

FILE LANL HSWA Fu-1 OU 1106 TA-21-Bldg 61
21-003



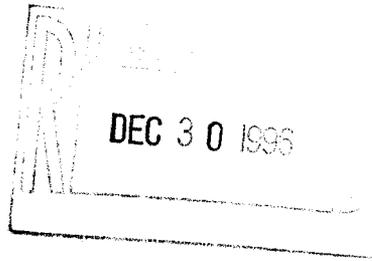
Department of Energy
Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Teri D

DEC 27 1996

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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



Dear Mr. Garcia:

SUBJECT: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Report of Potable Water Release - Technical Area (TA) 21- Building 61 Container Storage Area.

The purpose of this letter is to report a potable water release from the container storage area inside TA-21, Building 61. This report is not being made pursuant to Module II, Section K, 2(c) Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit or Module VIII, Section H of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Act (HSWA) Permit since LANL has no knowledge of hazardous waste being released in this event or that there is any apparent threat to the public or the environment as a result of related hazardous waste management activities or the closure presently being conducted at this site.

On December 24, 1996, just before noon, ESH-19 was informed that a release of potable water, an estimated 5,000 gallons, had occurred in the container storage area at Technical Area 21, Building 61. A broken potable water pipe within the steel building had flooded and filled the epoxy coated concrete secondary containment system and the main floor of the building.

Once the holding capacity of Building 61 was reached, one stream of potable water exited the building flowing from the west side of the building down an embankment and across an existing fence line. Additionally, potable water flowed out of the east door and headed in a southerly direction, across Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 21-003 that is paved with asphalt. Below the asphalt, high concentrations of PCBs have been found (See RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan for OU-1106). This flow stopped just short of the fence and did not exit the TA-21 area boundary. Therefore, no discharge from SWMU 21-003 occurred.

At present the secondary containment system is full and water is being retained. Grab samples have been taken and will be analyzed for RCRA metals, VOAs and semi-VOAs. Once analysis has been completed and results received, a follow-up report will be sent to

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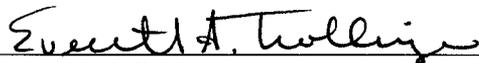


the New Mexico Environment Department.

It should be noted however, that prior to and at the time of the release no significant concentrations of hazardous constituents existed at this location. Additional information is presently being gathered and will be made a part of the follow-up report.

If you have any questions on this matter please contact me at 667-5042 or Ed Horst at 665-5326.

Sincerely,

for 
H. L. "Jody" Plum
Office of Environment and Projects
Los Alamos Area Office
U. S. Department of Energy

cc:

Teri Davis, Permit Management Supervisor
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