



*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**



***Hazardous Waste Bureau***

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

JOHN A. SANCHEZ  
Lieutenant Governor

2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313  
Phone (505) 476-6000 Fax (505) 476-6030  
[www.env.nm.gov](http://www.env.nm.gov)

BUTCH TONGATE  
Cabinet Secretary

J. C. BORREGO  
Deputy Secretary

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

June 5, 2018

Doug Hintze, Manager  
Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office  
P.O. Box 1663 MS-M984  
Los Alamos, NM 87545

Joseph Legare, Program Manager  
Environmental Programs  
Newport News Nuclear BWXT-LA (N3B)  
600 Sixth Street  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**RE: APPROVAL  
2017 SANDIA WETLAND PERFORMANCE REPORT  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
EPA ID #NM0890010515  
HWB-LANL-18-020**

Dear Messrs. Hintze and Legare:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.'s (LANS) *2017 Sandia Wetland Performance Report* (2017 Report), dated and received April 25, 2018, and referenced by LA-UR-18-23194/ADEM2018-0013. This document satisfies milestone #5 of the Appendix B, Milestones and Targets, of the 2016 Consent Order. Subsequent to submittal of the 2017 Report, DOE transferred this effort from LANS to DOE's contractor Newport News Nuclear BWXT-LA (N3B), which is also a Permittee under EPA ID#NM0890010515. Hereafter, DOE and N3B are collectively referred to as the Permittees.

The Permittees have met their obligation to monitor the performance of the Sandia Canyon Wetland grade control structure (GCS) for 2017. The Permittees report that stormwater samples collected from gage station E123 (located below the GCS) appear to show a reduction in concentrations of constituents of concern (*e.g.*, chromium VI, polychlorinated biphenyls, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) when compared to pre-GCS inputs.

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The Permittees report that the Sandia Canyon Wetland has experienced a general decrease in flow inputs due to a decrease in discharge from outfall 001, which is a result of the Sanitary Effluent Reclamation Facility (SERF) expansion project. The Permittees predict that effluent releases will be decreased further in the 2018 monitoring year, and commit to maintaining discharge into the wetland at a minimum of 30,000 gallons per day (gpd). The 30,000 gpd is estimated to be the minimum amount of water needed to maintain stable vegetation and reducing conditions within the wetland during peak drying conditions.

The Permittees must continue to monitor the performance of the Sandia Canyon Wetland grade-control structure, and water levels in the wetland, especially with the planned reduction in effluent discharged from the SERF.

NMED has completed its review and hereby approves the 2017 Report. The next annual performance report must be submitted to NMED no later than **April 30, 2019**.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Siona Briley at (505) 476-6049.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling

Chief

Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc: N. Dhawan, NMED HWB  
S. Briley, NMED-HWB  
S. Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB  
M. Green, NMED-DOE-OB  
L. King, EPA Region 6  
C. Rodriguez, DOE-EM-LA, MS M984  
P. Maestas, N3B  
K. Ellers, N3B  
[emla.docs@em.doe.gov](mailto:emla.docs@em.doe.gov)  
[locatesteam@lanl.gov](mailto:locatesteam@lanl.gov)

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