

# Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545*

Date: October 4, 1999  
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:99-0394  
Mail Stop: K497  
Telephone: (505) 667-7969

Ms. Phyllis Bustamante  
Ground Water Quality Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

**SUBJECT: TA-50 RADIOACTIVE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY,  
GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PLAN, DP-1132**

Dear Ms. Bustamante:

Pursuant to New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulation 3107.C., Los Alamos National Laboratory (Laboratory) would like to notify your agency of a process modification at the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF). As you are aware, in March 1999 the RLWTF began operating a tubular ultrafiltration (TUF) unit as part of the Phase I facility upgrades. In September 1999, the RLWTF's operators determined that a critical seal in the TUF unit was leaking. The leak was resulting in a by-pass or short-circuit between the permeate and concentrate (reject) streams. The TUF was taken out of service and primary treatment operations at the RLWTF were replaced with the facility's clarifiers.

A subsequent investigation by the RLWTF determined that it is necessary to replace all 300 of the TUF unit's stainless steel filter tubes with CPVC tubes. Tube replacement will begin during the first week of October, 1999 and is scheduled for completion in early November 1999.

Until the TUF unit can be repaired and returned to service, primary treatment is being conducted by the clarifiers and the anthracite/sand filters. As you are aware, the RLWTF has extensive experience with these treatment units, their use dating back to 1963. Secondary treatment by the reverse osmosis (RO) treatment unit is being conducted only as necessary to meet NPDES and NMWQCC effluent limits. Concentrates (rejects) from the RO unit continue to be stored on-site awaiting volume reduction by the electrodialysis reversal (EDR) treatment unit and final treatment by the interim evaporator.



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The EDR unit has been installed, is currently being tested with potable water, and is scheduled for start-up in October 1999. The interim evaporator is on-site and is scheduled to be placed into service in February, 2000.

Please contact me at 667-7969 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this notification.

Sincerely,



Bob Beers  
Water Quality and Hydrology Group



BB/rm

Cy: S. Wilson, USEPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas  
E. Spencer, USEPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas  
J. Davis, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
J. Bearzi, NMED/HRMB, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
J. Vozella, DOE/LAAO, MS A316  
B. Enz, DOE/LAAO, MS A316  
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, MS K491  
T. Stanford, FWO-DO, MS P913  
D. McLain, FWO-WFM, MS J595  
T. Gunderson, DLD-OPS, MS A100  
S. Hanson, FWO-RLWF, MS E518  
D. Moss, FWO-RLWF, MS E518  
S. Rae, ESH-18, MS K497  
M. Saladen, ESH-18, MS K497  
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CIC-10, MS A150

