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Environmental Management
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Date: JUN 28 2017
Symbol: EPC-DO: 17-238
LA-UR: 17-24884
Locates Action No.: U1601822

Ms. Michelle Hunter, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building, Room N2261
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Subject: Discharge Permit 1835 Proposed Updates

Dear Ms. Hunter:

On August 31, 2016, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Discharge Permit (DP-1835) to the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (DOE/LANS) for the discharge of treated groundwater to the regional aquifer through up to six Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Pursuant to recommendations from NMED at a June 6, 2017, meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, DOE/LANS propose to update DP-1835 in order to provide the permittees additional operational flexibility.

The proposed updates to DP-1835 are presented in Enclosure 1 in redline/strikeout format. Each of the proposed updates are discussed in Table 1 below. The proposed updates do not invoke DP-1835 Condition No. 28, MODIFICATIONS and/or AMENDMENTS, because they will have no effect on the volume of discharge, location of discharge, or the amount or character of water contaminants received, treated, or discharged by the facility. Accordingly, DOE/LANS request adoption of these proposed updates by NMED.



Table 1. Proposed Updates to DP-1835.

Section	Page	Proposed Update	Discussion
INTRO	1	Up to 648,000 gallons per day (gpd) of contaminated groundwater is to be pumped from up to three extraction wells installed in the regional aquifer, treated in ion exchange (IX) treatment systems to meet the groundwater concentration limits set by 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, and injected into the regional aquifer through up to six Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells.	This proposed update will allow DOE/LANS to inject treated regional aquifer groundwater from sources in addition to CrEX-1, CrEX-2, and CrEX-3, the three extraction wells.
INTRO	1	Untreated groundwater Groundwater pumped from the three extraction wells (CrEX-1, CrEX-2, and CrEX-3) will be conveyed through double-walled piping with leak detection systems to the IX treatment systems.	This proposed update will allow DOE/LANS to inject treated regional aquifer groundwater from sources in addition to CrEX-1, CrEX-2, and CrEX-3.
INTRO	1, 2	The groundwater generated from back flushing of the injection wells or general well maintenance will be pumped into storage tanks, tested, transported to an IX treatment unit for treatment if necessary, stored in lined impoundments, and then land applied under DP-1793 discharged pursuant to an applicable permit.	This proposed update will allow DOE/LANS operational flexibility in dispositioning groundwater from back flushing and general well maintenance.
Condition #12		Quarterly reports shall include the following system performance information: e) the daily volume pumped from each groundwater extraction well.	This proposed update will allow for the injection of treated groundwater from both extraction and monitoring wells.


Please contact William J. Foley by telephone at (505) 665-8423 or by email at bfoley@lanl.gov if you have questions regarding these proposed updates.

Sincerely,



John C. Bretzke
Division Leader

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Rodriguez
Program Manager, FPD-II

JCB/CLR/MTS/RSB: am

Enclosure(s):

- 1) Redline/strikeout of Discharge Permit DP-1835 reflecting proposed updates by DOE/LANS

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Ms. Michelle Hunter, Chief
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GROUND WATER
JUN 28 2017
BUREAU

Subject: Discharge Permit 1835 Proposed Updates

Dear Ms. Hunter:

On August 31, 2016, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Discharge Permit (DP-1835) to the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC (DOE/LANS) for the discharge of treated groundwater to the regional aquifer through up to six Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Pursuant to recommendations from NMED at a June 6, 2017, meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, DOE/LANS propose to update DP-1835 in order to provide the permittees additional operational flexibility.

The proposed updates to DP-1835 are presented in Enclosure 1 in redline/strikeout format. Each of the proposed updates are discussed in Table 1 below. The proposed updates do not invoke DP-1835 Condition No. 28, MODIFICATIONS and/or AMENDMENTS, because they will have no effect on the volume of discharge, location of discharge, or the amount or character of water contaminants received, treated, or discharged by the facility. Accordingly, DOE/LANS request adoption of these proposed updates by NMED.

ENCLOSURE 1

Redline/strikeout of Discharge Permit DP-1835 reflecting
proposed updates by DOE/LANS

EPC-DO: 17-238

LA-UR-17-24884

Date: JUN 28 2017

GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Underground Injection Control Wells
Discharge Permit-1835

Effective Date: August 31, 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issues this Discharge Permit, DP-1835, to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and to Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) (collectively the permittees) pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Act (WQA), NMSA 1978 §§74-6-1 through 74-6-17, and the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations, 20.6.2 NMAC.

NMED's purpose in issuing this Discharge Permit, and in imposing the requirements and conditions specified herein, is to control the discharge of water contaminants from the injection of treated groundwater (effluent) into the regional aquifer beneath Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), so as to protect and preserve ground and surface waters for present and future uses and to protect human health.

In issuing this Discharge Permit, NMED has determined that the requirements of Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC have been or will be met. Pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3104 NMAC, it is the responsibility of the permittees to comply with the terms and conditions of this Discharge Permit; failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by NMED (20.6.2.1220 NMAC).

The activities which produce the discharge, the location of the discharge, and the quantity, quality, and flow characteristics of the discharge are described as follows.

Up to 648,000 gallons per day (gpd) of contaminated groundwater is to be pumped from ~~up to three extraction wells installed in~~ the regional aquifer, treated in ion exchange (IX) treatment systems to meet the groundwater concentration limits set by 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, and injected into the regional aquifer through up to six Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells. ~~Untreated groundwater~~ Groundwater pumped from the three extraction wells (CrEX-1, CrEX-2, and CrEX-3) will be conveyed through double-walled piping with leak detection systems to the IX treatment systems. Multiple IX treatment trains, each consisting of a primary vessel and a polishing unit, will be operated to treat chromium levels to below the limits set by 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. Treated water will be pumped through single-walled piping and distributed to six Class V UIC wells (CrIN-1, CrIN-2, CrIN-3, CrIN-4, CrIN-5, and CrIN-6) that will be equipped with submersible pumps to allow for periodic back flushing as dictated by increased injection well pressures. The groundwater generated from back flushing of the injection wells or general well maintenance will be pumped into storage tanks, tested, transported to an IX treatment unit for treatment if necessary, stored in lined impoundments, and then ~~land applied under DP 1793~~ discharged pursuant to an applicable permit.

Specific monitoring of the extraction, treatment, and injection systems will be conducted to ensure proper system operation using a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) control system. Incoming data, including flowrates, pressures, liquid levels, groundwater levels,

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835
 August 31, 2016
 Page 3 of 18

The discharge is located approximately 3 miles southeast of Los Alamos in sections 24 and 25, Township 19N, Range 06E, Los Alamos County, NM. Groundwater most likely to be affected lies in a regional aquifer from 900-1100 feet below ground surface (BGS) and has a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of approximately 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The application (i.e. Discharge Plan) consists of the Discharge Permit Application and supporting materials submitted by the permittees on April 10, 2015 and October 08, 2015. The discharge shall be managed in accordance with all conditions and requirements of this Discharge Permit.

Pursuant to Section 20.6.2.3109 NMAC, NMED reserves the right to require a Discharge Permit Modification in the event NMED determines that the requirements of 20.6.2 NMAC are being or may be violated or the standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC are being or may be violated. This may include a determination that structural controls and/or management practices approved under this Discharge Permit are not protective of groundwater quality and that more stringent requirements to protect groundwater quality may be required by NMED. The permittees may be required to implement abatement of water pollution and remediate groundwater contamination.

Issuance of this Discharge Permit does not relieve the permittees of the responsibility to comply with the WQA, WQCC Regulations, and any other applicable federal, state and/or local laws, regulations, zoning requirements, and nuisance ordinances.

The following acronyms and abbreviations may be used in this Discharge Permit:

Abbreviation	Explanation:	Abbreviation	Explanation
BGS	below ground surface	NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	NMSA	New Mexico Statutes Annotated
Cl	chloride	NO ₃ -N	nitrate-nitrogen
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency	TDS	total dissolved solids
gpd	gallons per day	TKN	total Kjeldahl nitrogen
IX	Ion Exchange	total nitrogen	TKN + NO ₃ -N
mg/L	milligrams per liter	UIC	Underground Injection Control
mL	milliliters	WQA	New Mexico Water Quality Act
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code	WQCC	New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835

August 31, 2016

Page 5 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
2.	<p>The permittees shall operate in a manner such that the standards and requirements of Sections 20.6.2.3101 and 20.6.2.3103 NMAC are not violated.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3101 NMAC, 20.6.2.3103 NMAC, 20.6.2.3109.C NMAC]</p>
3.	<p>Within one year of the effective date of this Discharge Permit (by August 31, 2017), the permittees shall demonstrate the mechanical integrity of the distribution piping and injection wells associated with this Discharge Permit. Prior to testing, the permittees shall propose for NMED approval the test method to be used. The results of the mechanical integrity testing shall be submitted to NMED within 60 days of test completion.</p> <p>The permittees shall demonstrate mechanical integrity of the distribution piping and injection wells associated with this Discharge Permit at least once every five years. If an injection well is reconfigured, the permittees must conduct a mechanical integrity test prior to re-injection of treated effluent into the subsurface at that well.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, Subsection B of 20.6.2.5204 NMAC]</p>
4.	<p>Prior to the first discharge from the IX systems to any of the six injection wells, the permittees shall submit written notification to NMED stating the date that the discharge is to commence.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107.A NMAC]</p>
5.	<p>Prior to the initial discharge of treated effluent from an IX treatment system to the injection wells, and before injecting treated effluent following any major modification or repair of an IX treatment system that could adversely impact effluent quality, the permittees shall submit documentation that the IX systems achieve standards less than (<) 90% of the numeric standards of 20.6.2.3103 NMAC and <90% of the numeric standards established for tap water in Table A-1 for constituents not listed in 20.6.2.3103 NMAC.</p> <p>[Subsections A and C of 20.6.2.1202 NMAC, Subsection C of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 61-23-1 through 61-23-32]</p>
6.	<p>The permittees shall maintain fences around all synthetically lined storage lagoons to control access by the general public and animals. The fences shall consist of a minimum of six-foot chain link or field fencing and locking gates. Fences shall be maintained throughout the term of this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>IX treatment systems shall be contained within secure structures to control access by the general public.</p>

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835
 August 31, 2016
 Page 7 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>groundwater and treated effluent sampling results, and any operations/maintenance activities performed for the prior quarter.</p> <p>Quarterly monitoring shall be performed during the following periods and submitted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1st through March 31st – due by June 1st • April 1st through June 30th -due by September 1st • July 1st through September 30th -due by December 1st • October 1st through December 31st -due by March 1st <p>[20.6.2.3107.A NMAC]</p>
11.	<p>Quarterly reports shall include the following general information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) any periodic test of mechanical integrity conducted; b) any replacement of primary or secondary IX vessels or associated , treatment system infrastructure with an accompanying narrative explanation of the reasons for the decision to replace the vessels; c) any well work-overs conducted; d) any additional operational changes with the potential to markedly affect the discharge. <p>[20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
12.	<p>Quarterly reports shall include the following system performance information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) monthly average, maximum, and minimum values for flow rate and volume of treated effluent transferred to each injection well; b) the totalized monthly volume of treated effluent transferred to each injection well; c) monthly average, maximum, and minimum values of injection water level (pressure head) above static level for each injection well; d) the daily volume injected at each injection well; e) the daily volume pumped from each groundwater extraction well. <p>[20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835

August 31, 2016

Page 9 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>Depth to groundwater measurements, a summary table of analytical results, and a facility layout map showing the location and number of each well shall be submitted to NMED in the quarterly monitoring reports.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
15.	<p>The permittees shall develop a groundwater elevation contour map on a quarterly basis using the top of casing elevation data from the monitoring well survey and quarterly depth- to-regional groundwater measurements obtained from the regional aquifer groundwater monitoring wells listed in Condition 14 of this Discharge Permit.</p> <p>The groundwater elevation contour map shall depict the groundwater flow direction based on the groundwater elevation contours. Groundwater elevations between monitoring well locations shall be estimated using common interpolation methods. A contour interval appropriate to the data shall be used, but in no case shall the interval be greater than two feet. Groundwater elevation contour maps shall depict the groundwater flow direction using arrows based on the orientation of the groundwater elevation contours and the location and identification of each monitoring well and contaminant source. The groundwater elevation contour map shall be submitted to NMED in the quarterly monitoring reports.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
16.	<p>Groundwater quality monitoring shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent approved version of the <i>Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan (IFGMP)</i> which is conducted under the direction of the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau. In some cases, the NMED Groundwater Quality Bureau may request that additional analytes or wells be added to the sampling regime in cases where specific locations, constituents, or monitoring may not be included in the IFGMP.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
17.	<p>ELECTRONIC POSTING - Quarterly monitoring reports shall be posted on LANL's Electronic Public Reading Room located at http://egrr.lanl.gov/01;rne/service (or as updated).</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107.A NMAC]</p>

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835
 August 31, 2016
 Page 11 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>construction.</p> <p>Replacement monitoring well locations shall be approved by NMED prior to installation and completed in accordance with the attachment titled <i>Ground Water Quality Bureau Monitoring Well Construction and Abandonment Guidelines, Revision I.I, March 2011 (GWQB, 2011)</i>, or the permittees may propose specific construction details for approval by NMED. The permittees shall submit construction and lithologic logs, survey data, and a groundwater potentiometric surface map to NMED within 60 days following well completion.</p> <p>Actions associated with monitoring well SIMR-2 will require coordination with NMED and the Pueblo of San Ildefonso.</p> <p>Upon completion of the replacement monitoring wells, the monitoring well requiring replacement shall be properly plugged and abandoned. Well plugging, abandonment, and documentation of the abandonment procedures shall be completed in accordance with GWQB, 2011 and all applicable local, state, and federal regulations. The well abandonment documentation shall be submitted to NMED within 60 days of completion of well plugging activities.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
21.	<p>In the event that groundwater flow information obtained pursuant to this Discharge Permit indicates that a groundwater monitoring well listed in Condition 14 is not located hydrologically downgradient of the discharge location it is intended to monitor, the permittees shall submit a drilling workplan and project schedule for NMED approval within 120 days following notification from NMED. The permittees shall survey the new monitoring well within 30 days following well construction.</p> <p>New well locations shall be approved by NMED prior to installation and completed in accordance with GWQB, 2011, or the permittees may propose specific construction details for approval by NMED. The permittees shall submit construction and lithologic logs, survey data, and a groundwater elevation contour map within 90 days following well completion.</p> <p>[Subsection A of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
22.	<p>In the event that a release ("spill") occurs that is not authorized under this Discharge Permit, the permittees shall take measures to mitigate damage from the unauthorized discharge and initiate the notifications and corrective actions required in Section 20.6.2.1203 NMAC and summarized below.</p> <p>Within 24 hours following discovery of the unauthorized discharge, the permittees shall</p>

D. CLOSURE PLAN

#	Terms and Conditions
24.	<p>Upon final cessation of the activity pursuant to the Discharge Permit, the permittees shall perform the following closure measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) cap or plug all lines to prevent the flow of wastewater to treatment or disposal systems;b) empty, clean, and remove tanks;c) empty lagoons, remove liners, backfill, and re-grade to surface topography;d) appropriately dispose of liquids and solids;e) regrade and cover stockpiles;f) continue groundwater monitoring for at least two years, or as appropriate;g) enact contingency plans if groundwater standards are exceeded including any abatement required by NMED pursuant to actions related to this Discharge Permit;h) remove any compounds and equipment pertaining to the remediation activities;i) appropriately remove and manage all treatment resins and media in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations;j) UIC wells must be closed in accordance with State of New Mexico Oil Conservation Division guidelines as described in the <i>Oil Conservation Division Underground Injection Control Program Manual</i>, February 26, 2004;k) following notification from NMED that post-closure monitoring may cease, the permittees shall plug and abandon any groundwater monitoring wells not included in the current IFGMP in accordance with GWQB, 2011;l) when all post-closure requirements have been met, the permittees may request to terminate the Discharge Permit. <p>Should individual components utilized under this Discharge Permit be required for completion of Consent Agreement activities under other regulatory oversight, the permittees may request a variance from specific closure activities required under this condition.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3107(A)] NMAC</p>

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835
 August 31, 2016
 Page 15 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
26.	<p>INSPECTION and ENTRY – The permittees shall allow inspection by NMED of the facility and its operations which are subject to this Discharge Permit and the WQCC regulations. NMED may, upon presentation of proper credentials, enter at reasonable times upon or through any premises in which a water contaminant source is located or in which any records are located regarding this discharge permit or related discharges required to be maintained by regulations of the federal government or the WQCC.</p> <p>The permittees shall allow NMED to have access to and reproduce for their use any copy of the records, and to perform assessments, sampling, or monitoring during an inspection for the purpose of evaluating compliance with this Discharge Permit and the WQCC regulations.</p> <p>Nothing in this Discharge Permit shall be construed as limiting in any way the inspection and entry authority of NMED under the WQA, the WQCC Regulations, or any other local, state, or federal regulations.</p> <p>[Subsection D of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 74-6-9.B and 74-6-9.E]</p>
27.	<p>DUTY to PROVIDE INFORMATION - The permittees shall, upon NMED request, allow for NMED inspection/duplication of records required by this Discharge Permit and/or furnish to NMED copies of such records.</p> <p>[Subsection D of 20.6.2.3107 NMAC]</p>
28.	<p>MODIFICATIONS and/or AMENDMENTS -In the event the permittees propose a change to the facility or the facility's discharge that would result in a change in the volume discharged, the location of the discharge, or in the amount or character of water contaminants received, treated, or discharged by the facility, the permittees shall notify NMED prior to implementing such changes. The permittees shall obtain approval (which may require modification of this Discharge Permit) by NMED prior to implementing such changes.</p> <p>[Subsection C of 20.6.2.3107. NMAC, Subsections E and G of 20.6.2.3109 NMAC]</p>
29.	<p>PLANS and SPECIFICATIONS – In the event that the permittees are proposing to construct a wastewater system or change a process unit of an existing system such that the quantity or quality of the discharge will change substantially from that authorized by this Discharge Permit, the permittees shall submit construction plans and specifications to NMED for the proposed system or process unit prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>In the event the permittees implement changes to the wastewater system authorized by this Discharge Permit which result in only a minor effect on the character of the discharge, the permittees shall report such changes (including the submission of record drawings, where</p>

Los Alamos National Laboratory; DP-1835

August 31, 2016

Page 17 of 18

#	Terms and Conditions
	<p>accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, § 31-18-15.</p> <p>[20.6.2.1220 NMAC, NMSA 1978, §§ 74-6-10.2.A through 74-6-10.2.F]</p>
32.	<p>COMPLIANCE with OTHER LAWS - Nothing in this Discharge Permit shall be construed in any way as relieving the permittees of the obligation to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits, or orders.</p> <p>[NMSA 1978, § 746-5.L]</p>
33.	<p>RIGHT to APPEAL - The permittees may file a petition for review before the WQCC on this Discharge Permit. Such petition shall be in writing to the WQCC within thirty days of the receipt of postal notice of this Discharge Permit and shall include a statement of the issues to be raised and the relief sought. Unless a timely petition for review is made, the decision of NMED shall be final and not subject to judicial review.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3112 NMAC, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-5.0]</p>
34.	<p>TRANSFER of DISCHARGE PERMIT - Prior to the transfer of any ownership, control, or possession of this facility or any portion thereof, the permittees shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) notify the proposed transferee in writing of the existence of this Discharge Permit; 2) include a copy of this Discharge Permit with the notice; 3) deliver or send by certified mail to NMED a copy of the notification and proof that such notification has been received by the proposed transferee. <p>Until both ownership and possession of the facility have been transferred to the transferee, the permittees shall continue to be responsible for any discharge from the facility.</p> <p>[20.6.2.3111 NMAC]</p>
35.	<p>PERMIT FEES - Payment of permit fees is due at the time of Discharge Permit approval. Permit fees shall be paid in a single payment or shall be paid in equal installments on a yearly basis over the term of the Discharge Permit. Single payments shall be remitted to NMED no later than 30 days after the Discharge Permit effective date. Initial installment payments shall be remitted to NMED no later than 30 days after the Discharge Permit effective date; subsequent installment payments shall be remitted to NMED no later than the anniversary of the Discharge Permit effective date.</p> <p>Permit fees are associated with issuance of this Discharge Permit. Nothing in this Discharge Permit shall be construed as relieving the permittees of the obligation to pay all permit fees assessed by NMED. A permittee that ceases discharging or does not commence discharging from the facility during the term of the Discharge Permit shall pay all permit fees assessed by NMED. An approved Discharge Permit shall be suspended or terminated</p>