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NEW MEXICO



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ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



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CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 16, 2019

Mr. Enrique Torres
EPC Division Director
Triad National Security, LLC.
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K404
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Ms. Karen E. Armijo
Permitting and Compliance Program Manager
National Nuclear Security Administration Los
Alamos Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road, A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

RE: Temporary Permission to Discharge, Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility, DP-1132

Dear Mr. Torres and Ms. Armijo:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has reviewed the U.S. Department of Energy and Triad National Security, LLC's (DOE/Triad) September 13, 2019 request for temporary permission (Request) for the continued discharge of up to 40,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater from the Technical Area (TA)-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF). The Request specifies that discharges will be limited to the Mechanical Evaporator System (MES) and Outfall 051. The Request is for an extension of the previously issued temporary permission to discharge authorized by NMED in a letter dated August 21, 2019 and allowing for a discharge for 120 days from June 18, 2019 through October 16, 2019. The Request is associated with a groundwater discharge permit DP-1132, which is associated with the RLWTF and was issued to DOE/Triad on August 29, 2018. Subsequent to issuance, on June 18, 2019 the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) vacated and remanded DP-1132 back to NMED for a new hearing. The Request is made pursuant to 20.6.2.3106.B NMAC, which allows NMED's Cabinet Secretary (Secretary) for good cause shown to allow a person to discharge without a permit.



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The Request seeks the continued operations at the RLWTF, including use of the RLWTF's influent storage system (the Waste Management Risk Mitigation Facility), and continued work associated with NMED-approved workplans.

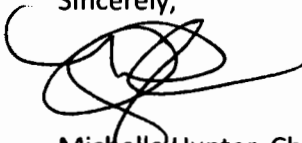
DOE/Triad's Request commits to the operation of the RLWTF in accordance with the procedures outlined in the discharge permit application and applicable requirements at 20.6.2 NMAC. The Request further commits to specific sampling and reporting activities associated with the discharge. The discharge is located within Los Alamos National Laboratory, approximately 1.5 miles south of Los Alamos, New Mexico, in Section 22, Township 19N, Range 06E, Los Alamos County.

Temporary permission to discharge for 120 days is hereby granted pursuant to 20.6.2.3106.B NMAC. This permission allows for the continued operation of the RLWTF and the discharge of treated effluent to specified locations through February 13, 2020, or until the Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) reissues the permit.

This approval does not relieve DOE/Triad of the responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements and nuisance ordinances. Also, this approval does not relieve DOE/Triad of liability should operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Pullen, manager of the bureau's Pollution Prevention Section, at (505) 827-2962.

Sincerely,



Michelle Hunter, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

MH:AR

cc: Robert Italiano, District Manager, NMED District II (electronic copy)
Steve Pullen, NMED/GWQB (electronic copy)
Andrew Romero, NMED/GWQB (electronic copy)
John Romero, Office of the State Engineer (electronic copy)
Anne Keller, DWB, UOCP (electronic copy)
John Kieling, NMED/HWB (electronic copy)
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