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State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Ground Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
(505) 827-2918 phone
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GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR



MARK E. WEIDLER
Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 22, 1998

Steven Rae, ESH-18 Group Leader
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663 Mail Stop K497
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent for Potassium Bromide Tracer Test, Los Alamos National Laboratories

Dear Mr Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated September 22, 1997, for the discharge of up to 100 gallons of potassium bromide water for the proposed tracer test in accordance with Section 1201 of the NM Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The discharge location will be in the alluvial aquifer in well LAUZ-1, DP Canyon at the Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL), Los Alamos County. The application satisfies the requirements of Section 1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your NOI and additional information provided in your letter dated February 10, 1998, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described.

A discharge plan is not being required because it appears that the discharge conforms to the numerical ground water standards in WQCC Regulation 3103 and does not contain any toxic pollutants as defined in WQCC Regulation 1101.TT, and therefore is exempt from the discharge plan requirement under WQCC Regulation 3105.A.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows:



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Mr. Rae
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Up to 100 gallons of potable water with a 26% concentration of Potassium Bromide will be released into well LAUZ-1 as a tracer chemical. LANL must submit an NOI and receive written approval from NMED prior to any additional discharges of well development or purge water from the tracer study at this site.

Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge, you are not relieved of liability should your operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters. Further, this decision by the NMED does not relieve you of your responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements, plumbing codes, nuisance ordinances, and requirements of the Hazardous and Radioactive Material Bureau.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, the character, or location of your discharge so that it will not be as described, or if observation or monitoring shows that the discharge is not as described, you must file a new request for exemption with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section.

If you have any questions, please contact either Phyllis Bustamante of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section staff at 827-0166 or Dale Doremus, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:PAB/pab

xc: James Bearzi, District Manager, NMED Dist. II
NOI File
Barbara Hoditschek, SWQB
HRMB