

From: Jean Siegfried Darling <jdarling@sandwich.net>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 6:48 PM
To: Rosborough, Evelyn <rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov>
Subject: Clean Water Act permit No. NM0028355

Ms. Evelyn Rosborough
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
NPDES/Wetland Review Section (6WD-PN)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Public Comment about the draft LANL Industrial Wastewater Discharge
Clean Water Act Permit No. NM0028355

Dear Ms. Rosborough:

I object to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) asking the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a Clean Water Act permit for industrial facilities that have not discharged wastewater to the environment for years, if not decades.

Clean Water Act permits may be granted only for “the discharge of any pollutant, or combination of pollutants.” Some LANL facilities have no discharge from a “point source,” also known as an outfall. These facilities should no longer be on the permit.

I object to EPA issuing a permit for facilities that handle, treat and store hazardous waste, but do not discharge. Such Clean Water Act permitting confers an exemption from more stringent Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste laws and regulations. The only reason to issue a Clean Water Act permit is to illegitimately exempt LANL facilities from RCRA.

I object to EPA issuing a permit for those LANL facilities that have not discharged, such as the

- Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF),
- Strategic Computing Complex;
- Los Alamos Neutron Science Complex, or LANSCE, facility;
- National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; and
- High Explosive Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Please delete from the Clean Water Act permit those facilities that are in the business of handling, treating, and storing hazardous waste, but do not discharge. Open the door to their proper and more stringent regulation under RCRA.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,
Jean Darling

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Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling
312.405.9470 (cell)
Minister Emerita, Peoples Church of Chicago
Co-Chair, UU Santa Fe Environmental Justice Team
Cerrillos, NM 87010

From: Maj-Britt Eagle <majbritt@eaglerest.org>

Sent: Monday, November 2, 2020 1:09 PM

To: Rosborough, Evelyn <rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov>; Alex_Eubanks@heinrich.senate.gov;
Graham.Mason@mail.house.gov

Cc: Senator@tomudall.senate.gov; Francesca_dipalma@tomudall.senate.gov; Matt_Miller@tomudall.senate.gov;
Senator@martinheinrich.senate.gov; Maya_Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov

Subject: Urge not to release tritium from LANL, not to issue water discharge permit to LANL

Ms. Evelyn Rosborough
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
NPDES/Wetland Review Section (6WD-PN)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270

RE: Against **tritium release at LANL** and Clean Water Act, discharge permit for LANL

Dear Ms. Rosborough:

As the wife of a US Nuclear Submarine officer for 47 years, and the mother of two,

as well as a League of Women Voter member of the nuclear waste disposal study group, I've acquired some knowledge of the effects of radiation release into the Earth ecosystem, on life broader than only human, and urge you to shut down any attempt to (1) release tritium into the atmosphere, and (2) allow the discharge of radioactive water into our surroundings here in Los Alamos and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Further reasoning on the water discharge and permit are below:

Safety bases for both National Nuclear Security Administration and Environmental Management facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory do not consistently or appropriately consider a potential energetic chemical reaction involving transuranic waste.

- **Hazard analyses** lack systematic evaluations of the chemical compatibility of transuranic waste streams. These analyses are needed to fully identify potential chemical reaction hazards associated with waste constituents.
- **Accident analyses** are not bounding, assume inappropriate initial conditions, and do not defensibly establish the quantity of radioactive material that may be released due to an energetic chemical reaction. As such, additional credited safety controls may be necessary to protect workers and the public.

Some facilities store transuranic waste without any engineered controls beyond the waste container. The radiological release events that occurred at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and Idaho National Laboratory have demonstrated the importance of incorporating **multiple layers of protection** to reduce the consequences of an accident.

Sincerely,

Mrs. James N. Eagle, November 2, 2020

21 Cougar Ridge Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505

John E. Wilks, III
Chair, Environmental Committee
Veterans For Peace, Chapter #63 (ABQ)
1115 Republic Road
Winston, NM 87943

November 1, 2020

SUBMITTED BY EMAIL

"rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov"

Ms. Evelyn Rosborough
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
NPDES/Wetland Review Section (6WD-PN)
1201 Elm Street, Suite #500
Dallas, TX 75270

Re: Public Comment to LANL Industrial Wastewater Discharge Clean Water Act Application (DRAFT) to Permit NM0028355

Dear Ms. Rosborough:

This public comment is timely electronically filed prior to the November 2nd deadline to file.

Veterans For Peace, Chapter #63, strongly object to the flagrant attempt by the Los Alamos National Laboratory to circumvent the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) by listing on its application five (05) facilities that not have a discharge and therefore are not eligible for inclusion on the Clean Water Act regulation. The five entities inappropriately listed clearly fall into the purview of the RCRA.

The Clean Water Act addresses entities that involve "discharge or any pollutant, or combination or pollutants." The five entities that we are urging you to remove from any permit you issue, do not discharge and therefore are inappropriate for inclusion. Kindly, delete from the Clean Water Act permit those five facilities that involve handling, treating, and storing hazardous wastes, rather than discharges within the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. The entities for which I request deletion are, as follows:

Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF);
Strategic Computing Complex;
Los Alamos Neutron Science Complex, or LANSCE, facility;
National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; and
High Explosive Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

(signed)

John E. Wilks, III
Committee Chair

November 1, 2020

Ms. Evelyn Rosborough
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
NPDES/Wetland Review Section (6WD-PN)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270-2102
(214) 665-7515

Email sent to: rosborough.evelyn@epa.gov

Re: **LANL Industrial Wastewater Permit - Draft Permit No. NM0028355**

<https://www.epa.gov/nm/lanl-industrial-wastewater-permit-draft-permit-no-nm0028355-0>

Dear Sir/Madam

Citizen Action New Mexico is opposed to the continued issuance of an NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act from at least the following five facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory:

1. **The Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility.** This key facility, located across the street from the Plutonium Facility, treats liquid radioactive and hazardous waste contaminated by the fabrication of plutonium pits, or the triggers, for nuclear weapons. In 1963, discharges began through Outfall 051 into a tributary of Mortandad Canyon. In the late 1990's LANL instituted a "zero liquid discharge" plan to eliminate the discharge.
2. **The Strategic Computing Complex** (no discharge between September 2016 and to at least May 2019);
3. **The Los Alamos Neutron Science Complex**, or LANSCE, (facility cooling towers are no longer in use);
4. **The National High Magnetic Field Laboratory** (treated water being "discharged" to the Sanitary Wastewater System (SWWS) Plant); and
5. **The High Explosive Wastewater Treatment Facility** (since November 2007 an electric evaporator(s) has been in use).

All of these facilities should be regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the areas adjacent to these non-discharge facilities should be required to clean up the contaminated soil from past operations.

It is high time for the EPA to discontinue the fiction that these discharge permits should be issued where there is no discharge. EPA should not accommodate a lesser standard of protection for public health and environmental safety than could be obtained under RCRA. The continued issuance of such permits in the absence of discharge is contrary to law.

David B. McCoy, J.D., Executive Director
Citizen Action New Mexico
dave@radfreenm.org

Cc: James Kenney, NMED Secretary
Kevin Pierard, NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau