

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: February 18, 2000
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:00-0054
Mail Stop: K497
Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Ms. Maura Hanning, Acting Program Manager
Pollution Prevention Section
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

K

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE ON THE GROUND WATER DISCHARGE PERMIT APPLICATION, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, RADIOACTIVE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY, DP-1132

Dear Ms. Hanning:

Los Alamos National Laboratory is in receipt of your January 31, 2000, letter (attached) regarding the status of the Laboratory's Ground Water Discharge Permit Application for the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF) at TA-50. The Laboratory acknowledges the constraints that your agency is operating under and we recognize that a public hearing for DP-1132 cannot be scheduled until a thorough review of the discharge plan application has been completed. It is my understanding that the Laboratory has satisfied all requests for information submitted by your agency to date. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if any of your requests for information are outstanding.

The Laboratory remains committed to ensuring that all effluent discharge from the RLWTF meets New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (NM WQCC) Regulation 3103 standards. In January 2000, the RLWTF completed the final two steps of the facility's Phase I and II upgrades, the Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR) and the interim mechanical evaporator. These treatment units provide the RLWTF with the capability to concentrate and treat the RO concentrate (reject) waste stream. With this capability in place, the Laboratory is confident that it can continue to meet NMWQCC Regulation 3103 standards into the future.

During 1999, the Laboratory submitted to your agency four quarterly reports for DP-1132. The Laboratory will continue to submit quarterly reports until such time as we are notified by your agency to do differently.

RED LAML TA-50/00
TA 50

R



8897

Please keep the Laboratory informed on the status of the permitting process including the scheduling of the public hearing. In addition, please notify Bob Beers of my staff at 667-7969 should you have questions or require additional information.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Rae, Jr.' The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steven Rae, Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

SR:BB/rm

Enclosures: a/s

Cy: S. Wilson, USEPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas
E. Spencer, USEPA, Region 6, Dallas, Texas
P. Bustamante, NMED GWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
J. Bearzi, NMED HRMB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
B. Hoditschek, NMED SWQB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316
M. Johansen, DOE LAAO, MS A316
J. Parker, NMED DOE/OB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
R. Ford-Schmid, NMED DOE/OB, Santa Fe, New Mexico
T. Gunderson, DLDOPS, MS A100
J. Vozella, DOE LAAO, MS A316
M. Johansen, DOE LAAO, MS A316
T. Gunderson, DLDOPS, MS A100
T. Stanford, FWO-DO, MS K492
B. Ramsey, FWO-DO, MS K492
D. Mclain, FWO-RLW, MS J595
S. Hanson, FWO-DO, MS J595
D. Moss, FWO-RLW, MS E518
R. Alexander, FWO-WFM, E518
P. Worland, FWO-RLW, MS E518
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, MS K491
S. Rae, ESH-18, MS K497
M. Saladen, ESH-18, MS K497
D. Woitte, LC/GL, MS A187
WQ&H File, MS K497
CIC-10, MS A150



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

(505) 827-2918 phone
(505) 827-2965 fax



PETER MAGGIORE
Secretary
PAUL R. RITZMA
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 31, 2000

David Gurule, Area Manager
Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Dennis Erickson, Division Director
ESH-DO, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Mail Stop K491
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

RE: Status Update on the Discharge Permit Application for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility, DP-1132

Dear Mr. Gurule and Mr. Erickson:

This letter is to update the Department of Energy, Los Alamos Area Office (DOE), and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) on the status of the discharge permit application (DP-1132) for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF). In a letter to Mr. Gurule, dated June 30, 1999, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) informed the DOE and LANL that the Secretary of the NMED had determined that there is significant public interest in DP-1132 and that a public hearing would be held.

Due to staff constraints at the GWQB, and the time requirements for completion of a thorough review of all information submitted as part of the discharge plan application and for preparation of a public hearing, the hearing has not yet been scheduled. NMED recognizes that the RLWTF discharges wastewater under an NPDES permit and requests that if LANL continues to discharge wastewater from the RLWTF that all discharges meet all Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulation 3103 standards as LANL committed to in letters dated November 20, 1998 and March 12, 1999. In addition, NMED requests that LANL continue to submit quarterly monitoring reports to the GWQB as described in the revised monitoring plan in the letter from DOE dated June 23, 1997.

While there is not a scheduled date for a public hearing, NMED will keep the DOE and LANL

Mr. Gurule, Mr. Erickson, DP-1132
January 31, 1999
Page 2

informed on the status of the permitting process including the scheduling of a public hearing. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Phyllis Bustamante at 827-0166.

Sincerely,



Maura Hanning, Acting Program Manager
Ground Water Quality Bureau, Pollution Prevention Section

MH/PAB/pab

xc: Benito Garcia, District Manager, NIED District II
Steven Rae, LANL, Mail Stop K497, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
Susan Diane, P.O. box 9855, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
Joey Natseway, Tewa Women United, Rte 5 Box 298, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Kathy Sanchez, President, Pi'ee Quiyo Inc., Rt. 5 Box 442-B, San Ildefonso Pueblo,
Española, New Mexico 87532