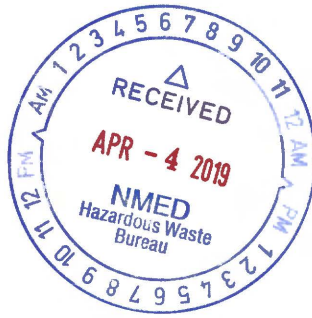




N3B-Los Alamos
600 6th Street
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544
(505) 661-5918



Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office
P.O. Box 1663, MS M984
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545
(505) 665-5658/FAX (505) 606-2132

Date: APR 04 2019
Refer To: N3B-19-0101

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

Subject: Response to Notice of Violation under the Los Alamos National Laboratory Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, EPA ID No. NM0890010515, Regarding Domes 229 and 230 Damage, and Extension Request for Repairs to the Domes

Dear Mr. Kieling:

This letter is in response to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Hazardous Waste Bureau's (HWB's) notice of violation letter received on March 27, 2019, which requires corrective action to repair the damage to Domes 229 and 230, located in Technical Area 54 (TA-54). These domes are permitted under the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit (EPA ID No. NM0890010515) (henceforth, the Permit) issued to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE); Triad National Security, LLC; and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B) (collectively, the Permittees).

After reviewing the notice, DOE/N3B are requesting a meeting between staff from the DOE Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA), N3B, and NMED to clarify the applicable reporting thresholds in regards to Permit Section 1.9.12. In the notice, NMED cited the Permittees for not reporting the damage within 24 hr as violation item number 1. However, both DOE EM-LA and N3B specifically discussed and evaluated the danger to human health or the environment, concluding there was no threat to human health or the environment. Therefore, a 24-hr notice of the event was not applicable.

In addition, DOE EM-LA/N3B request a discussion of the threshold related to the requirement of completing a repair within 24 hr of discovery based on the threat to human health or the environment (Permit Section 2.6.2, notice violation item number 2). DOE EM-LA/N3B assessed the application of this permit provision and concluded that it did not apply for the following reasons:

1. There was no potential threat to human health or the environment.
2. Waste was moved away from the impacted areas.
3. The area around the damage was isolated.



4. N3B coordinated with the dome vendor to evaluate the damage to these domes, and received concurrence from the vendor that the structural damage to the domes does not impact the overall strength or structural integrity of the facilities.

DOE EM-LA/N3B have had dome repairs (i.e. full replacement of dome skins) scheduled since August 2018, and based upon coordination with the dome vendor, N3B has confirmed that the repair schedule is adequate to address the damaged areas since the integrity of the dome structures is not adversely affected. The dome vendor performing the work is unable to start the “re-skinning” activities until May/June 2019. In addition, an extent of condition evaluation is planned to assess the current condition of all TA-54 domes, to assess the progress made by the previous TA-54 management contractor in implementing previously planned repairs of the domes, and to prepare a dome repair plan, including the anticipated schedule.

In the notice of violation, NMED requested that a written description of actions taken by LANL to address the violation be submitted no later than April 5, 2019, to address damage to Domes 229 and 230, and if the damage was not addressed by April 5, 2019, to formally request an extension for repairs and provide a schedule for implementation of corrective actions. DOE EM-LA/N3B request an extension to complete corrective actions to Domes 229 and 230 until December 31, 2019.

Please consider the following information as the first update of the planned repairs to the domes. N3B has scheduled complete “re-skinning” of Dome 230 by September 30, 2019 and Dome 229 by December 31, 2019. Based on current progress, the dome “re-skinning” project is tentatively scheduled as follows:

Dome 230

- Deliver materials to site – 6/1/19
- Start work on Dome 230 – 6/17/19
- Complete Dome 230 repair – 9/30/19

Dome 229

- Deliver materials to site – 9/30/19
- Start work on Dome 229 – 10/15/19
- Complete Dome 229 repair – 12/31/19

As part of the corrective action for item number 2 in NMED’s notice, a monthly update to NMED on the progress of the dome repairs must be provided. DOE EM-LA’s/N3B’s plan is to provide NMED an email submittal by the 5th of each month, beginning April 5, 2019. Please advise if a different method of submittal is preferred.

If you have comments or questions, please contact Emily Day at (505) 695-4243 (emily.day@em-la.doe.gov) or Arturo Duran at (505) 665-5330 (arturo.duran@em.doe.gov).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Frazer Lockhart
Program Manager
Regulatory and Stakeholder Interface
N3B-Los Alamos



Arturo Q. Duran, Compliance and Permitting Manager
Office of Quality and Regulatory Compliance
Environmental Management
Los Alamos Field Office

Cy: (letter emailed)
Laurie King, EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX
Neelam Dhawan, NMED-HWB
Robert Murphy, NMED-HWB
Shelly Lemon, NMED-SWQB
Steve Yanicak, NMED-DOE-OB
Karen Armijo, NA-LA
Lee Bishop, EM-LA
Arturo Duran, EM-LA
Douglas Hintze, EM-LA
David Rhodes, EM-LA
Cheryl Rodriguez, EM-LA
Ben Underwood, EM-LA
William Mairson, LANL
Patrick Padilla, LANL
Enrique Torres, LANL
Lacey Bruaw, N3B
Emily Day, N3B
Stephanie Griego, N3B
Gail Helm, N3B
Joseph Legare, N3B
Dana Lindsay, N3B
Frazer Lockhart, N3B
Glenn Morgan, N3B
Danny Nichols, N3B
Ben Roberts, N3B
Stacie Singleton, N3B
David Solms, N3B
emla.docs@em.doe.gov
N3B Records
Public Reading Room (EPRR and HPRR)
PRS Website