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Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 18, 2015

Allison Dorries, Division Leader  
Environmental Protection Division  
Los Alamos National Security, LLC (LANS)  
3747 West Jemez Road  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Christine M. Gelles  
Acting Manager  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office  
U.S. Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 1663, K490  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



**RE: Discharge Permit DP-1793, Rejection of Workplan for Treatment and Land Application of Groundwater - Los Alamos National Laboratory**

Dear Ms. Dorries and Ms. Gelles:

On July 27, 2015 the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued Discharge Permit DP-1793 to Los Alamos National Laboratory for the land application of treated groundwater derived from aquifer testing, well development, tracer studies and other activities associated with groundwater remediation activities at the laboratory. On August 13, 2015 the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) received a workplan as required by Condition 3 of DP-1793, for activities regulated under this Discharge Permit.

The workplan proposes treatment and land application of groundwater derived from wells and piezometers, include aquifer testing, purging and sampling of groundwater, aquifer tracer studies and well back flushing of proposed injection wells, with the discharges to be conducted over a five year period (term of the Discharge Permit).



The workplan, as submitted, fails to meet the requirements of Condition 3, which states:

*Prior to initiating discharge from an individual project, pumping test, aquifer test or tracer study, the permittee shall submit a workplan to NMED for approval...*

The August 12, 2015 workplan provides only general information on the proposed discharges, including generalized locations of discharge, estimated annual volume of discharge from fourteen (14) one-time well and piezometer actions for the period of 2015 and 2016 and discharges from twenty-two (22) ongoing well and piezometer activities over the term of the permit (5 years).

Discharge Permit DP-1793 clearly requires that each **individual** activity (aquifer testing, tracer study, well purging and sampling, etc.) must be described in a workplan that provides specific information related to that discharge including:

- a detailed description of the proposed activity, including a statement of purpose;
- a description of water conservation and reuse options considered;
- a topographic map showing the proposed land application sites and the location of all monitoring wells, Site Monitoring Areas (SMA), Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU), National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) outfalls, groundwater discharge permits, Areas of Concern (AOC) identified in the 2005 NMED Order on Consent, drinking water wells, surface impoundments and surface drainage features in the vicinity;
- existing data showing the depth to and general groundwater quality at the proposed discharge location including concentrations of contaminants exceeding regulatory standards;
- estimated groundwater flow direction;
- a detailed description of the on-site treatment system to remove contaminants of concern from the effluent;
- a schematic of treatment system and treatment unit specifications;
- a detailed descriptions of the storage/containment systems associated with the treatment;
- Safety Data Sheets for tracer constituents;
- a maximum estimated daily discharge volume;
- total estimated volume of the proposed discharge;
- a proposed sampling plan to demonstrate treatment efficiency and compliance with regulatory standards; proposed method(s) of land application, application rates and area of application; and
- a project schedule including the date the discharge is to commence and anticipated duration.

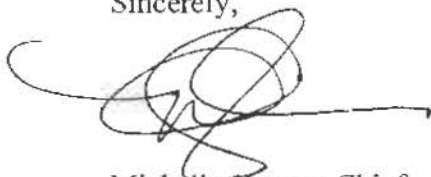
The work plan submitted is hereby rejected. Los Alamos National Laboratory must submit a revised workplan fulfilling the requirements of Condition #3 of DP-1793 and post on the electronic public reading room (EPRR, Condition #12) within 7 days. The Department will

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accept public comments for a period of 30 days following posting to the EPRR prior to approving the workplan.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Huddleson at (505) 827-2936. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle Hunter, Chief  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

MH:SMH

CC: James Hogan, NMED/SWQB (E-file)  
John F. Kieling, NMED/HWB (E-file)  
Stephen Yanicak, NMED/DOE/OB (E-file)  
Gene Turner, NA-LA (E-file)  
Bob Beers, EM-LA (E-file)  
Joni Arcnds, CCNS (E-file)