



Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

OCT 17 1996



Stu/ari

Mr. Benito Garcia
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
2044 Galisteo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Subject: Transmittal of 15-Day Corrective Action Report for Surface Water Release at Technical Area (TA)-21

Dear Mr. Garcia:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory committed to sending you all information relating to the surface water release that occurred on September 19, 1996 at TA-21. This commitment was made to you in a letter sent September 27, 1996. Unfortunately, you were omitted from the distribution list for the submittal of the 15-Day Corrective Action Report. Attached, please find a copy of that report. You have been added to the distribution list for the Notice of Intent to Discharge that will be submitted before the end of October. I regret the delay in transmitting information to you. Please contact Joe Mose at 667-5808 or Mike Saladen at 665-6085 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Vozella
Joseph C. Vozella
Assistant Area Manager
Environment and Projects

cc (with Attachment):

D. Neleigh
RCRA Permits Branch
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Ave., Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733



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B. Garcia

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B. Hoditschek
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
2044 Galisteo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

N. Weber
Agreement in Principle, DOE Oversight
New Mexico Environment Department
P. O. Box 26110
2044 Galisteo
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

S. Yanicak, AIP, NMED, MS J993

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bcc (with attachment):

T. Taylor, EP, LAAO
J. Jansen, EM/ER, UC-LANL, MS M992
N. Naraine, EM-45, HQ
RPF, UC-LANL, MS M707
D. Griswold, ERD, AL
S. Rae, ESH-18, MS K490
M. Saladen, ESH-18, MS K490
A. Puglisi, ESH-18, MS K490
T. Greiggs, ESH-19, MS K498
M. Salazar, EM/ER, MS M769
D. Stout, EM/ER, MS M769
J. Mose, EP, LAAO
D. McInroy, EM/ER, MS M992

bcc (w/o attachment):

J. Plum, EP, LAAO
K. Zamora, EP, LAAO
J. Levings, ERD, AL
T. Baca, EM-DO, UC-LANL, MS J591
W. Spurgeon, EM-45, HQ

***15-DAY CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT**

Responsible Facility/User Group: TA-21 Decontamination and Decommissioning D&D Project

Contact Person: JCI: Miguel Velasquez; EM/ER D&D: Dan Stout Phone#: M. Velasquez: 665-8122 D. Stout: 667-994

Discharge Location: TA-21 (near bldg. 5) and runoff to DP Canyon from D&D Project

Discharge Occurred: 9/19/96 12:30 p.m. **Discharge Discovered:** 9/19/96 1:00 p.m.
date time date time

Discharge Stopped: 9/19/96 1:00 p.m. **Method:** Shut off pump
date time

Corrective Actions: On 9/19/96, D&D Project was shut-down. An application for Notice of Intent for discharge of water used for dust suppression will be submitted to the NMED for approval. In addition, Procedures will be developed describing the system for collection, full containment, and disposal of water used for dust suppression.

***The NOI application will be submitted to NMED for approval on the week of 10/7/96 as well as the plan for collection and full containment of stormwater. In addition, the project will be using a different method for dust suppression. Firehoses have been replaced by garden hoses with mist attachments, thereby, discharging lesser volume of water. Also, water being discharged by these garden hoses is being contained on the concrete pad in the demolition area which evaporates, generating minimal runoff. Any runoff that may occur from stormwater will flow into a bermed retention pond (see attached diagram - Water Containment Plan). Any contaminated water will be remain on the concrete pad or soil within demolition and should not flow into bermed retention pond.**

Nearest watercourse and/or canyon affected: None Describe: Tributary to DP Canyon

Source and cause of discharge: The D&D project at TA21, DP West, includes demolition of the 3 to 4 foot thick concrete walls from former hot cells. Jackhammers, trackhoes, wrecking balls, and other heavy equipment is used to break up the concrete. Potable water used for dust suppression created a runoff that drained into a tributary to DP Canyon.

Materials Spilled: Potable water with elevated pH readings; no radioactivity (see attached report.)

Estimated Amount: 1,500-4,000 gallons

***24 Hr. Notification:**

EPA E. Spencer
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Date: 9/26/96

NMED: N. Wells
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Date: 9/19/96

ESH-7 R. Jagnow
Time: 9:55 a.m.
Date: 9/23/96

DOE: K. Zamora
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Date: 9/26/96

Cleanup Started: N/A No Date Time:

Cleanup Finished: N/A No Date Time:

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy.

Written follow-up within 7 days: Date: 9/26/96

***Corrective action report within 15 days:** Date: 10/3/96

NMED/EPA Approval on file: Date: Pending

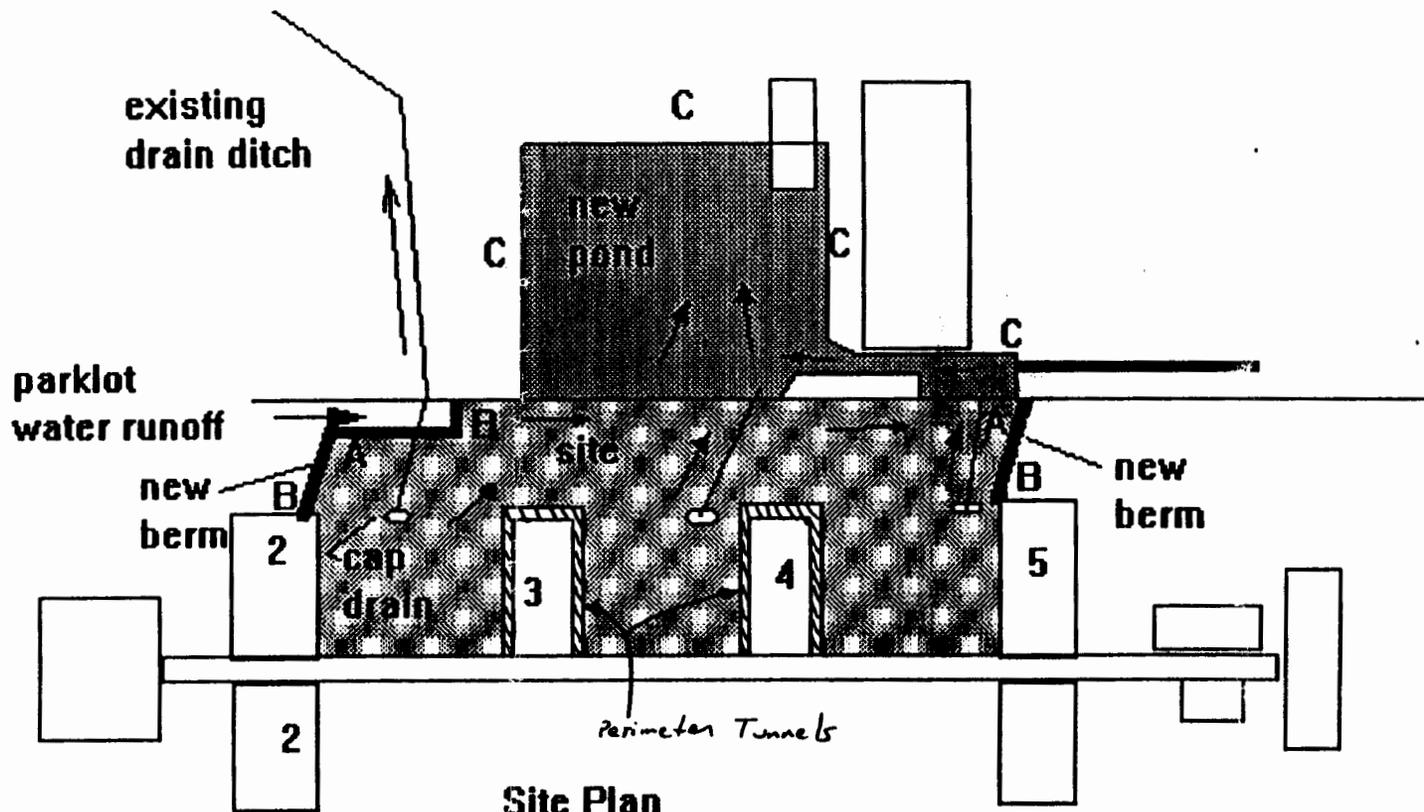
Comments: On 5/18/96 at 5:00 p.m., the JCI construction supervisor was notified by the radioactive liquid waste disposal facility at TA-21 that the facility was possibly receiving water from the D&D Project. (Project management believe the water used for dust suppression was seeping into capped drains formerly used as part of the radioactive liquid waste system.) The facility supervisor stated that the water exhibited an elevated pH. The supervisor turned off the water at the project site, and the flow at the waste disposal facility stopped. When the work resumed on 9/19/96, JCI/JENV used litmus paper to test for pH at the culvert adjacent to the D&D work area. Readings taken at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. indicated a pH of 7. At 11:30 a.m. we

was halted for lunch and water was shut off. At 12:30 p.m. the water was turned back on and at 12:30 the pH reading using litmus paper indicated a pH of approximately 13. At that time, the supervisor shut off the water and suspended work on the project. Three additional pH samples were taken in the runoff leading to DP Canyon, each approximately 25 yards apart. The first reading resulted in a pH of 12, the second resulted in a pH of 6 and the third resulted in a pH of 6. No running water was observed flowing into DP Canyon by personnel taking pH readings; only pooled pockets of water were observed. There were three samples collected screening for radioactivity and results showed no detectable activity (see attached report).

Release Notification Form Completed by: R. Georgioff, JCI/JENV and Carla Jacquez, ESH-18 Water Quality & Hydrology Group.

Thomas Todd
Area Manager
Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico
(505) 667-5105

Dennis J. Erickson
Division Director, ESH-DO
University of California
Los Alamos National Laboratory
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Site Plan
Water Containment Plan

