

Public Service Company of New Mexico

Post Office Box 227 / Waterflow, New Mexico 87421

December 15, 1993

Mike Le Fcouarnec
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials
New Mexico Environment Department
PO Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Re: Sulfuric Acid Release
San Juan Generating Station

Dear Mr. Le Fcouarnec;

As you requested, I am providing this information as follow-up to our telephone conversation on December 15, 1993.

The sulfur dioxide (SO₂) removal system at the San Juan Generating Station produces sulfuric acid as a product of the SO₂ removal process. We have two large storage tanks that store sulfuric acid at a concentration of 93%. In addition, we have a smaller tank that stores sulfuric acid at a concentration of 98%. This 98% acid is used for the start-up of the acid plant.

On December 14, 1993 the acid plant was being started-up after being down for maintenance. At approximately 2330 hours on December 14, 1993 we discovered that the 98% tank was overflowing and the sulfuric acid was flowing to a concrete sump at our unloading station and then through underground piping to a process pond. This process pond is a zero discharge pond and is lined with a high density polyethelene liner. We estimated from the acid production rate and the level in the tank prior to the start-up of the acid plant, that we discharged approximately 2790 gallons of acid to the pond.

As soon as the overflow was discovered, the valving was changed so that the acid would flow to the larger 93% tanks. Our wastewater operations was notified and we immediately began to neutralize the pond water with lime. The pH measurements of the pond water ranged from a low of approximately 2.4 to the most recent reading of 2.7 units. The normal pH of the pond water is 7 to 9 pH units. We will continue to neutralize the pond water.

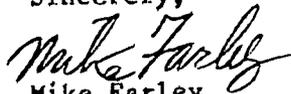
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All of the sulfuric acid was contained in the concrete sump or the lined process pond. There were no injuries associated with this release and any adverse environmental impacts are minimal.

Please contact me at 598-7628 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



Mike Farley

Senior Environmental Analyst

<input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL	TIME: 10:30	DATE: 12/28/93
ORIGINATING PARTY		OTHER PARTIES	
Public Service Company of NM		Michael	
Mike Farley			
SUBJECT			
SO ₂ spill (98%) 1800 gallons			
DISCUSSION			
PH back to normal on Dec 20.			
completely neutralized			
• restarted waste water treatment center			
(evaporate H ₂ O to clean it) distill H ₂ O			
CONCLUSIONS OR AGREEMENTS			
OK closed			
DISTRIBUTION		SIGNED	
		Michael Farley	