



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Ground Water Quality Bureau
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RON CURRY
SECRETARY
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DEPUTY SECRETARY

TA-50 (TA-3)

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 19, 2003

Steven R. Rae, Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group
Risk Reduction and Environmental Stewardship Division
Los Alamos National Laboratory
P.O. Box 1663, MS K497
(RRES-ECR)
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



RE: Response to Notice of Intent to Discharge Containerized Groundwater from the Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) Installation in Mortandad Canyon

Dear Mr. Rae:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) has reviewed your notice of intent, dated February 6, 2003, for the discharge of approximately 40,000 gallons of containerized groundwater from the installation of the PRB in Mortandad Canyon. The PRB is located in Section 23, T19N, R6E, Los Alamos County. The notice of intent satisfies the requirements of Section 20.6.2.1201 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations.

Based on the information submitted with your notice of intent, a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge as long as the discharge is as described in the notice of intent and associated data. The Ground Water Quality Bureau has concluded that the proposed discharge will not adversely impact ground water, and a discharge plan will not be required.

The exempt discharge is briefly described as follows: Approximately 40,000 gallons of containerized groundwater will be discharged less than 200 feet directly upstream from the PRB in Mortandad Canyon after the PRB has been installed and is operational. The discharge shall be as described in the February 6, 2003, notice of intent.

Furthermore, no portion of the containerized groundwater shall be allowed to bypass the PRB as surface flow. The containerized groundwater shall be discharged in a manner that allows for infiltration/percolation prior to reaching the PRB, so that all discharged groundwater flows through the PRB treatment cell.



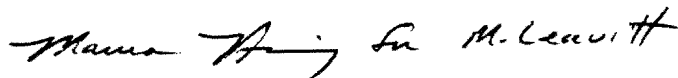
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Although a discharge plan is not being required for this discharge at this time, you are not relieved of liability should your operation result in actual pollution of surface or ground waters. Further, this decision by the NMED does not relieve you of your responsibility to comply with any other applicable federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations, such as zoning requirements, plumbing codes and nuisance ordinances.

If at some time in the future you intend to change the amount, the character, or the location of your discharge so that it will not be as described, or if observation or monitoring shows that the discharge is not as described, you must file a new notice of intent with the Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section (GWPPS).

If you have any questions, please contact either Curt Frischkorn of the GWPPS staff at 827-0078 or Maura Hanning, Program Manager of the GWPPS at 827-2945.

Sincerely,



Marcy Leavitt, Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau

ML:CSF/csf

xc: Mark Haagenstad, Water Quality and Hydrology Group, Los Alamos National Laboratory,
P.O. Box 1663, MS K497, RRES-WQH, Los Alamos, NM 87545
Courte Voorhees, District Manager, NMED District II
John Young, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Brett Lucas, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau
NOI File