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Risk Reduction & Environmental Stewardship Division
Water Quality & Hydrology Group (RRES-WQH)
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Date: April 18, 2003
Refer to: RRES-WQH: 03-082

Ms. Waudelle Strickley
Environmental Specialist
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water Enforcement Branch
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PLANNED CHANGE AT NPDES OUTFALLS 051 AND 055,
NPDES PERMIT NO. NM0028355**

Dear Ms. Strickley:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. NM0028355 for Los Alamos National Laboratory 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 the quality of pollutants discharged. In accordance with Part III.D.1.a. *Reporting Requirements* of the Laboratory's NPDES Permit, we are providing written notification regarding the transfer of approximately 10,000 gallons of wastewater that will be treated at the TA-16 High Explosives Wastewater Treatment Facility (HEWTF) to the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Wastewater Treatment Facility (RLWTF) to remove perchlorate.

The HEWTF waste stream will be sampled and characterized to demonstrate it meets the RLWTF's Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC). The estimated disposal volume is based on five batch discharges of approximately 2,000 gallons of wastewater transported from the HEWTF to RLWTF, over the next three months. The treated wastewater from the HEWTF will be further treated at the RLWTF prior to discharge through NPDES Outfall 051. The RLWTF can adequately treat this perchlorate waste stream by ion exchange to less than 1 part per billion (ppb). The Laboratory's NPDES Permit does not have an effluent limit for perchlorate; however, it does require monitoring and reporting of perchlorate results in the Laboratory's Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) for NPDES Outfall 051.

Installation of an ion exchange system at the HEWTF to remove perchlorate is being planned and should be completed by July, 2003. The HEWTF will then be able to treat and remove both high explosives and perchlorate from the influent waste streams. The transfer of perchlorate-contaminated effluent from the HEWTF to the RLWTF will continue until this installation is completed.

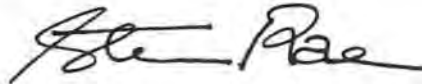
Ms. Waudelle Strickley
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Please contact Mike Saladen of the Laboratory's Water Quality and Hydrology Group (RRES-WQH) at (505) 665-6085, if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Steven Rae
Group Leader
Water Quality & Hydrology Group

SR:MS/yg

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