Subject: Release of Potable Water at TA-46
Date: Wed, 21 Aug 2002 10:35:14 -0600
From: Steve Veenis <veeniss@lanl.gov>
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TA-46: Release Notification: 46-004(q) and 46-006(d)

This notification has been prepared for submittal to NMED. Please advise me if you have any comments on it by 12:00 p.m. August 22, 2002.

To: Brett Lucas (NMED/SWQB) and John Young (NMED/HWB)

On about August 5, 2002 a leak occurred at TA-46. Apparently the float on a chiller system got stuck and potable water overflowed. It was found Monday morning and probably started sometime over the weekend. Although this discharge will not affect any surface water drainages or impact human health or ecological receptors, this e-mail serves as the notification of the release under the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission regulations. Normally, these types of potable water releases are summarized and provided to the NMED at the end of the year. Due to the following circumstances we are reporting this information at this time.

On August 8, 2002, LANL staff and contractors visited the area surrounding Building TA-46-16 to assess the impact of this potable water release. The team walked to the northern end of Building TA-46-16 and noticed damp soils within a swale that drains northward from the edge of the concrete apron adjacent to Building TA-46-16. There was no evidence of erosion within this swale and no odors were detected. The team looked within Building TA-46-16 and observed water pooled on the corridor floor, apparently from the chiller system.

The team drove into Canada del Buey to the northeast corner of TA-46 to view the impacts of the release on the slope and channel below Building TA-46-16. There was evidence of the discharge down the slope; minor rill erosion was present along side an existing gabion. Evidence of the discharge terminated at the toe of the slope; the release did not go beyond the straw wattles at the toe of the slope or cross the roadway within the canyon. This release flowed onto PRSs 46-006(d) and 46-004(q), but did not leave the PRS boundaries. An estimate of the volume of the release was approximately 300 gallons.

This release occurred on the northern slope of TA-46 which was impacted by the Cerro Grande Fire. Best Management Practices (BMPs) were installed at that time and have been vigorously maintained since then. The BMPs aided in minimizing the impact of the release. If you have any questions regarding this discharge, please notify me at your convenience.

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