

TA 54

ENTERED



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GOVERNOR

**State of New Mexico  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
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RON CURRY  
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April 11, 2008

Richard Powell  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Surface Water Quality Bureau  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
Suite N4050  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

**SUBJECT: Spill Response Assessment and Suggestion for Close-Out of Potable Water Release  
at TA-54, Building 412, LANL report # 183, on October 11, 2007**

Dear Mr. Powell:

On October 12, 2007, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) was notified of a potable water release from a failed valve on a dry fire suppression water system at TA-54, Building 412, located at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico. This spill was reported to the Emergency Spill Hotline as required by 20.6.2.1203 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission. The amount of the discharge was approximately 2,200 gallons with a portion of water flowing to a nearby shaft field. The water flowed around waste shafts 205 and 214 and then infiltrated into the nearby soil. Follow-up site investigation showed that at no time during the release did any water enter the waste shafts due to placing sand bags in the flow path in order to divert the water so as to protect the shafts from infiltration or erosion. At approximately 2:30 p.m. the dry line fire suppression system was repaired and then placed back into service.

The DOE Oversight Bureau has reviewed the spill discharge notification report from October 12, 2007 and has found that the inspection and follow-up repair program is sufficient to protect the environment of New Mexico. The Oversight Bureau believes the response and clean-up has been adequate and recommends that no further action is required at this time under this discharge notification. However, this letter does not relieve the United States Department of Energy or the Los Alamos National Security, LLC, of its obligation to comply with any other applicable laws and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Erik Galloway of our Santa Fe office at (505) 476-6024.

Sincerely,

Stephen Yanicak  
Program Manager/POC

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Mr. Richard Powell  
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