



**Sent Via Electronic Mail**

December 1, 2021

Cheryl Rodriguez, Program Manager  
Department of Energy, Environmental Management  
Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)  
1200 Trinity Drive, MS-M984  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Christian Maupin  
Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos (N3B)  
Regulatory Compliance  
1200 Trinity Drive, Suite 150  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

**RE: Notification of Release ID# 2021-PB-018, Los Alamos National Laboratory, NMED Response**

Dear Cheryl Rodriguez and Christian Maupin:

On September 15, 2021, a representative of Newport News Nuclear BWXT Los Alamos (N3B) verbally reported an unauthorized discharge at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) as required under 20.6.2.1203 NMAC of the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations. Additionally, NMED received an associated written report from LANL on October 6, 2021, which included a Request for Administrative Closure.

The reports identify a discharge on September 14, 2021 of drilling-related water from a 1,550-gallon poly tank near the R-70 well pad. The discharge was a result of a loader bucket striking the poly tank while adding a soil lift to the pit. The strike to the poly tank resulted in an approximately 8-inch laceration one foot from the bottom of the tank, releasing the wastewater. The incident resulted in a release of approximately 700-gallons of wastewater from the decontamination of the stainless-steel well casing performed prior to well casing installation.

Upon discovery of the release, a containment berm was immediately constructed around the spill area using available R-70 pit backfill soil to mitigate the spread of the water. A water truck responded within minutes and pumped approximately 630 gallons of the spilled fluid and transferred it into two, 550-gallon poly tanks located on site. Water below the cut of the damaged poly tank was also transferred into one of the 550-gallon poly tanks. Saturated soils were placed onto plastic, with eventual disposal into a B12 waste container. Recovered water from the spill was sampled, with barium being the only chemical detected at 0.0108 mg/L, below the 20.6.2.3103 NMAC standard.

Based on information submitted by N3B, corrective actions for this unauthorized discharge have been completed in a manner that is satisfactory to the GWQB and no further action is required at this time for Release ID# 2021-PB-018.

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

Ground Water Quality Bureau | 1190 Saint Francis Drive, PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469

Telephone (505) 827-2900 | [www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/](http://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/)

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Nothing in this letter shall be construed as relieving the United States Department of Energy or N3B of the obligation to comply with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits, or orders.

If you have any questions, please contact either Andrew Romero at (505) 660-8624 or me at (505) 660-7567.

Sincerely,

**Steve Pullen** Digitally signed by Steve Pullen  
Date: 2021.12.01 13:52:21  
-07'00'

Steve Pullen  
Program Manager  
Pollution Prevention Section  
Ground Water Quality Bureau

SP:AR

cc: Melanie Sandoval, NMED GWQB  
Gerald Knutson, NMED GWQB  
Shelly Lemon, NMED SWQB  
Steven Connolly, NMED HWB  
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