

LANL Permit ~~2000~~ (NPDES Permit) 1998 805665442

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: **March 18, 1999**
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H-99-0093
Mail Stop: K497
Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Mr. William Hathaway, Director
Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

**SUBJECT: NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0028355, SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR
NPDES PERMIT RE-APPLICATION BASED UPON RECENT WASTE
STREAM SURVEY**

Dear Mr. Hathaway:

On May 4, 1998, the U. S. Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office (DOE-LAAO) and the University of California (UC) submitted an application for renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (Laboratory). The Laboratory's NPDES Permit Re-Application was provided in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 122.21 and NPDES Permit No. NM0028355. The Laboratory's NPDES Permit Re-Application provided specific information regarding the Technical Area 50 Radioactive Liquid Wastewater Treatment Facility (TA-50 RLWTF).

The TA-50 RLWTF treats industrial and radioactive waste received from facilities throughout the Laboratory. The treated effluent is discharged into Mortandad Canyon through NPDES Outfall 051. During 1998, a working group was established to evaluate alternatives to attain zero discharge of treated wastewater from the TA-50 RLWTF to Mortandad Canyon. In support of the Zero Discharge Project, the Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) and Environmental Management Division, Radioactive Liquid Waste Group (EM-RLW), sponsored a series of radioactive liquid waste minimization surveys of Laboratory facilities. Benchmark Environmental Corporation (Benchmark) conducted surveys to identify generators and discharges of tritium and accelerator-produced isotopes into the TA-50 RLWTF. Based on the surveys, Benchmark prepared the "Radioactive Liquid Waste Minimization Survey Report For Tritium and Accelerator-Produced Isotopes", dated February 4, 1999 (copy enclosed). The report identifies a list of potential discharges of tritium and accelerator-produced isotopes to the TA-50 RLWTF. Please note that these accelerator-produced isotopes are present in small amounts in the influent to TA-50 RLWTF. These isotopes originate primarily from medical tracer and environmental monitoring research activities at the Laboratory. The Laboratory is providing this supplemental information because it was not included in the Laboratory's NPDES Permit Re-Application, dated May 4, 1998.



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Mr. William Hathaway
ESH-18/WQ&H:99-0093

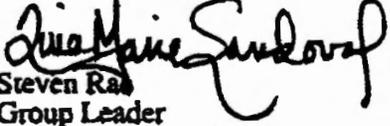
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ESH-18, Benchmark and EM-RLW personnel will continue working with operating groups to investigate pollution prevention and waste minimization opportunities to meet the zero discharge goal. Potential opportunities include segregation and collection of radioactive waste streams, and treatment and storage at alternative disposal sites.

Please contact me at (505) 665-1859 or Mike Saladen at (505) 665-6085 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


for Steven Rao
Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

SR/MS/mm

Enclosures: a/s

Cy: E. Spencer, EPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas, w/enc.
S. Wilson, EPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas, w/enc.
P. Bustamante, NMED/GWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico, w/enc.
B. Hoditschek, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico, w/enc.
J. Vozella, DOE/LAAO, w/enc., MS A316
J. Plum, DOE/LAAO, w/o enc., MS A316
T. Gunderson, DLDOPS, w/o enc., MS A100
T. Baca, EM-DO, w/o enc., MS J591
S. Hanson, EM-RLW, w/o enc., MS E518
P. Worland, EM-RLW, w/o enc., MS E518
D. Woitte, LC-GEN, w/o enc., MS A187
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, w/o enc., MS K491
M. Saladen, ESH-18, w/enc., MS K497
T. Sandoval, ESH-18, w/enc., MS K497
H. Decker, ESH-18, w/enc., MS K497
B. Beers, ESH-18, w/enc., MS K497
N. Williams, ESH-18, w/o enc., MS K497
WQ&H File, w/enc., MS K497
CIC-10, w/enc., MS A150