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GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
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PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary
PAUL R. RITZMA
Deputy Secretary

ENTERED



CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 23, 2000

Steven Rae, Group Leader
Water and Hydrology Group
Los Alamos National Laboratory, MSK497
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge for Well Development Water and Purge Water From the R-19 Well, WQ&H:99-0472

Dear Mr Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has received your Notice of Intent (NOI), dated January 25, 2000, for the discharge of a total of 250,000 gallons of well development and purge water from the R-19 well at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in accordance with Section 1201 of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations. The well is located in Technical Area (TA)-36, LANL, Los Alamos County. The NOI satisfies the requirements of Section 1201 of the WQCC Regulations.

Based on the presently available information in your NOI, and the additional information submitted April 27, 2000, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described. Based on the effluent quality information provided in your NOI, the Ground Water Quality Bureau has determined that the proposed discharge is not likely to adversely impact ground water, and a discharge plan will not be required.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows:

Up to 250,000 gallons of well development water from the R-19 well will be discharged by aluminum piping with sprinkler heads to a mesa top, with a slope of less than 10%, within TA-36. The land application will be conducted for 8-10 hours per day and will be monitored periodically during each discharge day to ensure that no ponding or run-off is occurring. Well development water may also be used for dust suppression water on the site access roads and the drill pad. Water used for dust suppression will be applied by a hand held hose. Water will not be allowed to enter into



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surface water courses and will not be allowed to pond. No Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) or Potential Release Sites (PRSs) will be impacted by this discharge.

Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge at this time, 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 (GWPPS).

If you have any questions, please contact either Phyllis Bustamante of the GWPPS staff at 827-0166 or Maura Hanning, Program Manager of the GWPPS at 827-2900.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:PAB/pab

xc: Benito Garcia, District Manager, NMED District II
Barbara Hoditscheck, SWQB
John Young, HRMB
Steve Yanicek, DOEOB
NOI File