM\SWO, MS J593
J. Vasilik, DX, MS P944
F. Sisneros, DX-FM\ESH-7, MS P915
M. Alexander, ESH-18, MS K497
R. Reynolds, ESH-18, MS K497
S. Veenis, ESH-18, MS K497
WQ&H File, MS K497
CIC-10, MS A150

Los Alamos National Laboratory

SWMU Coverage under the NPDES Storm Water Program

SWPP Plan Development Strategy

The Los Alamos National Laboratory will develop SWPP Plan covering SWMUs. This SWPP Plan will follow the guidance found in the NPDES Baseline General and Multi-Sector General Permits. The following describes the Laboratory's strategy for developing these Plan(s).

- Only SWMUs that meet the definition of industrial activity will be included in these SWPP Plan(s).
 - Currently there are 1082 SWMUs in Module VIII of the Laboratory's RCRA Operating Permit.
- These SWMUs will be reviewed and a determination made as to the potential of these sites contributing potential pollutants to storm water runoff. Aggregation of these SWMUs will fall into the following categories.
 - SWMUs that have been proposed for NFA, these sites will be sorted by criteria.
 - SWMUs that are not exposed to storm water or storm water runoff, these sites include sites that are located within buildings or are subsurface units.
 - SWMUs that have been remediated.
- The remaining inactive SWMUs will be separated into those units that are active or inactive.
 - Active SWMUs will be covered operational SWPP Plans.
- The remaining SWMUs will be separated into different groups that are sorted by drainage areas and facility ownership.
- For each of these groups, SWMUs that do not demonstrate a distinct point source discharge, or other forms of storm water runoff, and are located on flat terrain, the SWPP Plan will include generic BMPs, such as;
 - Maintenance of existing vegetation.
 - Review of all proposed and on-going activities in the area to ensure the site is not disturbed.
 - Inspection on Generic BMPs.
 - Other Administrative Controls.
- For each of these groups of SWMUs the SWPP Plan(s) will include BMPS and inspection and maintenance criteria as specified in the General Permits.
 - The Surface Water Assessment Team (SWAT) recommendations from Site Specific Surface Water Assessment Process (AP 4.5), will be used to determine appropriate BMPs. These recommendations will be incorporated into the Plan.

Year of Permit	Start Date	Through Date	Activity
First	October 1995	September 1996	(prepare & begin implementing SWPPP)
Second	October 1996	September 1997	(2nd year monitoring)
Third	October 1997	September 1998	continue implementing SWPPP
Fourth	October 1998	September 1999	(4th year monitoring)
Fifth	October 1999	September 2000	(permit expires)

Multi-Sector Permit Eligibility

Most facilities that meet the definition of "storm water associated with industrial activity" in 40 C.F.R. 122.26(b)(14) are eligible for the Multi-Sector permit. However, not all sectors of industrial activities applied for group coverage and there are a few industries required to have storm water permit coverage that are not eligible for the Multi-Sector permit. Currently, the only available general permit for these industrial activities is the Baseline Industrial storm water permit. The following is a list that includes most facilities that are required to have a storm water permit but are not eligible for the Multi-Sector permit according to their SIC codes: 2833, 2834, 2835, 2836, 2911, 3131, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3149, 3151, 3161, 3171, 3172, 3199, 3274, 3281, 3291, 3292, 3296, 3299. Also included are "open dumps" which are defined as solid waste disposal units that are not in compliance with State and Federal criteria established under RCRA Subtitle D. Caution: this may not be an all inclusive list. Please review individual sectors in Part XI of the Multi-Sector permit to determine any additional limitations on eligibility. Please review above the proposed modifications to the Multi-Sector permit addressing these industries.

Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU):

Any discernible waste management unit from which hazardous constituents may migrate, irrespective of whether the unit was intended for management of solid or hazardous wastes. The types of units considered SWMUs are landfills, surface impoundments, waste piles, land treatment units, incinerators, injection wells, tanks, container storage areas, waste water treatment system, and transfer stations. In addition, areas associated with production processes at facilities that have become contaminated as a result of routine, systematic, and deliberate releases of wastes (which may include abandoned or discarded product), or hazardous constituents from wastes, are considered SWMUs.

SWMUs usually meet the definition of industrial activity in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(iv-v), thereby requiring an NPDES storm water permit. A SWMU might not be an industrial activity if it contains no waste materials received from other industrial activities defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14), and the SWMU is not subject to Subtitle C or D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Additionally, SWMUs that only contain radioactive wastes regulated under the Atomic Energy Act (42 USC 201 et seq.), and no other pollutants, may be exempt because the definition of "pollutant" (40 CFR 122.2) excludes certain radioactive wastes. SWMUs that contain radioactive wastes are regulated by the Department of Energy.

Radioactive waste SWMUs frequently contain other pollutants from industrial activities, thereby subjecting them to the NPDES permitting program. Such facilities are regulated both by EPA and the Department of Energy.