

Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545*



Date: December 22, 1999
In Reply Refer To: ESH-18/WQ&H:99-0481
Mail Stop: K497
Telephone: (505) 665-1859

Mr. Samuel Coleman, P. E., Director
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division (6-EN)
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

**SUBJECT: NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0028355, NOTICE OF CHANGED CONDITIONS
AT OUTFALL 051**

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The Los Alamos National Laboratory's (Laboratory) NPDES Permit No. NM0028355 requires the permittee to notify the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding any physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility that could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. I am providing the following information in accordance with Part III.D.1.a. of the NPDES Permit issued to the Laboratory on June 24, 1994.

The Laboratory's TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Wastewater Treatment Facility (RLWTF) intends to start using two portable steel tanks (approximately 20,000 gallons each) with glass lining for the storage of effluent water produced during treatment. The location of these tanks is in Room 34B at the RLWTF (See Attachment 1). Room 34B is in an enclosed room with containment and a floor drain connecting to the inlet piping of the influent storage tanks. The tanks are inter-connected with overflow piping. Room 34B had previously been used for radioactive decontamination of large objects such as trucks.

The treatment of wastewater at the RLWTF will remain the same and the effluent will continue to be discharged in a batch method after filling and sampling the tanks for regulatory compliance. The outlet of these tanks are connected to the existing discharge pumps inlet piping manifold which allows the permitted NPDES sampling point, flow meter, and pH detection/recording device to be used. This also allows the flexibility of recirculation of the wastewater for further treatment, if necessary. The discharge point to Montandad Canyon will not change.

This request is being made to allow the RLWTF the opportunity to provide additional effluent storage capacity at the RLWTF. This additional capacity will allow more time for analysis of the wastewater before discharge to the environment.

On December 7, 1999, Mike Saladen of the Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18) discussed this information with Mr. Scott Wilson of your staff. Mr. Saladen indicated that the addition of these portable tanks would not alter the treatment or compliance sampling location at the RLWTF, or change the discharge location into Mortandad Canyon. Mr. Wilson advised Mr. Saladen to submit this information in writing to EPA and the New Mexico Environment Department-Surface Water Quality Bureau.


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Please contact me at (505) 665-1859 or Mike Saladen at (505) 665-6085 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


for Steven Rae
Group Leader
Water Quality and Hydrology Group

SR:MS/em

Attachments: a/s

Cy: E. Spencer, EPA, Region 6, w/att., Dallas, Texas
S. Wilson, EPA, Region 6, w/att., Dallas, Texas
B. Hoditschek, NMED/SWQB, w/att., Santa Fe, New Mexico
J. Vozella, DOE/LAAO, w/o att., MS A316
B. Enz, DOE/LAAO, w/o att., MS A316
T. Gunderson, DLDOPS, w/o att., MS A100
T. Standford, FWO-DO, w/o att., MS K492
S. Hanson, FWO-DO, w/o att., MS K492
D. McLain, FWO-RLW, w/o att., MS E518
D. Moss, FWO-RLW, w/o att., MS E518
D. Woitte, LC-GEN, w/att., MS A187
D. Erickson, ESH-DO, w/o att., MS K491
M. Saladen, ESH-18, w/att., MS K497
B. Beers, ESH-18, w/att., MS K497
WQ&H File, w/att., MS K497
CIC-10, w/att., MS A150

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