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GARY E. JOHNSON  
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

Harold Runnels Building  
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110  
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CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 19, 1997

Steven Rae, ESH-18 Group Leader  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663 Mail Stop K497  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge Equipment  
Decontamination Water at Environmental Restoration Sites at  
Technical Area (TA)-16

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated April 10, 1997, for the discharge of 50 gallons per day from your proposed TA-16 equipment decontamination activities in accordance with Section 1201 of the NM Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The facility is located at TA-16 Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL), Los Alamos County. The application satisfies the requirements of Section 1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your NOI dated April 10, 1997, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described.

In accordance with WQCC Regulation 3104, a discharge plan is not being required because the information provided indicates that no effluent or leachate will move directly or indirectly into ground water.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows:

Up to 50 gallons of potable water will be used to decontaminate drilling and other heavy equipment, and personnel protective equipment. Water will be applied by hand held sprayers and steam cleaners. Water will not be allowed to channel and will not flow off site.

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Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge, you are not relieved of 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, 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 request for exemption with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section.

If you have any questions, please contact either Phyllis Bustamante of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section staff at 827-0166 or Dale Doremus, Program Manager of the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:PAB/pab

xc: James Bearzi, District Manager, NMED Dist. II  
NOI File  
Barbara Hoditschek, SWQB  
HRMB