



*Environmental Protection Division*  
*Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA)*  
P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop K490  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545  
(505) 667-0666/FAX: (505) 667-5224

Date: June 2, 2010  
Refer To: ENV-RCRA-10-108  
LA-UR: 10-03609

Mr. William Olson, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Harold Runnels Building, Room N2250  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Olson:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY PERMISSION TO INSTALL A NEW SANITARY SEPTIC TANK/LEACHFIELD SYSTEM AT TECHNICAL AREA (TA)-33**

In accordance with Subsection B of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC, Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory or LANL) requests temporary permission from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau, to install a new sanitary septic tank/leachfield system at Technical Area (TA)-33. Enclosed for your review are the 90% design specifications, calculations, and drawings. Also enclosed is the \$150.00 filing fee required by regulation (20.6.2.3114 NMAC). Additional information on this request is provided below.

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Type of Discharge:          | Sanitary wastewater.                           |
| 2. Source of Discharge:        | Four buildings at TA-33: 168, 114, 9, and 280. |
| 3. Number of Workers Served:   | 80 full-time workers.                          |
| 4. System Design Flow:         | 1600 gpd (80 workers @ 20 gpd/worker).         |
| 5. Size of Septic Tank:        | 5000 gal.                                      |
| 6. Leachfield Absorption Area: | 2500 sf.                                       |



On March 25, 2010, NMED and LANL staff met to discuss siting and permitting of a new septic tank/leachfield system at TA-33 intended to replace the aging septic system, TA-33-0031. While NMED staff had no objections, in general, to the proposed location of the replacement system, two permitting constraints were identified by Mr. Robert Italiano (NMED) and Mr. Robert George (NMED):

1. The new septic system cannot be permitted under the New Mexico Liquid Waste Regulations (20.7.3 NMAC) because of the prohibition against multiple systems on one lot or site; LANL currently has 15 septic tank/leachfield systems.
2. A Discharge Permit cannot be issued by the NMED for the new septic system because LANL has a pending Discharge Permit application (DP-1589) for all septic tank/leachfield systems at the facility.

Accordingly, Mr. Robert George recommended that LANL seek 'temporary permission' to install a new septic system under Subsection B of 20.6.2.3106 NMAC. Following this, the new septic system at TA-33 will be incorporated into LANL's Septic System Discharge Permit (DP-1589), once approved.

Initially, it was the Laboratory's intent to effect a wholesale replacement of the aging septic system, TA-33-0031, with a new septic tank/leachfield system. After further evaluation, however, it was determined that two buildings, TA-33-113 and TA-33-39, would require a lift station if connected to the new system. As a result, the Laboratory's current plan is to keep the existing septic system, TA-33-0031, in service for buildings TA-33-113 and TA-33-39, but also begin the budgeting and planning process to replace the aging seepage pits with a new leachfield in FY2012.

Please contact me at (505) 667-7969 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Beers  
Water Quality & RCRA Group

Enclosures: a/s

Cy: Glenn Saums, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, NM, w/o enc.  
James Bearzi, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM, w/o enc.  
Gene Turner, LASO-EO, w/o enc., A316  
Hai Shen, LASO-EO, w/o enc., A316  
Steve Yanicak, LASO-GOV, w/o enc., M894  
Michael B. Mallory, PADOPS, w/o enc., A102  
J. Chris Cantwell, ADESHQ, w/o enc., K491  
Michael Graham, ADEP, w/o enc., M991  
Mike Saladen, ENV-RCRA, w/o enc., K490  
Jim Farmer, PMF-WEP, w/o enc., J590

Cy (continued):

Jim Jones, SP-DO, w/o enc., J590  
Miguel Salazar, SG-IGPP, w/o enc., J590  
Rick Alexander, STO-DO, w/o enc., E522  
Mark Gallegos, ASM-AO, w/o enc., M986  
John McCann, PMFS-DO, w/o enc., M992  
ENV-RCRA File, w/enc., K490  
IRM-RMMSO, w/enc., A150