

# Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545*

*Jo-seph  
sean  
STU*

Date: November 13, 1997

In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:97-0388

Mail Stop: K497

Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Mr. Glenn Saums  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502



**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 8, 1997, LETTER CONCERNING  
CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR STEAM CONDENSATE RELEASE AT  
TA-3, MH-1042.**

Dear Mr. Saums:

The Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) is in receipt of your letter dated October 8, 1997. The following information has been provided in order to address your concerns relating to the steam condensate discharge discovered on September 24, 1997.

- Corrective actions were completed and the discharge was eliminated on October 2, 1997. The corrective actions consisted of excavation and repair of the ruptured line. A written report outlining these corrective actions was faxed to your staff on October 3, 1997.
- The outfall located below this release site is NPDES Outfall 03A040. Outfall 03A040 is currently permitted under the Laboratory's NPDES Permit No. NM 0028355, but has been identified as a candidate for elimination under the Outfall Reduction Program.
- The estimated flow resulting from this line break was 2 to 5 gallons per minute (gpm). This results in a total estimated volume released ranging from 28,800 to 72,000 gallons over a ten-day period.
- SWMU 43-001(b2) is currently scheduled for AP 4.5 review by ESH-18 and ER Project staff. Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be recommended and implemented as needed to prevent movement of contaminants off this site.
- A meeting was held on October 27, 1997 with ESH-18, JCI Utilities Department, and Facilities Security and Safeguards (FSS-8) staff in developing procedural changes in order to expedite repairs on steam condensate releases which may impact a SWMU or PRS.



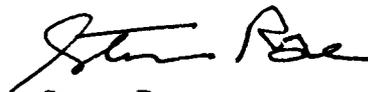
5532

TL

- All steam condensate pits and manholes will be reviewed for proximity to a SWMU or PRS. If a SWMU or PRS is identified within the area of the proposed discharge, controls will be implemented to ensure that the discharge will not impact the SWMU or PRS.
- The TA-3 Power Plant will perform routine conductivity measurements on its steam condensate return. These measurements will be made available as they are received.
- All information and reporting procedures listed above will be incorporated into the draft "Generic Notice of Intent for Steam Condensate, Potable Water and Line Disinfection Discharges".

Please contact me at (505) 665-1859 or Harvey Decker at (505) 665-2014 if you need any additional information on this steam condensation lime break.

Sincerely,



Steven Rae  
Group Leader  
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

SR:HD/em

Cy: E. Kelley, Ph.D., Acting-Bureau Chief, NMED-SWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
S. Yanicak, NMED-DOE/OB (White Rock Office) MS J993  
P. Bustamante, NMED/GWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
J. Plum, DOE/LAAO, MS A316  
C. Jacquez, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497  
H. Decker, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497  
M. Saladen, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497  
B. Edeskuty, LANL, ESH-18, MS K497  
M. Brown, JCI, MS A199  
G. Blauert, JCNNM-UICS, MS A199  
D. Padilla, FSS-8, MS K718  
J. Gonzales, FSS-8, MS K718  
WQ&H File, MS K497  
CIC-10, MS A150

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1997

NM ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY