



Department of Energy
 Albuquerque Operations Office
 P.O. Box 5400
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87115

DEC 13 1988

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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DEC 14 1988

GROUND WATER BUREAU

State of New Mexico
 Health and Environment Department
 Environmental Improvement Division
 Ground Water Permitting Section
 Mr. Ernest Rebuck
 P. O. Box 968
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0968

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Dear Mr. Rebuck:

In telephone conversations with Ms. Ardito and Mr. Lambert of the EID, we became aware of the need to file Notices of Intent to Discharge for the septic tanks at our facilities that exceed a 2000 gallons per day (gpd) capacity. We have conducted an extensive survey of all of the septic tanks located at the Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque (SNLA). We do not have septic tanks at our AL headquarters, ITRI, or Ross Aviation facilities. The septic tanks at our other DOE facilities, located on KAFB, are currently being studied by other offices.

The septic tank survey at SNLA revealed a universe of approximately 85 septic tanks. The enclosed Notice(s) of Intent (NOI) are for those tanks designed to receive or actually receiving 2000 gpd or more sewage flow. These NOI's meet the requirements of New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Regulations, part I-200. It is our understanding that you will examine these notices and determine the need for additional filing, such as a Discharge Plan. We also understand that these facilities will be used in your compilation of Class V Underground Injection Control Wells for a comprehensive database system. We are planning to file Liquid Discharge Permits for the remaining septic tanks located at SNLA and will provide copies for Mr. Lambert's database. We would also like to explain that we are currently planning to construct a sewage trunkline to the facilities in Technical Areas (TA) III and V. Upon completion of that line and connection by the individual facilities, we will proceed with proper abandonment of the septic tanks in that area. We hope to have this sewage line completed within the next two years.

Current liquid waste discharges to these septic tanks must meet the requirements of SNLA Environment Safety and Health Department Bulletin No. 13, issued on February 13, 1988, prohibiting the discharge of hazardous wastes or materials into septic tanks located in TA's II, III, and V. These materials are disposed of through the hazardous waste disposal program of SNLA.

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The results of the recent septic tank survey revealed that some of these tanks may have received wastes other than domestic liquid waste in the past. Over the next two to three years, the tank contents and/or soil in the leach fields will be analyzed for hazardous materials to determine whether the tanks should be included in our Environmental Restoration Program for remediation of sites that were polluted by past activities. The NMEID has received numerous documents from us concerning this program, which describe the activities that occur during this characterization phase and subsequent actions based upon the findings of that study.

Thank you for your assistance in processing these Notices. If we can provide any additional information, please call Sue E. Umshler, of my staff, at 844-7671.

Sincerely,



Albert R. Chernoff
Director, Management
Support Division

8 Enclosures

cc w/enclosures:

C. Ardito, EID
K. Lambert, EID
J. Themelis, EHD, AL
P. Stanford, 0100, SNLA
S. Wallace, 0132, SNLA
G. Smith, 3314, SNLA