

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

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

Date: July 31, 1997

In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:97-0233

Mail Stop: K497

Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Ms. Marcy Leavitt
Ground Water Protection & Remediation Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Mr. Glenn Saums
Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISCHARGE, CHANGED CONDITIONS AT
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Dear Ms. Leavitt and Mr. Saums:

The State of New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Quality Protection Regulations (20 NMAC 6.2), Section 1201, Notice of Intent to Discharge, require a discharger to notify the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) regarding any facility intending to make a new water contaminant discharge or to alter the character or location of an existing water contaminant discharge. In accordance with these regulations, I am providing this notification of change to the existing discharge through NPDES Outfall 05A055 at the Technical Area 16, High Explosives Wastewater Treatment Plant (TA-16 HEWTP). Enclosed is the Notice of Intent to Discharge for this facility.

The Laboratory is required to upgrade the existing TA-16 HEWTP pursuant to an Administrative Order (AO) Docket No. VI-96-1326 and Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement (FFCA) Docket No. VI-96-1327 issued by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 10, 1996, and December 12, 1996, respectively. The TA-16 HEWTP Project includes a new centralized treatment facility which should eliminate all HE outfalls except NPDES Outfall 05A055 (TA-16 HEWTP) and Outfall 05A097 (TA-11, Building 52). The new TA-16 HEWTP will not utilize a collection system, and all wastewater from existing HE outfalls will be trucked to the new facility. The project is currently under construction and is approximately 90 percent complete. It is expected that construction will be completed ahead of the September 30, 1997, AO/FFCA deadline. Also, it is expected that the upgrades to the TA-16 HEWTP will significantly improve the effluent discharged at this outfall.

Please contact Mike Saladen at (505) 665-6085 or me at (505) 665-1859 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Rae
Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group



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SR:MS/rj

Cy: J. Vozella, DOE/LAAO, MS A316
J. Plum, DOE/LAAO, MS A316
M. Saladen, ESH-18, MS K497
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A. Sherrard, ESA/ESH, MS C924
R. Ford-Schmitt, DOE/OB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
B. Hoditscheck, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
K. Hill, NMED/HRMB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
S. Coleman, EPA, Region VI, Dallas, Texas
E. Spencer, EPA, Region VI, Dallas, Texas
F. Humke, EPA, Region VI, Dallas, Texas
WQ&H File, MS K497
CIC-10, MS A150

NOTICE OF INTENT

1. **Name and address of facility making the discharge.**

Dennis J. Erickson
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K491
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

2. **Location of the discharge. (in Township, Range and section, if available).**

Technical Area 16, Structures 401 and 406
HE Burning Grounds, NPDES Outfall 05A055
Latitude: 35 degrees, 50 minutes, 47.7 seconds
Longitude: 106 degrees, 19 minutes, 48.3 seconds

Note: Also see attached map of TA-16 Burn Grounds (Attachment 1).

3. **The means of discharge. (Lagoon, Flowing Stream, Watercourse, Arroyo, Septic Tank, Other).**

Discharge is from the existing NPDES 05A055 Outfall into an ephemeral tributary to Canon de Valle.

4. **The estimated concentration of contaminants (if any) in the discharge.**

The new TA-16 HEWTP is designed to treat conventional and research explosives wastewater (See Attachment 2). The new facility will have improved treatment controls; therefore, pollutant concentrations are expected to decrease significantly.

Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are attached summarizing analytical data from February 1996, through April 1997, for Chemical Oxygen Demand, pH, Total Suspended Solids, and Oil & Grease. Analytical data for the NPDES Water Quality Parameters from 1995 and 1996 are also attached (See Attachment 3).

5. **The type of operation from which the discharge is derived**

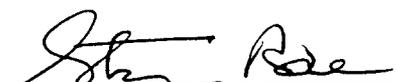
The new TA-16 HEWTP includes a centralized treatment facility which eliminates most of the existing HE outfalls. Treatment consists of sand-filters and carbon adsorbers. Effluent can be recirculated back through the carbon adsorbers if operational sampling demonstrates that effluent quality does not meet NPDES permit limits.

6. **The estimated flow to be discharged per day.**

The existing TA-16 HEWTP is designed to handle approximately 1000 gallons per day. Current operations intermittently discharge after batch treatment. The estimated discharge from the existing facility is 36,000 gallons per year. DMRs provided as Attachment 3 include daily average and daily maximum flows from the existing facility. The estimated discharge from the new facility is 130,500 gallons per year which includes wastewater from other existing HE outfalls which will be trucked to the new facility. Installation of new recirculation equipment should reduce by 95 percent the existing wastewater discharges that will be hauled to the new plant.

7. **The estimated depth to Ground-Water (if available)**

The average depth to alluvial groundwater from Canon de Valle is unknown. The estimated depth to the main aquifer is 700 to 1000 feet.

Signed: 
Steven Rae, Group Leader

Date: July 31, 1997