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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 21, 2001

Steven Rae, Group Leader  
Water Quality and Hydrology Group  
Los Alamos National Laboratory, MSK-497  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge for Well Development and Purge  
Water from the MCOBT 4.4 and 8.5 Monitoring Wells**

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has received your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated June 12, 2001, for the discharge of up to 100,000 gallons of well development and purge water from the MCOBT 4.4 and 8.5 monitoring wells at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), in accordance with Section 20.6.2.1201 of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The proposed monitoring wells will be located in Mortandad Canyon at the confluence with Ten Site Canyon, in Section 23, T19N, R6E, Los Alamos County. The NOI satisfies the requirements of Section 20.6.2.1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based upon the presently available information in your June 12, 2001 NOI, the GWQB has determined that the proposed discharge is not likely to adversely impact ground water, and a discharge permit will not be required as long as the discharge is as described below.

Development and purge water generated from construction and sampling of monitoring wells MCOBT 4.4 and 8.5 shall be containerized pending analysis for the water contaminants listed in WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.3103 and toxic pollutants, as defined in WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.7.UU. If analytical results show that development and/or purge water from wells MCOBT 4.4 and 8.5 exceeds WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.3103 ground water standards or contains toxic pollutants, as defined in WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.7.UU, LANL shall contain and dispose of the water in an alternative method approved by the NMED. If



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HSWA LANL 4/10/01 Mortandad

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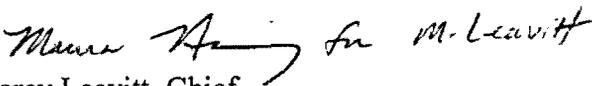
analytical results demonstrate that development and purge water from monitoring wells MCOBT 4.4 and 8.5 does not contain toxic pollutants, as defined in WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.7.UU, and does not exceed the numerical ground water standards provided in WQCC Regulation 20.6.2.3103, LANL is authorized to discharge up to 100,000 gallons of said development and purge water to the ground surface for dust suppression and/or re-vegetation. Land application of approved development and purge water shall be conducted in a manner that eliminates ponding, soil saturation, and impacts to nearby watercourses. LANL shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) including erosion controls as needed during land application of approved water. No Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) or Potential Release Sites (PRSs) will be impacted by the approved discharge.

Although a discharge permit is not being required for these discharges at this time, you are not relieved of any 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, and nuisance ordinances.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, the character, source, 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 NOI for review by the GWQB.

If you have any questions, please contact either Mary Heather Noble of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (GWPPS) at 827-2782, or Maura Hanning, Program Manager of the GWPPS at 827-2945.

Sincerely,

  
Marcy Leavitt, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:MHN/mhn

Enclosure: WQCC Regulations

Cc: Courte Voorhees, District Manager, NMED District II  
Brett Lucas, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau  
Steve Yanicak, NMED DOE Oversight Bureau  
John Young, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau  
NOI file