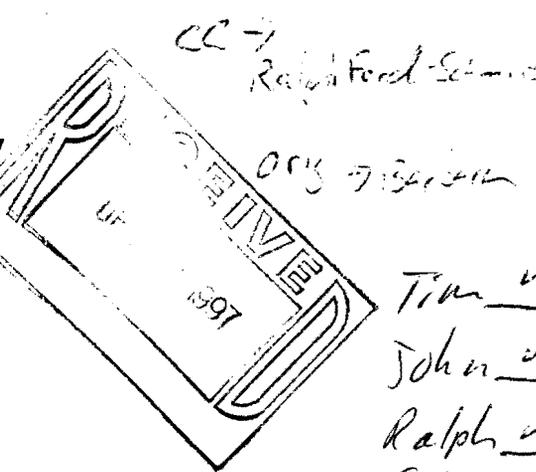




Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

DEC 30 1997



Tim ✓
John ✓
Ralph ✓
File ✓

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Dale Doremus
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Ms. Doremus:

Subject: Revisions to Los Alamos National Laboratory's (LANL) Ground Water Discharge Plan Application for the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF) at Technical Area (TA) 50

In April 1997, the Department of Energy Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) submitted to your agency a revised schedule for completing the Phase I upgrades (tubular ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis) at the LANL RLWTF at TA-50. In the revised schedule, the Phase I upgrades were to be fully operational by October 1997. Currently, construction of the Phase I upgrades have been completed and the system is undergoing preoperational testing. These upgrades, however, are not expected to be fully operational until March 1998. This change has been indicated in the enclosed Table 1.0.

In addition to the delays in completing the Phase I upgrades, LANL is also experiencing delays in implementing the Phase II upgrades (biological denitrification). Due to difficulties in procuring the biological denitrification equipment, LANL will be unable to meet the January 1998 schedule proposed in the August 1996 Ground Water Discharge Plan Application. A revised expected completion date of June 1998 has been indicated in the enclosed Table 1.0.

Please call Bonnie Koch of my staff at (505) 665-7202, or Bob Beers of the LANL Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) at (505) 667-7969 if you desire any additional information concerning this revision to the LANL Ground Water Discharge Plan Application for the RLWTF at TA-50.

Sincerely,

G. Thomas Todd
Area Manager

LAAME:3BK-018

Enclosure

cc:
See page 2

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JAN 11 1998

DOE GROUND WATER BUREAU



8854

LANL/EC/00/1147

TA-50 (RLWTF, Ground Water Discharge permit)

Dale Doremus

2

DEC 30 1997

cc w/enclosure:

Phyllis Bustamante

Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Glenn Saums

Surface Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive
P. O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Table 1.0. Summary of Completed, In Progress, and Proposed Upgrades to the RLWTF. (Revised on December 18, 1997. Revised dates are in bold italics).

Plant Integrity Upgrades	Start Date	Completion Date
• Eliminate Influent from the Solids Section of the Grit Chamber.	August, 1990	Sept., 1990
• Install New Neutralization Chamber & Monitoring Station to Eliminate Grit Chamber Function.	August, 1990	August, 1993
• Install New Collection Lines from TA-55 to TA-50.	August, 1990	June, 1995
• Replace WM-66 Acid Tank with New SS Tank.	January, 1994	August, 1994
• Non-Destructive Testing of All Concrete Tanks.	June, 1994	December, 1994
• Non-Destructive Testing of all Steel Tanks.	May, 1993	September, 1993
• Refurbish Clarifiers (2).	August, 1995	October, 1996
• Install New Influent Tank Farm.	Dec., 1993	Dec., 1996
• Video Inspect Pipelines & Pressure Test Equipment.	April, 1995	On-Going
Phase I Process Upgrades: TUF and RO	Start Date	End Date
• BAT Evaluation Conducted per DOE Order 5400.5.	April, 1992	May, 1995
• Engineering of Phase I Upgrades.	February, 1994	June, 1996
• Procurement, Installation, and Start-Up.	May, 1996	<i>Dec, 1997</i>
• Test-Out Period.	<i>Dec, 1997</i>	<i>March, 1998</i>
• Phase I Fully Operational.	----	<i>March, 1998</i>
Phase II Process Upgrades: Nitrate Removal	Start Date	End Date
• BAT Evaluation Conducted.	April, 1992	May, 1995
• Parallel Evaluation of Available Technologies by RLWTF and an Independent Consultant.	March, 1996	June, 1996
• NEPA Review of Process Upgrades.	February, 1996	Sept., 1996
• Parallel Engineering of 3 Options.	July, 1996	June, 1997
• Parallel Pilot Testing of 3 Options:		
1) Evaporation.	October, 1996	May, 1997
2) Biological Denitrification.	October, 1996	April, 1997
3) Selective Ion Exchange.	October, 1996	March, 1997
• Evaluation of Pilot Testing.	May, 1997	June, 1997
• Selection of Nitrate Removal Process.	June, 1997	July, 1997
• Procurement of Equipment, Installation and Start-Up.	<i>Sept, 1997</i>	<i>March, 1998</i>
• Test-Out Period	<i>March, 1998</i>	<i>June, 1998</i>
• Phase II Upgrades Fully Operational.	----	<i>June, 1998</i>