



State of New Mexico  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
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Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502  
(505) 827-2850

*Handwritten signature*

**BRUCE KING**  
GOVERNOR

**JUDITH M. ESPINOSA**  
SECRETARY

**RON CURRY**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

November 1, 1994

TA 50

Mr. Dennis J. Erickson  
Division Director, ES&H  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 1663, Mailstop A-120  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Mr. Joseph C. Vozella  
Chief Environment, Safety & Health Branch  
Los Alamos Area Office  
Department of Energy  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Gentlemen:

RE: Investigation of Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL)  
Technical Area 50 (TA-50) Liquid Waste Treatment Plant

It has come to the attention of the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that an unauthorized discharge of water contaminants is occurring at the TA-50 Liquid Waste Treatment Plant. The April 1994 LANL Capital Assets Management Plan (CAMP) 96 document for TA-50 states on page A-168:

"The design life of the concrete tankage has virtually expired and seepage is occurring through the tank walls"

This discharge falls under the authority of New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulation 1-203.A. This Regulation, in part, requires:

"With respect to any discharge from any facility of oil or other water contaminant, in such quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare or the use of property, the following notifications and corrective actions are required; ...;" and



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"5. As soon as possible after learning of such a discharge, the owner/operator of the facility shall take such corrective actions as are necessary or appropriate to contain and remove or mitigate the damage caused by the discharge."

In order to properly contain and remove or mitigate the damage caused by this discharge, LANL needs to first perform an investigation. On September 14, 1994 NMED Ground Water Protection and Remediation Bureau staff members were planning on attending a meeting concerning an upcoming investigation at TA-50 which was proposed in LANL's RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan for Operable Unit 1147. The meeting was cancelled along with the investigation. NMED requests a meeting with LANL to discuss what LANL has done and intends to do in the future regarding this discharge. We wish to schedule this meeting in Santa Fe in the next several weeks at a mutually convenient time.

NMED has reviewed LANL's TA-50 sampling plan, which was submitted in the RCRA Facility Investigation Work Plan for Operable Unit 1147, Environmental Restoration Program. NMED requests that the investigation proceed without delay. Please be advised that NMED may approve this sampling plan as an interim Corrective Action Report pursuant to WQCC Regulation 1-203. Please contact Dennis McQuillan of my staff at 827-2831 if any questions arise concerning this matter. LANL's voluntary cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Sisneros, Director  
Water and Waste Management Division

xc Marcy Leavitt, Chief, GWPRB  
Dennis McQuillan, GWPRB Remediation Section  
Benito Garcia, Chief, HRMB