

John K

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Environment, Safety, and Health Division

P.O. Box 1663, Mail Stop K491
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 667-4218 / FAX: (505) 665-3811

Date: December 21, 1998
Refer to: ESH-DO:98-358



HSWA LANL 5/1147/50

Ms. Dale Doremus
Program Manager
Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

SUBJECT: LONG-TERM OPERATIONAL PLAN, GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PLAN (DP-1132) FOR LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY'S RADIOACTIVE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY AT TA-50

Dear Ms. Doremus:

In our November 20, 1998 letter, Los Alamos National Laboratory provided you with a short-term operational plan for discharges from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF) at TA-50. The plan identified several interim programs for achieving compliance with the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) ground water standard for nitrate until a new, long-term, treatment process can be installed.

As a follow-up to our November 20th letter, please note that the Laboratory has selected mechanical evaporation as the preferred process for the long-term treatment of the reverse osmosis (RO) reject stream. Mechanical evaporation of RO reject stream will, in addition to removing nitrate, provide the Laboratory with a means of removing other salts, a necessary step towards the Laboratory's long-term goal of zero liquid discharge. The Laboratory is proceeding with engineering design and scheduling for the mechanical evaporation project. It is our goal to have a mechanical evaporator operational within 18 months. The Laboratory will continue to update you as the project progresses through detailed engineering, procurement, and startup.

The Phase I upgrades (ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis) have been installed and tested on non-radioactive water and are expected to begin operation with radioactive water in late February or March, 1999. This delay from January, 1999, is due to the need to complete further safety documentation and readiness assessment in accordance with Department of Energy nuclear facility safety requirements.

To ensure compliance with the N.M. WQCC ground water standard for nitrate during the interim period from March 21, 1998, until the mechanical evaporator becomes operational, the Laboratory will implement the programs identified in the short-term

TL

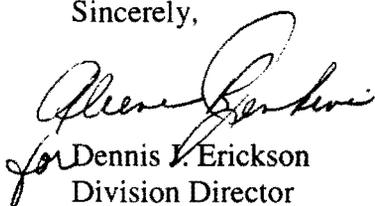


8876

operational plan submitted to you under the November 20th letter. The Laboratory proposes to submit quarterly reports to NMED, starting with the first quarter of 1999, with effluent and monitor well analytical results as well as progress updates on the evaporator project and interim compliance activities.

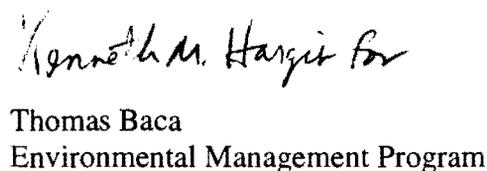
Please contact Bob Beers of the Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group at (505) 667-7969 if you require additional information regarding the Laboratory's Ground Water Discharge Plan Application for the RLWTF at TA-50.

Sincerely,



for Dennis V. Erickson
Division Director

Sincerely,



Thomas Baca
Environmental Management Program

DJE/mm

Cy: J. Davis, NMED SWQB, Santa Fe, NM
B. Garcia, NMED HRMB, Santa Fe, NM
D. Gurule, DOE LAAO, MS A316
J. Vozella, AAME, LAAO, MS A316
R. Burick, DIR, MS A100
B. Stine, ALDNW, MS F629
B. Matthews, NMT-DO, MS E500
S. Gibbs, NW-MM, MS A102
S. Rae, (ESH-18/WQ&H:98-0437), ESH-18, MS K497
B. Beers, ESH-18, MS K497
ESH-DO File, MS K491
WQ&H File, MS K497
CIC-10, MS A150