



Environmental Protection Division
Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA)
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Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
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Date: December 1, 2011
Refer To: ENV-RCRA-11-0267
LAUR: 11-12124

Mr. John E. Kieling
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Dear Mr. Kieling:

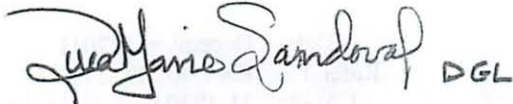
**SUBJECT: LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, RESPONSE TO REQUEST
FOR INFORMATION REGARDING REGIONAL WELL R-61
STORMWATER POND**

Los Alamos National Laboratory's Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA) received notification from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB) of a potential spill at the R-61 Well site on November 16, 2011. In the November 16th email, HWB staff mentioned the presence of "oil sludge" within the stormwater detention pond at the well site. ENV-RCRA staff responded on November 16th to investigate the potential release. Based on the site investigation, it appeared the material in the detention pond was residual drill cuttings associated with the construction of R-61. ENV-RCRA consulted with project staff and confirmed the material in the pond was associated with drill cuttings and was placed in the pond on October 14, 2011. The material had been approved for land application in accordance with the NMED approved *Notice of Intent Decision Tree for Land Application of IDW Solids from Construction of Wells and Boreholes* (November, 2007) and were residual following removal of the drill cuttings retention pond liner. There did not appear to be any evidence that the residual material discharged outside of the pond. The release did not leave Laboratory property or impact San Ildefonso Pueblo property. The residual material was removed from the pond on November 17, 2011 for disposal as industrial waste.

Enclosed is analytical data for the cuttings from the land application package. Based on the composition of the drill cuttings and the actions taken to remove the material from the pond, this release is not reportable as defined by 20.6.2.1203 NMAC. Additionally, this information has been documented in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the R-61 well site.

Please contact Jake Meadows at ENV-RCRA at (505) 606-0185 regarding future questions related to releases or if more information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Anthony R. Grieggs in black ink, with the initials "DGL" written to the right of the signature.

for Anthony R. Grieggs
Group Leader
Water Quality & RCRA Group (ENV-RCRA)

ARG:JM/lm

Cy: Hannah Branning, USEPA/Region 6, Dallas, TX, w/enc.
Jennifer Fullam, NMED/GWQB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Richard Powell, NMED/SWQB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Dave Cobrain, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Jerzy Kulis, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Michael Dale, NMED/HWB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Erik Galloway, NMED/DOE/OB, Santa Fe, NM, w/enc.
Steve Yanicak, LASO-GOV, M894, w/enc.
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Gene Turner, LASO-EO, w/o enc., A316
Jeffrey M. Casalina, LASO-EO, w/o enc., A316
Carl A. Beard, PADOPS, w/o enc., A102
Michael T. Brandt, ADESH, w/o enc., K491
Victoria A. George, REG-DO, w/o enc., M991
Kate Lynnes, REG-DO, w/o enc., M991
Mike Saladen, ENV-RCRA, w/enc., K490, (E-File)
Jacob Meadows, ENV-RCRA, w/enc., K490, (E-File)
ENV-RCRA File, w/enc., K490
IRM-RMMSO, w/enc., A150