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Rivardo

Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P. O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

JUL 2 3 2018

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NMED
Hazardous Waste Bureau

Ms. Michelle Hunter, Bureau Chief
Ground Water Quality Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Subject: Notification of Discharge: One Week Written Notification required by Discharge Permit 831

Dear Ms. Hunter:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) of an unauthorized discharge due to a ruptured fire water distribution line, as required by Discharge Permit 831 (DP-831) issued to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). The following items are being addressed per DP-831 Condition 32, Contingency Plan.

Permit Condition 32

This report confirms the CBFO call to Mr. Ronald Strauch on July 16, 2018, informing the GWQB of the water discharge that originated from a rupture in the water line. A portion of water did report to Storm Water Pond 3 but had no impact on pond capacity.

Contingency Plan Information

The following information (a-g) completes the one-week notification, required in Section 32 of the DP-831 Permit.

(a) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of the facility, as well as of the owner and/or operator of the facility:

Person in charge of the facility:
Todd Shrader, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Carlsbad Field Office
P.O. Box 3090
Carlsbad, New Mexico, 88221
(575) 234-7300

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Owner of the facility:
U.S. Department of Energy

Operator of the facility:
Nuclear Waste Partnership LLC

(b) Name and address of the facility:

U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)
26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, off State Highway 128
Carlsbad, NM 88220

(c) The date, time, location, and duration of the discharge:

Date: July 16, 2018
Time: 1157 hours MDT
Location: WIPP Facility (Latitude: 32 22.589, Longitude 103 47.746)
Duration of Discharge: 75 minutes

(d) The source and cause of the discharge:

Source: Water from the water line at Building 384.

Cause of discharge:

On July 16, 2018, the water line at Building 384 ruptured. The rupture resulted in a discharge of 36,000 gallons of water before the pump could be shut down and the proper valves closed.

(e) A description of the discharge, including chemical composition:

The discharge from the water line is raw uncontaminated water from the water inlet to the WIPP facility. Raw water is supplied to the WIPP facility from the City of Carlsbad Double Eagle water field, which is provided directly to the WIPP facility. With the exception of chlorination, the water supplied to the WIPP Facility is of drinking water quality.

(f) The estimated volume of the discharge:

It is estimated the 36,000 gallons was discharged based on the water level drop in the water storage tank.

(g) Any actions taken to mitigate immediate damage from this discharge:

As soon as the rupture of the water line was noticed, and information was relayed to the Operations group, the fire pump was shut down and the ruptured portion of the system has been isolated.

Corrective Action Plan

Upon review of this matter, it is believed that this outflow of water poses no threat to human health and environment. The water did not flow through any waste management areas or chemical storage areas and therefore, did not collect contaminants. Since the water discharged was not contaminated and no damage to human health or the environment occurred, it is requested by the DOE that this matter be closed with no additional reporting necessary under the WIPP DP-831 Groundwater Permit.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter or need additional information, please contact me at (575) 234-7476.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Brown, Director
Office of Environmental Protection

cc:
S. Pullen, NMED, GWQB *ED
R. Strauch, NMED, GWQB ED
R. Maestas, NMED, HWB ED
CBFO M&RC ED
*Denotes electronic distribution