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ENVIRONMENT



NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



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Governor

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Sent Via Electronic Mail

November 19, 2018

Ms. Jody M. Pugh, Assistant Manager  
National Security Missions  
Los Alamos Site Office  
3747 West Jemez Road, MS-A316  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
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Mr. Enrique Torres, EPC Division Director  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, MS-K404  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
etorres@lanl.gov

**SUBJECT: Response to Notification of Release ID# 2018-465, Los Alamos National Laboratory**

Dear Ms. Pugh and Mr. Torres:

On October 4, 2018, a representative of Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS) verbally reported an unauthorized discharge to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) as required under 20.6.2.1203 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The report identified a discharge of potable water from a potable water storage tank (Technical Area 14 Structure 57). The discharge was due to an unexpected valve configuration resulting in an overflow of potable water from the storage tank. The incident resulted in a release of approximately 100,000 gallons of potable water to a vegetated area, through an established storm water conveyance, and into the head of Three Mile Canyon. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) reportedly stopped the potable wastewater discharge upon discovery, returned the valves associated with the storage tank to normal operating positions, and confirmed that the storage tank is functioning properly.

**Based on information submitted by LANS, corrective action for this unauthorized discharge has been completed in a manner that is satisfactory to the GWQB. No further action is required at this time for release ID# 2018-465.**

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However, because the information provided indicates that potable water was discharged into the head of Three Mile Canyon, you are encouraged to contact the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau at (505) 827-2995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas at (214) 665-3152, the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau at (505) 476-6000, and the NMED DOE Oversight Bureau at (505) 476-3031.

Nothing in this letter shall be construed as relieving the United States Department of Energy or LANS of the obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits, or orders.

If you have any questions, please contact either Gerald Knutson at (505) 827-2996 or me at (505) 827-2962.

Sincerely,



Steve Pullen  
Program Manager  
Pollution Prevention Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

SP:GK

cc: Melanie Sandoval, NMED GWQB  
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